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The South Fork Volunteer Fire Department conferred a special award to Rebecca Hedrick for dedication to family and community.

South Fork VFD Honors Another Year of Service at Annual Banquet

By Stephen Smoot

While showers are considered the rule for April, the rains broke last Saturday evening. Between 150 and 200 made their way through the pleasant reprieve from spring rains to attend the South Fork Volunteer Fire Department's annual banquet.

These events are not just for the fire department and the first responder community of Pendleton County. Many residents turn out to enjoy fellowship with each other and thank the fire fighters and other first responders for their dedication to service and the community. Between 5:30 and 6 p.m. attendees gathered and enjoyed a fruit and vegetable plate set out as hors d'oeuvre. Just after six o'clock, Jeff Bowers, president of SFVFD, called all to order by saying "I want to welcome everybody to the South Fork Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary annual banquet."

George Armstrong led all in the Pledge of Allegiance,

followed by Nate Parker, captain. Parker gave the invocation, praying, "We thank you for our many blessings. . . we thank You for allowing us to get together."

As is his custom, Bowers selected a young lad to pick which table gets to eat first. The lucky group selected was first to sample a spread of prime rib, ham and pineapple, Chesapeake Bay style shrimp, rolls, salad, green beans, and scalloped potatoes.

After dinner, a huge selection of slices of cake and pie awaited all.

While those in attendance finished their meals, Bowers informed all that the program must commence because "Miss Donna cracks the whip so we can be out of here at a reasonable hour."

He first called on the crew from Sweet Treats on Main in Moorefield to come and all be recognized. After that, he opened the program with a tongue-in-cheek story about Rick Gillespie, emergency services coordinator, that likely offered more hilarity than veracity, but entertained all.

Coming to the fore next was Steve O'Toole from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He brought to the podium Richard Ivan, VFW State Commander, to help to present the VFW awards.

Ivan said "a lot of you are strangers to me, but we did the same thing, save others."

They conferred the first award on Justin Ware from the West Virginia State Police, saying that the Marine "faithfully served the citizens of Pendleton County for 20

years."

Next, they honored Tina Eye, president of Pendleton County Emergency Rescue, emphasizing her participation in 172 calls in 2024 alone and honoring her "dedication to community" and her "pride and professionalism in emergency services."

Parker received a certificate of appreciation for his eight years in the United States Navy, as well as his leadership and service to SFVFD. They focused on his "personal courage and ever-efficient guardianship of life and property."

State Senator Bill Hamilton, a regular guest to the banquet in recent years, took to the podium to speak briefly and confirm that he is running for re-election to that body. "We need to bring people in. . . (who have) got to be willing to compromise and people are not willing to do that now."

He also expressed "a lot of appreciation for first responders."

Once Hamilton concluded his remarks, Bowers recognized Carl Hevener, Pendleton County Commission president.

He then conferred a special award to Rebecca Hedrick who "has served faithfully in our community." For her dedication as a staff worker to the West Virginia State Police and also taking care of her family's needs, she was called forward with her state trooper colleagues.

Afterward, Jerry Bowers swore in the administrators and officers, saying, "You know the drill, we've done

Continued on Page 3

NECCO Works to Fill Foster Child and Care Needs Across The Potomac Highlands

By Stephen Smoot

Foster care sat at the forefront of a number of minds in the West Virginia State Legislature last session. Debates centered on determining the needs of the state system and figuring out how to address them.

While a number of critics hurl blame at the state legislature, the foster care system suffers from the same major need as many community entities from EMS to service clubs such as the Lions, Rotary, and Ruritan whose volunteer work is so vital to so many.

Fewer and fewer all the time step forward to assume the responsibility of caring for children in struggling circumstances who need a safe and secure haven.

NECCO is one of several foster care agencies serving the Mountain State. Stormy Fullmer from NECCO's Elkins office serves a number of counties in the region, including Pendleton, Hardy, Pocahontas, and Grant. She says the area has "such a need for foster homes."

Fullmer works in these counties to identify, train, and support those willing to take foster children into their homes.

According to the Christian Alliance for Orphans, West Virginia leads the nation in per capita separation of children from families. Just under 20 minors per every thousand children live apart from their birth families.

Interestingly, from 2013 to 2022 the number of foster children across the United States rose slowly. The numbers elevated from 369,000 to 396,000, but trailed the rate of growth of population between the 2010 and 2020 Census.

In West Virginia, however, the ratio rose from 11.5 per 1,000 in 2011 to the alarming numbers seen today. State officials have started working with retention programs to aid birth parents who may have

grown up in dysfunctional homes themselves and never learned effective and productive parenting.

In other cases, the impact of addiction and its byproducts of destructive behaviors have led to more homes declared unsafe for children during the past decade. During a public forum held by Congressman Alex Mooney in 2015, Jay Courrier, then-Mineral County prosecutor, shared that every child

abuse case that came before his office had a drug addiction component to it.

The National Council for Adoption, however, cautions that reducing the number of children in foster care should not serve as the all-encompassing goal. They state that "our goal should be to reduce maltreatment rates, reduce time spent outside permanent family care, and reduce timeframes

Continued on Page 3

Townsend, Kimble Reign as PCHS Prom Queen, King



Avery Townsend was crowned prom queen and Josiah Kimble was named prom king Saturday night at Pendleton County High School's annual junior/senior prom. The theme was "A Summer's Night Dream." This year's prom was held at the Fisher Mountain Golf Course in Franklin with Ancient Oak Kitchen providing dinner for the attendees. Photo courtesy of SP Photography.

Petty Leads His Charity Ride Across America Through Franklin on May 9

By Stephen Smoot

"Mama lock your daughters up! That wild bunch is back in town!"

Charlie Daniels penned those lyrics in the wild and woolly time of the first generations of NASCAR racing, when a number of those driving professionally came from roots of "haulin' shine" as a "regular line till the track got in his blood."

On May 9, Kyle Petty will lead a special run down US 220 through the heart of the Potomac Highlands, stopping only in Moorefield. No need to lock any of the kids up. The 29th annual Ride Across America is so special because, at its heart, it is for and about children.

"Listen," said the veteran racer with a three decade career with eight wins, 173 top 10 finishes, and eight pole positions, "we've been everywhere. It's like that Johnny Cash song, we've been everywhere man."

He explained that the idea came up almost 30 years ago, saying, "Honestly, about five of us wanted to ride motorcycles from California to North Carolina." He added that "they told us we were crazy" and joked that "we'd be fired from our jobs."

In 1994 the ride commenced, as Rider magazine shared, "pretty much in the spur of the moment." Numbers expanded as those riding called on friends to join.

"Like the scene in those John Ford westerns," the article explained, "the posse grew along the way."

One of the most legendary "master(s) of going faster" from one of the founding families of NASCAR, however, then gave the idea of a fun and lengthy ride a greater mission. Petty explained, "Then we told them we'd do it for charity. Then

they said it's the greatest idea in the world."

At that point, they understood the dream that he got.

In its first several years, the ride traveled across the country to stop at children's hospitals. In those days, as Rider magazine described, the ride included "almost 200 biker-philanthropists, NASCAR zealots, supermodels, celebrities, good ol' boys, and Southern eccentrics, all heaven bent on raising money for a good cause."

"We stopped at children's hospitals all over the country and left a donation at each one," Petty explained.

Then, in 2015, came a tragedy that changed this special family - and NASCAR itself - forever.

Only a few days off of a quarter century prior to Petty and the ride coming to Moorefield Petty's son Adam, a 19-year-old rising star, died during a practice lap. The throttle stuck in the car that he was powering down a New Hampshire track at 130 miles per hour. The young driver collided with the wall and died instantly.

Kyle Petty had once tried to balance rising stardom in both NASCAR racing and country music before committing fully to driving. He recorded an autobiographical song about the "people who love me" and "worry a lot."

In a BBC article, Petty remembered that feeling as a father as he watched his son compete at Talladega Speedway in Alabama. He said, "All of a sudden here's your son in a car and you're not there to protect him. I was a nervous wreck, but at the same time you're so proud of what he's been able to do."

Two changes took place after that crash. First, NASCAR worked to protect its drivers even more by establishing a safety research center and pass-

Continued on Page 3

Community CALENDAR Post 9666 To Meet

VFW Post 9666 will meet at 6:30 p.m. May 8 at the post home in Sugar Grove.

Board of Health To Hold Meeting

The Pendleton County Board of Health will conduct a meeting at 5 p.m. May 8 at the health department located at 273 Mill Road in Franklin.

Library Friends To Meet Tuesday

The Friends of the Library will gather at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in the community room of the Pendleton County Library in Franklin. All are welcome to attend.

Effects of Proposed Medicaid Cuts To Be Discussed

At a public meeting on Tuesday, the director of the West Virginia Center for Budget and Policy will explain likely effects on West Virginia and Pendleton County if the budgeting process in Congress leads to reductions in Medicaid payments to the states.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at the Pendleton Community Building in Franklin.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 2

2 - 6 p.m. — Book Sale (Pendleton County Library Community Room)

4 - 8 p.m. — Vendors Open (Craft Building and Grounds)

4 - 6 p.m. — Trout Dinner (Community Building)

4 - 8 p.m. — Rodeo Registration (TMF Building)

6 - 8 p.m. — Jack & Davis Reid (Main Stage)

Saturday, May 3

6:30 - 11 a.m. — Rodeo Registration (TMF Building)

7 - 10:30 a.m. — Breakfast (Pendleton Senior Center)

8 a.m. - Noon — Trout Rodeo

9 a.m. - 8 p.m. — Vendors Open (Craft Building and Grounds)

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. — Kids Care Conservation Area

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. — Book Sale (Pendleton County Library Community Room)

11 a.m. - Noon — Raymond's Gymnastics (Lower end of TMF Craft Building)

12:15 - 1:45 p.m. — Jonathan Zinn/Fender Ridge (Main Stage)

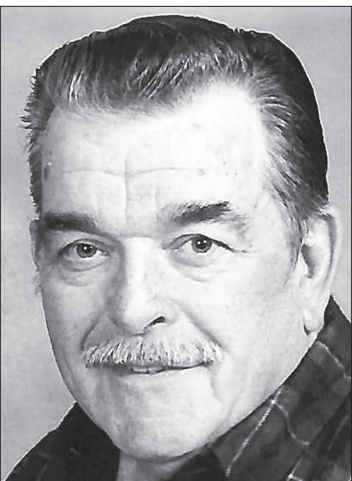
2 - 3 p.m. — Rodeo Awards (Main Stage)

3:15 - 5 p.m. — Justin Hensley (Main Stage)

5 - 5:30 p.m. — Bryer Moyers (Main Stage)

6 - 8 p.m. — Non-Friction (Main Stage)

OBITUARIES



Owen Wayne Brunk

Owen Wayne Brunk, 83, of Brandywine passed away on April 23, 2025, at Sentara RMH in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

He was born on Jan. 26, 1942, in Deer Park, Maryland, the son of the late Owen Kenneth and Niomi (Arnold) Brunk.

Mr. Brunk was a graduate of Westminster High School and was a Lutheran by faith.

He had worked as chief of police in Hampstead, Maryland, and retired as a truck driver. He enjoyed fishing and riding motorcycles.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory a daughter, Dawn Frame (Charles) of Brandywine; two sons, Owen Wayne Brunk, Jr. (Lisa) and Brian Henry Brunk (Tammy), all of Taneytown, Maryland; a sister, Patricia Brown (Jim) of Wyoming; a brother, Robert Brunk (Connie) of Taneytown, Maryland; 10 grandchildren; a number of great-grandchildren; two nephews; and five nieces.

He was also preceded in death by a son, William Patrick; and three sisters, Sandra, Debbie and Brenda.

In honoring his wishes, his body has been cremated.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to South Fork Volunteer Fire Department.

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



Fr. Mario Richard Claro

Fr. Mario Richard Claro, 84, of Franklin passed away April 19, 2025, at University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville, Virginia.

He was born Sept. 19, 1940, in New York, New York, a son of the late Mario Gaetano and Margaret Mary (Duffy) Claro.

Fr. Mario, as he was most often referred, attended Immaculate Conception College of Philosophy in Troy, New York, and St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York. He also earned a masters in theology with a specialization in liturgy from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. He completed his preparatory studies for the priesthood at Mt. Alvernia Seminary in Wappingers Falls, New York, and was ordained June 10, 1967. He previously served at St. Agnes in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

He was incardinated Dec. 22, 1970, into the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. He previously served as associate pastor of St. Paul Parish in Weirton from 1968 to 1970 and St. Anne Parish in Bristol, Virginia, from 1970 to 1972. He became chaplain at Mount Saint Joseph Motherhouse in Wheeling in 1972 and served as chaplain for a time at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling. He returned to Weirton in 1977 to serve as as-

sociate pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Parish. From 1978 to 1983, he was on the faculty at St. Joseph Preparatory Seminary in Vienna, where he also served as dean of students.

He served as associate director of the diocesan Office of Sacraments, Worship and Spirituality from 1983 to 1988, coordinator of the diocesan Office of Liturgical Practices in 1988 and diocesan coordinator for the diocesan Department of Catholic Education and Formation from 1987 to 1992. He was also regional representative of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions Region 4, consultant for the Diocesan Art and Architecture Commission, and teacher of liturgy coordinator for the Diaconate and Ministries Formation Program.

Additionally, he served as rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling from 1989 to 1994, pastor of St. Theresa Parish in Morgantown from 1994 to 1998 and pastor of St. Mary Parish in Petersburg and Epiphany of the Lord Parish in Moorefield from 1998 to 2006. In 1998, he became pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Franklin and served there until his retirement from active ministry.

He had fully adopted Franklin as his home, where he was actively involved in the community. There, he was very supportive of the Pendleton County Ministerial Association and was a favorite of the VFW for their ceremonies. Known for his welcoming nature, humility, and good humor, he was an incredibly personable individual who sought to genuinely know and understand those around him.

As a priest, he will be remembered for taking time during every Mass to welcome visitors, always being available to the faithful, exploring the mysteries of the faith, and his devotion to the Blessed

Mother. Overjoyed by children's presence in church, he was delighted by their youthful clamors during Mass (which he often encouraged), likely because he truly recognized children to be the "lifeblood of the church."

He loved life to the fullest: the thrill of travel, sharing a meal and some fine wine with friends, and caring for his beloved pets. Additionally, he was an avid reader and theological researcher in both trade and hobby to the last. He was an amazing teacher and historian of the faith. His extensive personal library has been left to Saint Leo's Catholic Church in Inwood.

Simply put, he, ever the Lord's servant, truly loved God and His people.

He is survived by a brother, Frank Claro of Manchester, New Jersey; a niece, Kathleen S. Claro of Yonkers, New York; his parish family at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton including the Sasso Family; and countless friends.

A funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. May 16 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish with Most Rev. Mark E. Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston officiating. Additionally, a committal service and inurnment will be held at 3 p.m. May 18 at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Franklin with Fr. Arul Anthony officiating.

Memorial contributions can be made in his name locally to Christian Assistance Network (CAN) P.O. Box 572, Franklin, WV 26807; Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter (PAWS), P.O. Box 804, Franklin, WV 26807; nationally to Catholic Charities, 2050 Ballenger Ave., Alexandria, VA 22314; Shriners Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 947765, Atlanta, GA 30394; or any charity dedicated to the protection of animals.

Condolences and memories may be shared at www.obaughfuneralhome.com.



Brandywine Family Dining

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Thursday, May 1 - Sunday, May 4

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Hours: 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.



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May Events

•Saturday, May 3, 6 - 9 p.m.

Live Music w/Spencer Wenger

•Wednesday, May 7, 6 p.m.

Book Club w/Krystal Raymond

•Friday, May 9, 7 p.m.

Harry Potter Team Trivia

•Sunday, May 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Mother's Day Brunch Buffet

•Wednesday, May 14, 6 p.m.

All Things Girly Indigo Skies Pop Up

•Saturday, May 17, 6 p.m.

Watercolor Paint Party w/Marjorie Rawson
Kyle Puffenberger Memorial Golf Tournament

•Thursday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.

Team Bingo at Fisher Mountain

•Friday, May 23, 6 - 9 p.m.

Live Music w/Mike Eye

•Saturday, May 24

Pat Shiftlet Golf Tournament



HAPPY HOUR:

4 - 6 p.m. Daily

Restaurant Hours: Fridays - 4 - 8 p.m.

Saturdays - 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday Brunch - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



HAPPY HOUR:

5 - 8 p.m. Fridays



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EOE, including disability/vets

South Fork VFD Annual Banquet

Continued From Page 1

this for years.”

Among the officers, Roy Bowers serves as chief, Seth Bowers as assistant chief, Parker as captain, Tim Hook as lieutenant, Mark Swigunski as training officer, and William Copley as safety officer.

Confirmed as administrators for 2025 were Jeff Bowers as president, Dennis Knicely as secretary, Mary Ann Nelson as treasurer, and Mike Eye as fire report officer.

Patricia Bodkin will serve as president of the auxiliary, Amy Cyrier as first vice president, Jane Simon as second vice president, Judy Grimm as secretary, and Sheila Davis as treasurer.

Roy Bowers then offered his remarks, discussing the recent grants that have helped to pay for a new tanker and gear. He mentioned that they also donated an older tanker to the McDowell Volunteer Fire Department just over the state line in Virginia.

“That will also be a benefit,” he explained, adding that “they respond to a lot of calls for us.”

He also noted that “I don’t think we had any structure fires last year. We were very fortunate on that.”

Bodkin spoke for the auxiliary, sharing that “the auxiliary has had a remarkable year” and pointed out

“significant outcomes” that came from that organization’s hard work. After discussing successful fundraising and community efforts, she said they were “filled with gratitude for the support of members of the community.”

She also offered “special thanks to Donna (Evick) for doing such a good job putting together this event” and then recognized Judy Rader for “40 plus years to the auxiliary. That’s what I call dedication!”

Jeff Bowers then called Bodkin and Evick to the front to receive special gifts of thanks.

Roy Bowers then returned to present awards from the SFVFD.

The first award required Bodkin to come right back to the podium she had just left. Roy Bowers explained that “the fire department cannot operate without the auxiliary.” Bodkin was asked to accept the award on behalf of the entire group.

Next, he presented “an award we haven’t done before” to an indispensable individual who ran 320 ambulance calls. “Sometimes, I’ve heard her run four to five times in a day.” The special award went to Kim Humes of Pendleton County Emergency Rescue.

She rose and said, “I’m half asleep from being out

all night.” Of course, she was running calls and saving lives.

Roy Bowers joked that the next recipient could not accept in person because he was currently at the prom. Caydan Boone won junior firefighter of the year.

The most dedicated firefighter award went to Tim Hook, who “has taken 75 percent of my workload off my shoulders.” Roy Bowers added that “he leaves his work, leaves his home, leaves his family to serve.”

Next, Roy Bowers called on “the most outstanding man I’ve ever seen in my life” to receive an award. He shared that Bob Grimm responded to 280 calls last year, then said, “I don’t know if I’m right, but I’m close.”

Copley received the award for outstanding service to the fire department, with Roy Bowers sharing that he is “just about the same as Timmy and the rest of them” in dedication to duty.

The final award, fireman of the year, went to Kaleb Feagans. Roy Bowers explained that he does not like conferring that award to the same person because everyone who answers the call to duty is outstanding. He described Feagans as “a boy who really stepped up.”

Finally, the department donated a restored three wheeled motorcycle to 54-year-veteran Doug Pitsenbarger.

During the closing remarks, Jeff Bowers joked that he could talk longer, but Evick said, “We’re done!”

“It’s eight o’clock,” Bowers said, as he dismissed those in attendance. “That’s all the time she gave me!”

NECCO Works to Fill Foster Needs

Continued From Page 1

and numbers of children awaiting adoption.”

Some of Fullmer’s toughest work lies in recruitment. She shared that “you don’t know until you start having conversations whether they’ll be interested or not.”

Taking the time to work with prospective foster parents in person drives better communication, which leads to better results of families feeling a stronger level of comfort with taking a child into their care.

Once a family agrees to accept children, Fullmer states that “you can do classes constantly.” Though some have a virtual component, Fullmer says “I personally prefer to do those in person. You get to know families better.” She went on to add that helps her get to know the families better because “no matter what, you have to meet people where they are.”

That includes working around sometimes hectic family and work schedules.

Fullmer relates also that families will always “thank you for being so accommodating.”

The need for foster care parents extends “from zero up,” says Fullmer, but she went on to add that “we’re struggling to meet the need of houses that take in teens.” Many of those children have seen more than one removal and all too many of those came from situations that involved profound neglect, drug abuse, and a number of trauma inducing events and issues.

Adding on to the problem at all ages is the dilemma of how to treat sibling sets. With so few placement opportunities, many endure the additional trauma of separation from brothers and/or sisters. When those children are pulled away from perhaps their only friend and ally in an unsafe environment, trauma occurs with them as well.

Petty Leads Charity Ride

Continued From Page 1

ing a number of protocols.

And second, the mission of the ride shifted into a higher gear.

Adam Petty dreamed of drinking champagne in the victory lane and hearing that concrete whine in his chosen profession. He also dreamed of an even greater legacy off the track.

In 1999, as the website for Victory Junction tells it, “a lanky wide-smiling teenager visited Camp Boggy Creek, a SeriousFun camp in Florida, with his dad and knew it was his calling to bring a similar camp to the hills of North Carolina.”

Not entirely out of his childhood himself, still living at home as he pursued racing, Adam Petty’s heart was committed to helping the kinds of very special kids who found a new lease on life at Camp Boggy Creek. As he worked to lay the groundwork for another such camp, Adam Petty spent his time between races with children suffering from chronic and terminal illnesses.

That dream would enter reality as a camp called Victory Junction.

“That camp was built to honor my oldest son, Adam,” Petty explained. He then added that the camp welcomes children suffering from a wide range of debilitating illnesses and conditions that prevent them from experiencing so many of the joys that other children take for granted.

The entire Petty family had established a four generation legacy in sport, but now endeavored to build another in a field much more profound. As the Victory Junction website states, after the crash “the Petty family gathered their strength and challenged themselves, their friends, and the NASCAR community to build his inspired dream.”

Richard and Lynda Petty donated land in the Tar Heel State’s countryside as part of a 2002 capital campaign. Funds from corporate and individual donors flooded in. In June of 2004, the camp welcomed the first of approximately 125,000 children.

The “very special kids” who come to Victory Junction get to enjoy and experience what most view as the normal childhood experience, but safely. Petty said, “So many of the children who spend time here live in a medical facility, or stand on the sidelines and watch other children”

And in many cases, the people who love these children worry a lot and may not know what all they are capable of doing, despite their conditions. Camp activities are designed to build confidence in the child, but also the family, that they can have at least part of a normal childhood where their conditions don’t restrict them.

Some of the activities include rope climbing, ziplining, minigolf, bowling, archery, swimming, boating, and even hot-air balloon rides. Bass Pro Shops donated an entire fishing facility where campers can “Catch, Kiss, and Release.” They catch the fish, kiss the fish, then return it to the water. “For some of these kids, it’s the first time they caught a fish in their life,” shared Petty.

The choice often boils down to separating siblings to place in foster homes, or keeping them together in a less-than-ideal collective environment.

Individual children have individual defense mechanisms that they craft as they go through their own “survival mode.” They may come into foster care acting out, unable to articulate the emotions driving their behaviors. Others may seem as if they behave ideally, but do so out of terror of making a mistake. Fullmer says that the surface calm in such children can hide “some serious behaviors.”

She advises that new foster parents “have some patience and show some grace,” but also understand that rules and boundaries are vital to children “who have been in chaos up to this point.”

Fullmer shared that “in the month of March I’ll bet you we pushed through about 300 referrals.” Only nine of those received placement. Most of the rest, numbering approximately 400, end up living in hotel rooms, supervised by state personnel.

Facilities for challenged children, such as Burlington Children’s Home in Mineral County, also take in children in desperate situations.

One of the perceived barriers to entry comes in the form of paying for the needs of the child or children. Many have more of a willingness to become a foster family, as Fullmer explains, “as long as they have enough money to pay their bills” and also provide reasonably for those in their care.

“We do offer reimbursement for foster families,” explains Fullmer, who also added that they wish to “lessen the burden they endure by helping us.”

Potomac Highlands Shrine Club

Selling Vidalia Onions

Friday, May 2

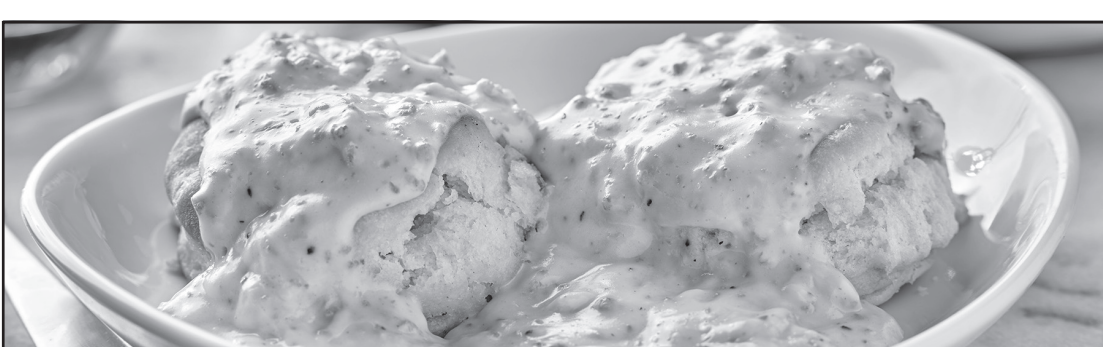
Franklin - Call Randal Smith - 304-358-8208

Par Mar (Exxon)

Brandywine - Bowers Garage

North Fork - Macksville Mart

Harper’s Store and Rock Gable



Trout Fest Breakfast

Saturday, May 3

7–10:30 AM

Franklin Senior Center

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across from the pool

all proceeds benefit PSFSI programs and services

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May Is Mental Health Awareness Month!

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. One in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year and only half of them receive treatment. Over 1 in 5 youth (ages 13-18) either currently or at some point during their life have had a seriously debilitating mental illness.

Discuss your mental health concerns with your medical provider today.

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The Once Mighty Chestnut Tree Had Multiple Uses

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

The chestnut industry began in the early 19th century, becoming very quickly a major economic force. By the late 19th century, the industry employed thousands of people and was worth millions of dollars. The tree itself was of a dominant species making up an estimated 25 percent of the hardwood forests, and being prized for its strong durable wood. The sash-like region could be traced from New England to Ohio and Pennsylvania, to West Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana. It was a beautiful sight to behold the Blue Ridge Mountain landscape looking as though it had been blanketed by snow when they began to bloom each summer.

For the people of Appalachia, the chestnut was economically important. The reddish-brown wood was soft, easy to split, very resistant to decay, did not warp or shrink, and was lightweight. Because of the resistance to decay, industry quickly sprang up throughout the area to use the wood for posts, poles, piling, railroad ties, musical instruments, houses, flooring, telephone and telegraph poles many of which can still be seen today, and split rail fences, which can still be found along country roads

throughout the region. The straight grained wood was ideal for furniture, caskets, and log cabins and their foundations. Builders and furniture makers prized this straight-grained wood, which was rot-resistant, light, and easy to work with. The tree was a graceful shade tree, mostly found in city squares and rural homesteads.

The fruit that fell to the ground was an important cash crop. Families raked them up by the bushels and took them by wagon loads to sell in nearby towns. Chestnuts were cooked of their own consumption. They are dense with calories, rich in vitamin C and antioxidant. The wood and bark were rich in tannic acid which provided tannins for use in tanning of leather.

The population of game animals, such as squirrels, grouse, black bear, racoons, and wild turkeys, that had once fed on abundant chestnuts were in peril when a devastating chestnut blight fungus was introduced from Asia in the early 1900s. This blight quickly spread throughout the forests, taking on a frightening twist as the trees began to show signs of the disease, killing billions of trees in a relatively short time. The loss had a significant ecological and economic impact, virtually collapsing the industry, and having a significant impact on the environment.

Despite the challenges, there is still hope for the future of the American chestnut. Researches are working to develop blight-resistant chestnut trees, restoring the chestnut to its rightful place in the eastern forests.

Life's little instructions include the following:

1. Avoid all unnecessary meetings.
2. Write everything a person wants to achieve in a day.
3. Offer to take someone's empty shopping cart to its resting place.
4. Burn candles.
5. Use the nice sheets.

The writer saw her first hummingbird this past Wednesday. Seeing the friendly bird brings a smile to her face.

Sunday morning temperatures were 38 with a beautiful blue sky. The red bud trees are of a dim color this year, due to the frosty mornings.

This week's quotes are as follows:

"All my life, I always wanted to be somebody. Now I see that I should have been more specific." — Jane Wagner

"My father said that there were two kinds of people in the world: givers and takers." — Marlo Thomas

"If you want to make enemies, try to change something." — Woodrow Wilson

"A man who stands for nothing, will stand for anything." — Malcolm X

"Some trash is recycled, some is thrown away, some ends up

where it shouldn't end up." — Carlo Ratti

Sitting on the porch swing is a great place to hear the "Talk of the Grove."

When traveling Reddish Knob, one will note that the flag that had been flying at the spring, is no longer there. Perhaps it was the vicious winds that allowed it to take off.

Clickety-clacks for the chin waggars are as follow:

• The armhole in clothes, where the sleeves are sewn, is called armseye.

• Illegible handwriting is called griffonage.

• If all the books in the New York Public Library were lined up, they would stretch 8 miles.

• Virginia Woolf wrote all her books while standing.

• Chickens sweat.

Birthdays for May include the following: Betty Kimble, Dave Basagic and Krista Simmons, third; Connor Hedrick, fourth; Sandy Simmons, fifth; Linda Fay Rexrode, Ashlyn Wimer, Shalee Wilburn and Dwight Moyers, sixth; Bobby Bodkin, seventh; Grey Cassell, Jean Hudson, Kay Simmons and Donna Evick, eighth; Linnea Fisher, 10th; Willard Rader, Susan Kiser and Juanita Scott, 11th; Jean Ann Homan, 13th; Missy Harrison, Dinah Beverly and Orville Harper, 14th; Liam Simmons and Lori Lambert, 15th; and Tina Via and Reagan McConnell, 16th.

Concerns for the week are for Charles Anderson, John Ashley, Roger Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Dave Basagic, Allen Beachler, Liz and Mick Bodkin, "Bo" Boggs, Joyce Calhoun, the Mario Claro family, Marie Cole, Stanley Dahmer, Phil Downs, Jennifer Errett, Isaac Eye, Marie Eye, Mary Eye, Carl Gant, David Gillespie, Patsy Green, JC Hammer, Sharon Harr, Steve and Armand Heavner, Hannah Hedrick, Jack and Starr Hedrick, Larry Hedrick, George Hevener, Chuck and Tracy Hiett, Jim Hiner, Evan Hise, Tim Hively, Edsel and Mary Ann Hogan, Julia Homan, Keith Hoover, Myrtle Hoover, Debbie Horst, Linda Jones, Richard Judy, Marsha Keller, Tom and Kim Kline, Tracie Knight, Laura Kropp, Melissa Lambert, Robert Lambert, Rex Landis, Donna Mallow, Roger and Skip Mallow, Audree Marsh, Ed May, Gene and Joan McConnell, Gary McDonald, Neil McLaughlin, Rose Miller, Bruce Minor, Tom Mitchell, Barbara Moats, Gloria Moats, Jim Moats, Helen Nash, Rick Neil, Aaron Nelson, Ruth Nelson, Cheryl Paine, Terri Parker, Andy Pond, Janice Propst, Alda Propst, Janis Propst, Marilyn Propst, Mike Propst, Sheldon Propst, Virginia Propst, Eldon "Butch" Puffenbarger, Tom Rader, Willard Rader, Brandon Reel, Jason Rexrode, Jimmy Rexrode, Linda Fay Rexrode, Brittany Shriver, Annie Simmons, Erin Simmons, Eva Simmons, Greg Simmons, Judy Simmons, Nelson Simmons, Tonya Simon, Robbie Sites, Mike Skiles, Ed and Carolyn Smith, Natalie Stephenson, Tina Stuben, Steve Stump, Linda and Larry Vandevander, Sandra Vandevander, Amy Vaus, Estelle Wagner, Mary Louise Waldschlager, Amby Waybright, Jr., Rene White, Sherry Wilfong, Judy Williams, Ann and Ed Wimer, Christians persecuted around the world, people of war ravaged countries and families affected by natural disasters.



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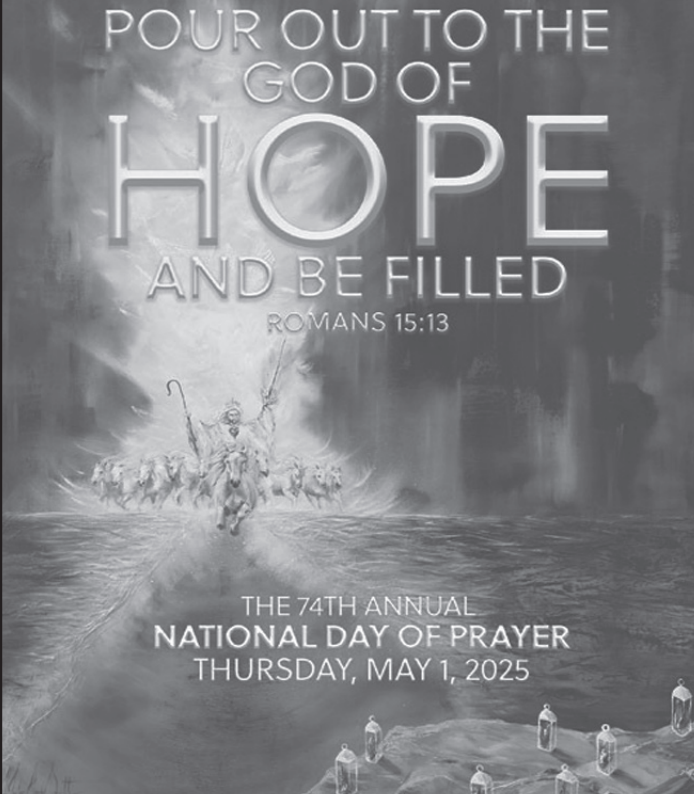
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May 4 • Noon - 3 p.m.
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I would like to thank everyone who helped celebrate my 92nd birthday with cards, messages and calls. I greatly appreciate each one of them.
Glenn Dahmer



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Dear Pendleton County Community,
On behalf of the Pendleton County Middle School Student Council, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous supports of our Spring Festival. Your participation, donations, and encouragement made the vent a tremendous success, and we are so grateful!
Because of your support, we are thrilled to share that we have raised enough funds to take our much-anticipated end-of-the year trip to Washington, D.C.! Your contributions have also made it possible for us to enjoy several other end-of-year activities that will help us celebrate our hard work, growth, and accomplishments this school year.
This experience means to much to all of us. The trip to Washington, D.C., will allow our students to explore history firsthand, engage with the nation's capital, and build lasting memories with their classmates. We could not have done this without you.
Thank you for believing in our school and the students of Pendleton County. Your support shows us the power of community — and we are proud to be a part of such a kind and generous one.
With sincere gratitude,
Carolina Kimble
Pendleton County Middle School Student Council President

Wildcats Find Success as they Continue to Develop Program

By Stephen Smoot

On both the boys and girls sides, Pendleton County track has seen remarkable growth in participation and also in results. Often the team takes on schools with much higher student numbers and many more years of track and field program experience.

But Wildcat track is not intimidated by either.

In Keyser, the sprinters shone. Aubree Keiter ran for a season record of 14.46 in the 100-meter race. She also set a season record in the 200 with a time of 30.54. Also in the 200, Arianna Alt ran for a personal best of 31.35, Emma Hartman set a personal best with a time of 32.47, and Autumn Lockard performed at her personal best with a time of 34.71.

Alt had set a personal best in that same race at East Hardy with a time of 32.88a.

In the 400-meter event, personal records fell here as well. Laney Sites-Woods, a senior described as a quiet leader by head coach Christopher Wilburn, set a personal best in the 400 meter, placing third in Keyser with a 1:08:88. Shayne Clutter similarly set her personal best with a time of 1:23.04a.

Sites-Woods also set a personal mark also in the 800 meters at Keyser, placing fourth with a time of 2:48.7. Clutter followed in ninth place with a personal best time of 3:23.41.

Allison Reuss has demonstrated solid improvement



Senior runner Laney Sites-Woods carries the baton at the Frankfort relays. Photo courtesy of Light in Motion Photography.

through the season as she has posted strong performances in the 1600-meter race. She ran for 7:21.71 at Elkins, but shaved her time down to 1:13.50 in earning fourth place in Keyser. Callie Dunn set a personal record at Keyser, hitting a mark of 15:07 in the 3200-meter run.

Success continued in the 300-meter hurdles at Keyser where Alt sprinted and leapt her way to a personal record of 1:01.32a.

In the 4x200 at Keyser, the team of Alt, Hartman, Keiter, and Lockard set a record of 2:09.12, improving on the 2:10.37 set at

Frankfort a week earlier. The Frankfort event also saw the 4x400 squad of Hartman, Sites-Woods, Lockard, and Keiter setting a record of 5:29.79.

In the 4x800, Reuss, Sites-Woods, Clutter, and Dunn improved their time between Frankfort and Keyser, moving from a time of 12:22.92 to 12:16.14.

At Keyser in the high jump, Keiter took second place with a 4'2", Hartman third with 4'2", and Alt fourth with a 4'2".

The team will perform next at the Potomac Valley Conference meet.



Sawyer Apple flies over the bar in the high jump at the Frankfort relays.

Pendleton County Track Springs Forward as It Prepares for Postseason

By Stephen Smoot

During the past month, Wildcat track and field has traveled to Elkins, Frankfort, Keyser, and elsewhere as the team makes its mark. As the season has progressed, upperclassmen have started to get into postseason form while others continue to show strong improvement.

On April 11, the squad competed in cold, overcast, and blustery conditions in Elkins. They did see much friendlier conditions with 70 degree temperatures on the 18th at Frankfort and summerlike weather on the 24th in Keyser.

The Elkins Invitational featured a group of teams from a number of area schools, including Grafton, Lewis County, Petersburg, Tygarts Valley, and Pocahontas County, among others. Only Fort Hill, Allegheny, Hampshire, Frankfort, and Northern joined the Wildcats in Short Gap.

Pendleton County joined Moorefield, Keyser, Southern, and Petersburg in Keyser.

The event in Frankfort focused on relay teams and field events, but the other two followed the conventional slate of events.

In individual running events, Gabe Harvey started off the year at an event at East Hardy setting a personal record in the 200-meter race of 24.27. A month later at Keyser, he set another personal mark in the same event with a 24.04. Also at Keyser, Harvey placed fourth in the 100-meter race with a personal record of 11.88.

In the 400-meter race, Harvey ran for a 59.82 in

Elkins while Logan Fisher had a 100.7. Three Wildcats competed in the 400 in Keyser. Cayson Armstrong earned a seventh-place finish with a personal record time of 59.31 seconds, followed by David Noble with a time of 1:04.34 and Ryan Bruns scoring at 1.11.58.

Pendleton County's distance runners performed very well at Keyser. Thunder Gill earned second place in the 800 meters with a season best 2:12.85a. Titus Nulph placed fourth, also setting a season record with a time of 2.22.20a.

Gill took third in the 1600 at Keyser with a time of 5:05.71a, improving on his Elkins time of 5:11.62a. He had set a personal record at East Hardy with a 4:57.47a.

One of the strongest potential contenders to compete in the state meet later in the month is Sawyer Apple. Regardless of the level of competition, he has blown the doors off almost everyone in the 110-meter and 300-meter hurdles. He set a season record at East Hardy with a 16.13 in the 110 and a personal record of 41.99 in the 300. By Keyser, Apple set a season mark of 15.79 in the 110-meter hurdles, placing first in both that and the 300-meter hurdles.

The 4x800 relay team of Gill, Armstrong, Sam Eason, and Nulph set a personal record in the difficult conditions in Elkins with a 9.34.96 and just fell four seconds short of that mark in Keyser two weeks later.

Wildcat shot putters started off the season setting personal records and have continued to perform well all season. Ryland Co-

pley threw for a 30'03" in Keyser, only a whisker shy of his personal best of 30'9". Eason enjoyed his personal best at the April 24 event, throwing for 27'3", almost two full inches improved since East Hardy and 3'3" better than in Elkins.

Copley has also shown consistency in his discussions, scoring an 89'9" for a season record at East Hardy, then tossing for an 87'9" in Keyser. Eason's discus distance improved by two inches to 52'6" from East Hardy to Keyser while Garrett Hartman added four inches between the two events for a mark of 38'11" in Keyser.

Shot putter performed remarkably well at Frankfort. Copley earned a personal record of 31'11", Noble threw for a personal best of 30'35", Ben Puffenbarger for 25'55" and a personal record, and Hartman tossed a 23'10" for a personal best.

Harvey and Apple have also made their mark on the high jump this season. Apple and Harvey placed second (5'4") and third (5'), respectively, in Elkins. Harvey took second in Keyser after adding a full half foot to his Elkins mark. Apple additionally improved his jump by six inches. Harvey placed second and Apple third in Keyser, as well.

Advancement for both came in the long jump as Harvey improved from 17'8" in Elkins to 17'10" in Keyser. Apple reached 17'8" in Keyser, 14 inches higher than Elkins.

The squad next competes in the Potomac Valley Conference meet.

Wildcats Wind Down Season with Big Wins Against Possible Postseason Foe



Jenna Smith, Lizzie Alt, Avery Townsend, Izzy Lockard, Julia Mongold, and Baylee Beachler were recognized on senior night. They have set the standard for softball classes going forward as they led a talented squad to a stellar season.

By Stephen Smoot

During the past week, the Pendleton County softball team went three and one. They gave up their second loss of the year to a surging Petersburg Viking squad ranked eighth in Class AA, but took care of business against Tucker County twice and Luray, Virginia, once.

In the game against the Mountain Lions on the 21st, the team held its senior night. For the first run, senior Lizzie Alt drove in Avery Townsend for the first run in the first inning. After Baylee Beachler set down the first three batters in order, the Wildcats exploded with a big second inning.

Susan Vincell led with a walk. Two batters later, Izzy Lockard grounded to short, but reached on an error. Julia Mongold loaded the bases by earning a walk. That set up Townsend who drove a double to left and knocked two runners home. She also got to town on the throw home.

Beachler was up next. As she worked the pitcher to a walk, the fleet of foot Townsend stole home plate.

The Wildcats would score seven in the inning.

Later in the bottom of the fourth with Lockard and Vincell on, Mongold rocketed a double to right. She got two runs batted in. The Wildcats won 15-0.

The very next night, Petersburg came to town. Beachler once again took the mound, but the Vikings were ready. Although the Wildcats put up two in the first, Petersburg scored the next 12.

Hard luck bedeviled the home team. Sharply hit balls went straight to fielders who never gifted an error. Almost everything Petersburg hit, however, found the ground, giving them the win, 12-2.

Two days later, Pendleton County played Luray from Virginia. Once again, the Wildcats claimed the first score of the game. Townsend hit a two ball and one strike double and was promptly driven in by Beachler.

Luray, however, evened it up on a sacrifice ground ball that drove in their first run.

After trading half innings with no score, Pendleton County reclaimed the lead in the second. Townsend led off with a walk, then stole two bases during Beachler's at bat. Chesnee Colaw lofted a fly ball to right, allowing Townsend to tag up and score.

Unwilling to go quietly, Luray added two runs in the next half inning to grab the lead right back. In the top of the fourth, however, two straight errors put Vincell and Jaden Mitts on base. Molly Rowe dropped a bunt toward the pitcher, but another error allowed a run to come in.

Luray picked up two runs in the bottom of the fourth, then set down the Wildcats in order in the top of the fifth.

In the top of the sixth, Mitts walked, then went to third on a Rowe bunt single. Townsend drove in Mitts and put the tying run in scoring position and the go ahead run at first. Beachler sent the first pitch over the wall in left, putting her team up seven to five.

Beachler then pitched the final innings, saving the win for starting pitcher Vincell.

In the second game against Tucker County, which the Wildcats won once again 15 to zero, Pendleton County put up seven in the first two innings and had 14 runs scored by the end of their half of the third.

On Friday, Pendleton hosts East Hardy in the final home game of the season.

The first sectional game will be played May 7 between Tygarts Valley and Pocahontas with the winner traveling to Pendleton May 8 for a 6 p.m. game.

Townsend Shines in Interstate Basketball Tournament



Avery Townsend scored 21 for the West Virginia squad in a border battle with a select Maryland squad. She was most valuable player, but the Mountain State cagers lost by two.

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Switched Up Schedule Brings Spring Mills to Battle Wildcats in Franklin

By Stephen Smoot

The baseball schedule had originally marked Highland County [Virginia] as traveling to play Pendleton County on Monday, but that script flipped.

“Highland backed out on us,” explained Sam Yokum, head coach.

Class A teams in the region have grown few and far between, forcing the Wildcats to play up to teams in Class AA and AAA. Spring Mills competes in the highest classification of state schools, Class AAAA.

On the road last week, the Wildcats played Spring Mills even until the fifth inning when an explosion of runs gave them a 17-7 win over Pendleton County. Yokum said of playing teams of this caliber, “It’s good for them to see how these teams warm up, how they make plays.”

Outside of a narrow loss to a very strong Tygarts Valley squad, the Wildcats have played seven games against much larger schools. Only two of the remaining seven will come against Class A. While this gives an opportunity to forge skills against better competition, the schedule gives Pendleton County one of the tougher slates of games at any level, but provides preparation for the postseason.

The Wildcats had to play this game also without top pitchers Chase Owens and Cole Harper who were resting up with Moorefield on the docket the very next day.

Mason Harper started the game getting the leadoff batter to strike out on three pitches. After that, however, the big bats from the big school were ready and put four runs up early.

Pendleton County tried to respond in the bottom of the inning. Caleb Armentrout worked a two balls and one strike

count before slapping a single to right field. Spring Mills’ right fielder boasts a strong throwing arm and nearly threw the fast-charging Armentrout out at first.

Travis Owens came up second and worked a one ball and two strike count into a walk to put two on. James Vincell followed. He belted a screaming line drive to third base, but the fielder leapt gracefully to his right and snagged the certain extra base hit from the air. The quick thinking fielder doubled up the base runner at second.

Yokum used approximately one pitcher per inning, giving some of his younger pitchers important game reps and his experienced throwers an opportunity to get work in. Cashton Kisamore came in for the second inning. He throws some sidearm and has some deceptive motion when throwing from the stretch.

Spring Mills loaded the bases, but with two outs, Kisamore got the batter to hit a hard line drive directly at Travis Owens to close the inning.

In the bottom of the second, the Wildcats saw Spencer Hartman single with two outs, followed by a base on balls dealt to Noah Lockard. Once again, however, the Spring Mills defense got their pitcher out of trouble with no damage as the inning ended on a fielder’s choice.

In the top of the fifth with Spring Mills in command, Yokum called on Ty Armentrout to take the pitcher’s mound.

Ty Armentrout got the first batter to ground to third on his second pitch. He worked the hitter to a one ball and two strike count, then earned a swinging strikeout on an off-speed pitch.

Spring Mills then mounted a threat. A single, a hit batsmen, and another single loaded the bases.

The next batter worked the count to two balls and one strike, but Ty Armentrout righted the ship. He got the batter to swing and miss strike two, then fooled him on a called third strike.

While the murderers’ row of a schedule continues, the team continues to gain experience against tough competition and should be ready to make their mark against regional competition in the postseason.

Don’t Drive Distracted, Eyes Forward

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. As part of its efforts to prevent distracted driving and enhance road safety, the Governor’s Highway Safety Program is teaming up with the United States Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to remind drivers to prioritize safe road practices and avoid distractions while driving with this clear message: “Don’t Drive Distracted. Eyes Forward.”

Distracted driving involves cell phone use or any activity that takes attention away from the task of driving. It’s risky driving behavior that endangers everyone on the road, from the distracted driver and other drivers, to passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

In 2022, there were 1,860 distracted driving crashes in West Virginia, 835 injuries, and four fatalities.

According to NHTSA, 15,960 people died and around 1.8 million people were injured in distraction-affected crashes over the five-year period from 2018 to 2022. In 2022 alone, there were 3,308 people killed in traffic crashes involving at least one distracted driver, 8 percent of all traffic fatalities that year. An estimated additional 289,310 people were injured in traffic crashes involving distracted drivers in 2022.

“The bottom line is distracted driving can be prevented,” said Jack McNeely, director of the GHSP. “Drivers can prioritize safe driving by keeping their hands on the wheel, their eyes on the road, and their focus on driving,” continued McNeely.

Steps for a safe drive include the following:

• If a text message is expected or needs to be sent and can’t wait, the driver should pull over and park their vehicle in a safe location before using the phone.

• Ask a passenger to be the “designated texter,” and give them access to a person’s phone to respond to calls or messages.

• Do not engage in social media scrolling or messaging while driving.

• Listen to one’s passengers: If they see a person texting while driving and tell one to put the phone away, put it down.

• Cell phone use is habit-forming. If struggling to not text and drive, drivers can activate their phone’s “Do Not Disturb” feature, silence notifications, or put their phone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat of the vehicle until they arrive at their destination.

Cell phone use while driving is dangerous. Break the cycle. Remember “Don’t Drive Distracted. Eyes Forward.” Help save lives and be an example to others by committing to that message.

For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/distracted-driving.

For more information on the West Virginia Governor’s Highway Safety Program, visit highwaysafety.wv.gov or call 304-926-2509.

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PENDLETON COUNTY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL						June
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Pendleton County Schools is an Equal Opportunity Provider	HS - High School MS - Middle School	State Baseball Tournament June 5 - 7	1 HS Track PVC Meet 2:30 (A) HS Softball 5:00 (A) Greenbrier West HS Baseball (A) Petersburg 6:00 MS Softball Philippi 6:00 (H)	2 HS JV Only Baseball Bath County 6:00 (H) HS Softball E. Hardy 6:00 (H) MS Baseball Harman 5:00 (A) Advisory Speaker (Skiles-Teacher of Year)	3 HS Baseball Tucker 2:00 (A) MS Baseball (A) West Fairmont 2:00 North Marion 4:00
4 FFA Banquet 5 p.m.	5 AP Biology Test HS Baseball Pocahontas 5:00 (A)	6 AP Chemistry Test CTE NOCTI Testing HS Baseball Tygarts Valley 6:00 (H)	7 HS Baseball Bath County (H) Senior Night 5:15 Game 5:30	8 Softball Sectional 6:00 (H) (winner of Tygarts Valley/Pocahontas game on May 7)	9 Miss Pendleton County Youth Pageant WVGSA Make-Ups HS Baseball Jefferson 5:00 (A)	10 HS Track (A) Keyser 10:00 MS Baseball Tournament TBD Miss PCMS and PCHS Pageants
11	12	13 Middle School DC Trip	14 MS Track (A) East Hardy 4:00 Regional Baseball Games Begin 8th Grade High School Tours	15 VoTech Graduation HS Track Doddridge County 2:00 (A)	16 AP Physics Test	17 Sports Banquet 3 p.m.
18  BACCALAUREATE 6 p.m.	19 Senior Awards 1 p.m. MS Track PVL East Hardy 4:00 (A)	20 6th Grade Orientation	21	22 High School Exams Make-up	23 Graduation Practice 10:00	24
		High School Exams	Regional Softball Playoff	Just Another High School Play @ 7:00	State Track Meet	
25  Class of 2025 2 p.m.	26  SALUTING THE VETERANS MEMORIAL DAY NO SCHOOL	27	28 Middle School Spruce Knob Trip State Class A Softball Tournament	29 EARLY RELEASE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	30	31 

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**WILDCATS**
PENDLETON COUNTY

Winners of Young Writers Contest Announced

Pendleton County Schools has released the winners of the county’s Young Writers contest.

First and second grade — Benson Harper, “The Farmer and the Wolves,” first, North Fork Elementary; Alani Shockey, “The Journey,” second, Brandywine Elementary, second; and Ben Weaver, “Snow Days,” third, BES.

Third and fourth grade — Bethany Teagarden, “The Bad Life That

Colors

By Macie Mitchell

There was once a time when the rainbow could talk. Red through Violet. Red being the oldest was always bossy. Orange as the second was quite quiet. Yellow got the smarts being the third, and Green the fourth was wild beyond comparison. Blue had the best advice even though he was the fifth. Indigo as sixth had to take care of Violet, the baby, the seventh color. They all got along until one warm summer evening.

Red was doing a color count (that’s what the colors called a headcount) before bed. At first, he only counted six colors, but after he recounted, all seven were there. Little did he know he counted Yellow twice. Red, along with all the other colors, didn’t notice Orange’s disappearance. Violet might have noticed, but all she could say was color, rainbow, and pond.

All the colors had their own cabin, in their color. Usually, after the cool nights, Red would wake Orange, Orange would wake Yellow and so on and so forth until all the colors were up. On this morning, Red didn’t wake up at his usual time, nor did the others. It was as if Orange’s leaving had a strange effect on the other colors.

For there were two rules. The first was: If one of the colors shall fall, the rest shall fall as well. The second was: Never lose sight of the wonderful prize. Red, of course, was the only one to know of the rules.

When Red finally woke up, it was the middle of a scorching summer day. He jumped up realizing he had overslept. He ran as fast as two people combined to wake Orange, but Orange was gone. He ran and got all the other colors up. He then divided them into three search parties. Red with Yellow, Green with Blue, and Indigo with Violet. Red and Yellow checked the woods, Green and Blue checked the playing areas, and Indigo just took care of Violet. When all the colors came back for a snack, they were tired, hopeless, and had given up. All were breathing heavily, and some were even crying. Then out of nowhere Violet said, “Color from rainbow at pond.” All the colors jumped up and ran to the pond, and this is what they found...

Orange was picking dazzling daises at the water’s edge. When she looked up, she was as calm as a cucumber. Then, she just casually started to yell at the others. She told them that they never realized if she was with them or not. Red was baffled, Violet was crying, and all the other colors started fighting. Red suddenly remembered the rules and told the others to stop, but they all just started yelling at him. Red knew it was the end of talking and doing everything normally, so he gathered all the colors in a great big hug. Then, POOF! They appeared in an arch in the sky.

The colors soon learned their lessons and how to get along, but they will never be turned back into their original form. For the story of the colors, was to teach us to always pay attention to our surroundings and never take anything for granted.

The Bad Life That Gets Better

By Bethany Teagarden

It was 1 A.M. and the Iris family were struggling to wake up. First Aunt Rita and Uncle Bonco woke up. When they got to their kids room, Aunt Rita opened the door, yawned, and said “wake up.” Uncle Bonco drowsily pulled the blankets off both children. Lily squinted. “Mom, where are we going?” Lily said sleepily. “To the orphanage, the one that your cousin Katie is at.” Poor Katie had been at the orphanage since her parents died in a car accident last month. “Hurry, get ready, we don’t want to get there any later than necessary.” declared Uncle Bonco. So they all prepared to leave and darted into the car. “Alright, is everyone ready to go?” Uncle Bonco said, hearing the fourth door shut. “Yes.” everyone replied. “Then we’re off.” said Uncle Bonco as he zoomed down the road.

The trip took longer than expected. They finally arrived at the orphanage the next day at 1:17 A.M. The Iris family watched as a stout old lady scampered out of the orphanage. Once she got close to the car, Uncle Bonco rolled down the window as she stopped to catch her breath and then said “Hello my name is Mrs. Wood.” “Are you in charge of the orphanage?” asked Aunt Rita. “Yes indeed! Would you be the Jonson family?” “No, we’re the Iris family.” Uncle Bonco grumpily corrected. “Oh yes and you would be here for” Mrs. Wood paused for a second “oh right Katie. Could you come inside for a minute to fill out some paperwork?” “Sure I’ll go.” volunteered Aunt Rita. They returned with Katie, who said goodbye to Mrs. Wood. “Now we have to get a hotel room, and drive home tomorrow.” complained Uncle Bonco. The next morning, the family quickly checked out and headed home. When they finally arrived, they showed Katie her room and headed to bed. The next day Lily and Duncan decided to blame Katie for everything wrong because they didn’t want Katie to have all the attention. Later, when the kids played, Lily ran to Aunt Rita and said “Mom Katie pulled my hair!” “I’ll handle this.” Uncle Bonco said. “Katie!” he yelled “I can’t believe you pulled Lily’s hair!” Before Katie could reply Uncle Bonco grounded her for three weeks! So Katie went to her room. Lily and Duncan kept lying about Katie. Then she would go to her room with a big frown.

One morning, the Irises woke up and smelled breakfast. Uncle Bonco looked over his shoulder and was surprised to see Aunt Rita, so who was making breakfast? The family went downstairs and found Katie making breakfast. “Oh thanks Katie.” said Uncle Bonco. “Dad,” said Lily. “I have something to say. Duncan and I have been lying about Katie.” “I’m very unimpressed.” said Aunt Rita “You owe Katie a big apology.” The kids apologized. Uncle Bonco apologized for not letting her explain. From that day on, Katie was treated nicely and was super happy.

Gets Better,” first, BES; and Vera Selmon, “The Intruder,” second, NFES.

Fifth and sixth grade — Macie Mitchell, “Colors,” first, River Zutaut, “The Mean King,” second, and Ava Davis, “The Judges,” third, all students at BES.

Seventh and eighth grade — Ava Bowers, “The Daughter,” first, Evie Nulph, “Dancing for Mr. Moore,” second, and Lauren Williams,

The Daughter

By Ava Bowers

Charlotte looked into the mirror trying to find something or anything she could remember. The girl looked back at her. It was an unrecognizable face. She was supposed to remember, but she couldn’t. Posters and pictures of places she didn’t seem to remember, and books she had never read. Charlotte didn’t know who she was like a person should know. Where was she supposed to start?

Charlotte walked into the hall from her bedroom. For a second, her head hurt dreadfully and then stopped. At the end of the hallway, there was a kitchen and a living room. There were pictures of her and possibly her family. In the kitchen, there were two girls. The one was young, and she was working on a laptop. The other woman was older and was her mom. Charlotte’s mom was upset, and told Charlotte “Dad still hasn’t showed up, and are you feeling better?” Charlotte said “yes”, but when her mom told her this Charlotte noticed her sister looked agitated. Charlotte learned her sister’s name was Bree, and she was writing a book. Around ten o’clock, Bree got a call and left. Charlotte noticed Bree rushed out of the house frantically, and she dropped a receipt to a restaurant. Charlotte decided not to tell anyone about her memory. She went to her room trying to find anything that was a hint. Charlotte wondered if her dad’s disappearance, and her memory were tied? Above the desk in Charlotte’s room was a calendar. It was very detailed and organized. Charlotte noticed today was June 17th, and she had not marked off a day since Father’s Day. There was a note to the side that said Father’s Day-taking dad to Relax & Dine. It was the same receipt that Bree dropped.

Charlotte walked to the living room, and her mom and sister were on the couch. Bree explained to them that their dad had to go on a trip to finish his book. Charlotte didn’t know if she could believe this or not. She went to her room and started going through pictures. Charlotte’s last picture was a selfie. It was at a restaurant. In the picture was Charlotte, Bree, and their dad. To Charlotte, the picture seemed odd. Then she remembered that they were at the restaurant and Bree sounded frantic telling her to go to the car. Charlotte had walked out of the restaurant while her dad and Bree walked out the back entrance. Charlotte was suspicious while she was waiting in the car, so she walked to the back of the restaurant. Charlotte didn’t hear much, but a man was saying “I read your book. Why are you stealing my ideas?”

Charlotte’s mind was disoriented. Charlotte began to find herself walking to Bree’s room. Charlotte started searching the room like a mad person. She noticed a book. On the back of the book was a picture of Bree, the author. The summary of the book was a girl hiding her dad in a basement, and living a life in another country. Charlotte leaned on the bookshelf, and it started to open. It led to a dark, eerie staircase. Charlotte began to walk down the stairs using her flashlight on her phone as a source of light.

Charlotte was petrified to what she saw next. Charlotte’s dad was tied up to the chair. When he saw Charlotte, there was a sense of relief that filled his face. “Go back upstairs, Charlotte”, her dad begged. “I will when you start giving me answers”, said Charlotte and untied him. Dad said, “Bree got to the point where she started to plagiarize work because I told her she needed more practice writing. She started making threats to me. I brought Bree to the back of the restaurant because I was worried about her. I, eventually, knew that Bree was struggling, and she is a lunatic. At the back of the restaurant, I told her I wanted to help her. You came up from the back of the restaurant, and it scared you. When you realized I saw you, you hit your head hard. Bree put you in your room and me here. She’s not okay”. Bree started walking down the stairs while Charlotte hid around the corner. When Bree got to the bottom, Charlotte knocked her out with the chair.

They went upstairs, and Charlotte’s mom was eager to see them all. Charlotte’s mom had no idea about what happened to Bree, and they all decided to keep Bree in the basement. Charlotte’s father was grateful to be with his family, and wrote his next book titled “The Psycho Daughter”. They decided to never tell anyone about Bree. She was a very dangerous, jealous girl that couldn’t hurt anyone.

The Farmer And the Wolves

By Benson Harper

One sunny day in the spring on a farm three cows were eating grass. The farmer came with a black bull. The farmer put it in a green pen. The bull was not happy. The bull stomped and kicked the farmer. The farmer let the bull out. The three cows were scared at first but the cows got to know him. At night the cows and the bull were sleeping. The next day, the farmer went to feed the animals and he saw it. A cow was dead in the grass. A pack of wolves scratched, and bit her. A tear trickled down the farmer’s cheek and the farmer fell to his knees and cried. After five minutes of crying the farmer went to the barn. He grabbed an old rusty shovel and headed back to the field. After digging a hole for the dead cow, the farmer drug the cow to the hole and buried it. Once the farmer buried the cow he headed back to the barn. He thought about what he would do to prevent the wolves from attacking again. Later that evening the farmer set traps around the farm for the wolves. After setting the last trap the farmer heard some rustling in the bushes. He lifted his gun and waited for the strange animal to come out. Once it came out of the bushes he saw that it was a black wolf. The farmer pulled the trigger and wounded the wolf. The wolf walked over to the farmer, he picked the wolf up and took him back to the house to help him out. After fixing the wolf up he let the wolf go and the farmer never had any more problems with the wolf pack again.

“Mahaska’s Story,” third, all students at Pendleton County Middle School.

Ninth and 10th grade — Dylan Eye, “Todd’s True Meaning,” first, Pendleton County High School.

The first-place winners’ story in each category will be submitted to the state competition.

Todd’s True Meaning

By Dylan Eye

What is the meaning of life? This is a question Todd pondered for many years. Todd was a mathematician. He believed that every question on this Earth had its own unique answer. If this was true, then finding the answer to life should be simple. Even still, Todd had a lot of questions. Does life have a single answer? Could it have no meaning at all? He didn’t know. However, this only fueled his search for the answer even more.

Todd asked many people, coming from many diverse backgrounds, but no one had the same answer. There was one common answer, and that was the joy of raising a child. Unfortunately, Huntington’s disease ran in Todd’s family. He had seen how it can not only destroy the person with it, but how it can devastate families for generations. Todd didn’t have it, but he knew that it would be given to his child if he had one. He couldn’t bear the thought of bringing a child into this world, knowing that child was going to die from something other than old age. For this reason, he decided that he would never have a child.

These answers frustrated Todd. He couldn’t understand that something as simple as being alive could be so difficult to solve. It infuriated him that he couldn’t find an answer. Todd knew that he couldn’t work angry, so he took a walk down the street to clear his head of anger.

While walking down the street, he stumbled upon something promising. There was a little girl, sitting on the sidewalk. She looked no older than nine, and her appearance suggested that she had been homeless for years. She was wearing an old, tattered dress, with muddy sneakers that looked older than her. She was so skinny that it seemed as though the breeze could carry her away. Her name was Alice, and she had lost her parents around a month ago. Todd pitied her and decided that she could help him find his answer. For this reason, he decided to take her in as his own.

What started as a purely professional relationship became much like the bond between a father and a daughter. Todd stopped working so much to make time to teach Alice all that he knew. He would take her to the park, where they would play for hours. They would play tag, swing, go down the slides, and eat ice cream until they felt sick. Every evening, they would come home laughing and smiling, having the best time of their lives. He started to forget his mission to find the meaning to life. It seemed like he had completely forgotten until he had a revelation.

Todd was sitting in his office one day, working out some equations to ease his mind. Alice came up to him and gave him a drawing. It was him and her standing on a grassy hill, with a sun in the corner of the page. She had even labeled their names above their heads. Above her head was her name excellently written in pink marker. Above Todd’s head was a word that he had feared but had wanted to hear for so long - written in big bold letters was dad.

Todd felt joy he didn’t know he could even experience. He had solved his problem. The meaning to life didn’t have one single answer, but many different answers to different people. Later that month, they celebrated her birthday. Todd and Alice would play at the park all day and watch movies until they fell asleep every night. Todd was living his dream of being a father, and Alice was ecstatic about having a father who loved and took care of her.

Todd was so happy while spending time with his new daughter that he didn’t even notice what was wrong with Alice at first. To start, she would run out of breath quickly when they chased each other around the park. Eventually, she could barely run for more than a few minutes. She became sluggish. She started to become frail and would get sick much more often. Todd came home one day to find her collapsed on the floor, unconscious. He rushed her to the hospital as fast as he could. He feared that his daughter, his meaning, could be fading away.

Her Leukemia was advanced. Todd would have never expected her to have a disease like this. He felt that it was his fault for not catching this earlier, knowing that she could’ve been saved back then. Even still, he was frantically searching for answers, knowing that there was absolutely nothing he could do to save Alice. Todd was lost. His life’s whole meaning was slipping away before his eyes.

Alice could see that he was distraught, but strangely enough, she was calm. She had accepted what was going to happen. She hugged Todd, who she only knew as dad, and soothed him. Todd felt tremendous sadness, but he did his best to be strong for Alice. Even still, he couldn’t hold his tears back when Alice said to him “I love you dad, and I always will”.

Alice passed away the next morning at the age of ten, around a week after her birthday. Todd loved her with all his heart. Even though she was gone now, Todd felt a way that he never had before. He knew now what he wanted to live for. He decided to make a foundation for children with cancer, so he could try to prevent what had happened to Alice. He thanked God for the chance to raise her as a daughter, and thanked Alice for showing him that there was more meaning to life than answers.

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Smith Celebrates Birthday, Number 101

As I enjoy a cup of coffee, I am thinking about how to acquaint you, the readers of The Pendleton Times, with my aunt Cleo, second mom. Each time we talk on the phone her question is “when are you all coming over?” She is referring to my sister, Joeann, and me. Cleo calls us her oldest daughters and she is like a second mom to us.

Cleo was born April 11, 1924, in Stony Run, the fourth child of the 12 children born to Gordon and Lula Smith.

Growing up in the early 1900s wasn’t easy, especially if one’s mother was no longer living. Cleo remembers well the day her mother, my grandmother, died the day after Cleo’s 13th birthday.

I can’t begin to imagine the sadness and confusion the eight younger siblings endured as the loss of their mom. I can never write about this tragic time without shedding a few tears. That was without a doubt one of the worst times if not the worst time, they ever went through.

My mom and aunt Cleo rarely ever talked about the days that followed. Granddad Smith was determined to raise his children, and he did with the help of the older girls. I grew up with aunts and uncles that held a deep love for each other and the families they had. I am very honored to say that this special kind of love continues with the Gordon and Lula Smith family members.

Joeann and I went to Staunton, Virginia, on April 1 to help aunt Cleo celebrate her 101st birthday. She was sitting at the kitchen table waiting for us to arrive. Her Roll-Ater was at her side as she can no longer walk without assistance. Needing help to walk hasn’t affected her mind!

We sat in the living room to visit, and Cleo opened her gifts. What do you give to someone that is 101? My mom would do some writing from time to time, and I have most of her writing. I didn’t know until recently that two of her other sisters also did some writing, and I was gifted with some of their writing recently. That was my gift from the four of us.

She had received beautiful flower arrangements from a nephew, a granddaughter, a friend whose sons she baby-sat, and cousin Dale who stopped by with yellow roses. Cleo said, “Yellow roses are my favorite rose.”

One of the boys that she had baby-sat brought her a cake. Over the years Cleo baby-sat close to two dozen children, giving them a safe place to be, much love, and teaching them right from wrong. Many of these adults still stay in touch with her.

Cousin Dale and Cleo talked about things they remembered from many years ago. Cleo told of the time she was riding the horse while granddad plowed the corn. He told her not to let the horse eat the corn at the end of the row. The horse stopped and she flew out over its head. Not wanting to get back on the horse, granddad had to threaten her with the switch he was carrying.

I think I have mentioned in previous articles how afraid of animals Cleo really was. She told about the two work horses killing one of their best dogs. I have never figured out why the farm horses were so mean. Cleo talked about Kate, their companion dog, that went wherever the children went, alerting them to a snake that was close by. She barked one time while Cleo was picking berries, and a rattlesnake was under the berry bush, thus keeping her from a snake bite. Pursuing a civet cat one night, Kate ran up a crooked tree and the limb broke, throwing her to the ground. Granddad and Grandma carried her home, but she didn’t live.

Granddad would have a wild animal from time to time and I remember a fox that was in a cage under an apple tree close to Stony Run. I can’t for the life of me, remember what he called that fox.

Dale asked Cleo about a bear that granddad supposedly had. They thought about it but couldn’t remember any details. Cleo looked at me and I told her I didn’t know anything about a bear. She looked at Dale and said, well, that was before my time. We both exclaimed, no wonder we couldn’t remember anything about a bear. We all had a good laugh.

They talked about their uncle Homer and how mean he was. He suffered a stroke when very young and it left him with a twisted hand, and he needed a cane to help him walk. If he could get that cane close enough, he would hook it around your legs. He was mean.

Jenna had decided we would have pizza for lunch. We sat down to eat and Cleo received three phone calls while trying to eat a slice of pizza. She finally got the pizza eaten, and we went back into the living room.

Larry had made her birthday cake, and in mid-afternoon, we had cake with ice cream. The phone rang three times while she was having her cake and by the time she got back to eating, the ice cream had melted. Jenna said she knows that her mom received 20 phone calls with four of the callers singing happy birthday. Cleo answered each call with thank you and much grace.

Cleo and Vernon celebrated 76 years together and raised three children. She has lived through the Great Depression, the Asian flu outbreak, the 2019 COVID outbreak, World War II, at least 20 presidents, and all the years in between. She has lived through and seen many things in 101 years, but she is the first to tell you that she has never seen our country in such a sad condition or seen any one president and his millionaire friends do so much damage to our country. People, that is saying a lot and well worth remembering.

Cleo would make dresses for Joeann and me, cut our hair, put perms in our hair, and was there for her siblings and the rest of us should we need some help. She and Vernon helped mom and daddy work the garden for several years.

Larry and I discussed what I could write about his mom, and I have tried to do my best. I would say to Larry and Jenna, write down what your mom has told you over the years—then pass it down to your families. A hundred and one years is a lot of history and memories. In researching the history of Gordon’s line of Smiths, I discovered that Cleo is the longest living member since the 1700s. Her grandfather, Martin, lived to be 96 as did sister, Sheba. Jenna and I decided that we would keep any article I might write a secret until aunt Cleo saw it in The Pendleton Times.

So, year 101 has now slipped away and as I write this, you start a new year and day. With your eyesight now fading, and hands crippled and worn, we remember and thank you for all those hands have done. Each day you read your devotions and have time with God. There is no greater example one could have.

The beautiful flowers will wither and die, a sweet memory of the day just gone by. There were many phone calls from old and from young, and some callers blessed you with the happy birthday song.

This one is for you aunt Cleo (mom). I haven’t known many people 101, although my friend Ms. Virginia who lives down the road is 102. I’m looking forward to what this year might bring.

You are so loved,
Violet Eye
April 12, 2025

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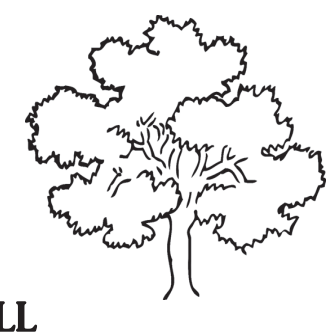
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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS Continued from Page 9

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in it by that certain Deed of Trust dated June 25, 2018, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed of Trust Book 158, at Page 404, Delbert A. Mowery and Rebecca J. Mowery did convey unto Seneca Trustees, Inc., Trustee, certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Pill & Pill, PLLC as Substitute Trustee by a Substitution of Trustee recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office; and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by the secured party to foreclose thereunder, will offer for sale at public auction at the front door of the Pendleton County Courthouse, in Franklin, West Virginia, on

May 6, 2025, at 12:19 PM

The following described real estate, with its improvements, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in the Mill Run District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a 1-1/4 inch iron pipe set on U.S. Route 220 East right of way 705.4 feet from the corner fence post on said right of way between Glover and the Board of Education (upper tract grade school), S. 77 degrees 13 minutes E. 140.67 feet to the line of Lot No. 1 to a 1-1/4 inch iron pipe; thence N. 14 degrees 15 minutes E. 159.18

feet to a 1/2 inch iron pipe in a hollow, witnessed by a 14 inch twin locust on the same bearing 3.4 feet; thence, up the hollow N. 71 degrees 40 minutes W. 142.99 feet with the line of lot No. 3 to a 1/2 inch iron pipe set on the east right of way of U.S. Route 220, thence with the said right of way S. 30 degrees 35 minutes W. 172.90 feet to the beginning containing 0.54 acre or 23.511 square feet, more or less, which was conveyed to the grantors by Homer Glover, Jr. and Bonnie Waggy Glover, his wife, et al. by deed dated June 27, 1974, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in deed Book 94, Page 360.

At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 11758 Petersburg Pike, Upper Tract, WV 26866.

AND BEING the same real estate which was conveyed to Delbert A. Mowery and Rebecca J. Mowery by Deed dated June 27, 1974, from Homer Glover Jr., Bonnie Waggy Glover, William Glover and Joanne Dahmer Glover, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 94 at Page 360 A.

The above-described property will be sold subject to any covenants, restrictions, easements, leases and conditions of record, and subject to any unpaid real estate taxes.

The subject property will be sold in “AS IS”

condition. The Substitute Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

TERMS: Ten percent (10%) of the purchase price as a deposit with the balance due and payable within 30 days of the day of sale.

Pill & Pill, PLLC, Substitute Trustee

Jonathan L. Wertman, Authorized Signatory

P. O. Box 440, 85 Aikens Center, Martinsburg, WV 25404 Phone (304) 263-4971, Fax (304) 267-5840, e-mail: foreclosures@pillwvlaw.com 4-17-3c

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE is hereby given pursuant to and by virtue of the authority vested in the Substitute Trustee, Pill & Pill, PLLC, by that certain Deed of Trust dated November 9, 2007, executed by Borrower, Walter S Terry, to Timothy J. Amos, the Trustee of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Book 118, at Page 150. At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 3368 Brushy Fork Rd t/k/a Hc 70 Box 21 B, Sugar Grove, WV 26815. Pill & Pill, PLLC were appointed as Substitute Trustees by APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE dated March 6, 2025, of record in the Clerk's Office in Book 180, Page 478. The borrower defaulted under the Note and Deed of Trust and the Substitute Trustees have been instructed to foreclose under the Deed of Trust. Accordingly, the Substitute Trustees will sell the following described property to the highest bidder at the front door of the Courthouse of Pendleton County, in Franklin, West Virginia, on the following date:

May 6, 2025 at 12:15 pm

Located in the District of Sugar Grove, County of Pendleton and State of West Virginia, to-wit: TRACT NO. 1: All that certain lot or parcel of land, designated as Lot No. 9 of the subdivision of the O.L. Dame Tract, lying and being situate on the west side of Brushy Fork Road, Pendleton County, West Virginia, as is more fully set out and described in a map entitled "Subdivision of the O.L. Dame Tract West Side of Brushy Fork Road Pendleton County, W.Va.," and being the same real estate initially conveyed from O.L. Dame and Helen L. Dame by deed bearing the date on the 3rd day of October, 1974, which deed is of record in the Clerk's Office of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed Book No. 95, at Page 349. See Map Book 2, Page 44. TRACT NO. 2: That certain tract or parcel of real estate lying and being situate 200 feet northwest of West Virginia Secondary Route 30, the Brushy Ford Road, and 600 feet east of the intersection of said route and West Virginia Route 32, in Sugar Grove District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, and being more particular described by its metes and bounds as follows: BEGINNING at a bolt found on the line of Ira Meadows; thence, with this

line N. 31-6-E. 50.02 feet to a iron pipe found, corner of S.E. Campbell; thence with his line and that of Davie Hayson S. 35-39-E. 99.60 feet to a bolt found, corner of James Coleman; thence, with two of his lines S. 52-02 W. 49.80 feet to a bolt found, witnessed by a power pole MP 1E1-110 N. 32 W. 1.8 feet; thence, N. 32-59 W. 81.95 feet to the BEGINNING, containing 0.099 acres, or 4,322 square feet. Title Reference: Deed Book 171, at page 710.

TERMS OF SALE:

1) The property will be conveyed in a “AS IS” physical condition by Deed containing no warranty, express or implied, subject to the Internal Revenue Service right of redemption, all property taxes, prior Deeds, liens, reservations, encumbrances, restrictions, rights-of-ways, easements, covenants, conveyances and conditions of record in the Clerk's office or affecting the subject property.

2) The Purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the transfer taxes imposed by the West Virginia Code § 11-22-1.

3) The Beneficiary and/or the Servicer of the Deed of Trust and Note reserve the right to submit a bid for the property at sale.

4) The Trustee reserves the right to continue sale of the subject property from time to time by written or oral proclamation, which continuation shall be in the sole discretion of the Trustee.

5) The Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the property to vacate said property, and any personal property and/or belongings remaining at the property after the foreclosure sale will be deemed to constitute ABANDONED PROPERTY AND WILL BE DISPOSED OF ACCORDINGLY.

6) The total purchase price is payable to the Trustee within thirty (30) days of the date of sale, with ten (10%) of the total purchase price payable to the Trustee at sale.

Pill & Pill, PLLC, Substitute Trustee

BY: Richard A. Pill
Pill & Pill, PLLC
85 Aikens Center
Edwin Miller Boulevard
P.O. Box 440
Martinsburg, WV 25402
(304) 263-4971
foreclosures@pillwvlaw.com 4-17-3c

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in it by that certain Deed of Trust dated June 18, 2009, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed of Trust 125, at Page 489, Larry D. Gandee Sr. and Pamela A. Gandee did convey unto Jeffrey S. Bowers, Trustee, certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Pill & Pill, PLLC as Substitute Trustee by a Substitution of Trustee recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office; and default

having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by the secured party to foreclose thereunder, will offer for sale at public auction at the front door of the Pendleton County Courthouse, in Franklin, West Virginia, on

May 6, 2025, at 12:17 PM

The following described real estate, with its improvements, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in the Bethel District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:

That certain real estate, together with the buildings and improvements thereon, if any, lying and being in Bethel District, Pendleton County, West Virginia approximately 5 miles east of Franklin, West Virginia, and approximately 1.0 mile north of US Route 33, and being more particularly described as Lot 41, containing 0.72 acres, more or less, of Fisher Mountain, Section-2, Phase-1, and being more particularly described by its metes and bounds in that certain Description and Plat of Survey of Fisher Mountain, Section 2-Phase 1, which survey was recorded the 31st day of October, 2008, and of record in the Clerk's Office of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Map Book 7, at Page 21, which is made a part hereof by reference hereto as though the same were textually set forth herein and being a portion of the

same real estate to which the Grantor obtained title by that certain deed dated August 24, 2007, recorded on the 24th day of August, 2002, and of record in the Clerk's Office aforesaid in Deed Book 175, at Page 513, to which reference is herewith made for all pertinent purposes.

The hereinabove real estate is the same real granted and conveyed to the Grantor (s) herein by Deed dated 18th day of June, 2009, and of record in the Clerk's Office of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 182, at Page 337, to which reference is herewith made for all pertinent purposes.

This conveyance is made subject to those certain Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions for Fisher Mountain, Section Two, dated October 28, 2008, recorded October 31, 2008, and of record in the Clerk's Office aforesaid in Deed Book 179, at Page 639, which are made apart hereof by reference hereto as though the same were textually set forth herein.

The Grantor(s) grant and convey to the Grantee, his assigns in title, a non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress on the roads and streets of the Fisher Mountain, Section-2, Phase-1, as set forth in the aforesaid Declarations of Covenants, Conditions

and Restrictions for Fisher Mountain, Section Two.

At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of Lot No. 41 Fisher Mountain, Section-2, Phase 1, Franklin, WV 26807.

AND BEING the same real estate which was conveyed to Larry D. Gandee Sr. and Pamela A. Gandee, by Deed dated June 18, 2009, from LGI Land WV, LLC, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 182 at Page 337.

The above-described property will be sold subject to any covenants, restrictions, easements, leases and conditions of record, and subject to any unpaid real estate taxes.

The subject property will be sold in “AS IS” condition. The Substitute Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

TERMS: Ten percent (10%) of the purchase price as a deposit with the balance due and payable within 30 days of the day of sale.

Pill & Pill, PLLC, Substitute Trustee

Jonathan L. Wertman, Authorized Signatory

P. O. Box 440, 85 Aikens Center, Martinsburg, WV 25404 Phone (304) 263-4971, Fax (304) 267-5840, e-mail: foreclosures@pillwvlaw.com 4-17-3c

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NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
May 1, 2025



President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a National Day of Prayer to be observed on July 4, 1952. Each year since that date, Americans have observed the day in their own way. The observance moved to the first Thursday in May by President Ronald Reagan and has been proclaimed each year since.

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FOR SALE

GUNS! GUNS! GUNS! You want them. We got them. Hundreds in store, even more online. Buy. Sell. Trade. Pendleton County Outdoors, Franklin, WV 26807, 304-358-3265, www.pencooutdoors.com, www.facebook.com/pencooutdoors. 10-12-tfn

FOR RENT

BISSELL CARPET Shampooer for rent. Bowman's Do It Best. Call 304-358-2303.

WANTED

HUNTING LAND wanted—Small group of experienced and respectful hunters would like to lease land for deer hunting. 540-830-2812. 12c * PAINTING * 35 years experience: Houses, Barns, Roofs, Churches, Outbuildings, Poultry House Roofs, Log Homes, etc. Call Ronnie Kimble, 358-7208 WV03545. 2/6-11/6p

LAWN PARTIES

LAWN PARTY, Saturday, June 21, Mt. Zion UM Church, Deer Run. Mark your calendars. 1c

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE PENDLETON COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT'S BRANDYWINE WATER PLANT & MISC. PROJECT

The Pendleton County Public Service District, Pendleton County, West Virginia is in the process of obtaining LEGAL service for its water system improvement project. Procurement for services shall be in accordance with 24CFR Part 85. Contracts are to be awarded on an hourly fee basis. All interested firms and individuals interested in being considered for this project must submit a letter of interest detailing qualifications, expertise, and related prior experience. The proposal must also provide hourly fees for services. The object of the competitive process is to objectively select the firm/individual who will provide the highest quality of service at a realistic fee. Accordingly, qualifications and experience will be weighed heavily. Selected respondents may be interviewed.

Please submit all requested information to Kim Ruddle, Project Administrator, Region 8 Planning and Development Council, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847 no later than 4:00 p.m., May 15, 2025.

Attention is directed to the fact that the proposed project is to be undertaken with Federal and State funds and all work will be performed in accordance with the regulation issued by those agencies and the State of West Virginia. The selected firm will be required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, Section 109 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1974, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Conflict of Interest Statement and Access to Records provisions.

The Pendleton County Public Service District will afford full opportunity for minority business enterprises to submit a show of interest in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any interested firm or individual on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, age, handicap or

This contract will be awarded to the responsible responder whose proposal is within the competitive range and determined to be the most advantageous to the Pendleton County Public Service District's

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 25-0321-MC-C

FLANIGAN FIELD SERVICES, LLC, Franklin, Pendleton County,

Application for a certificate of convenience and necessity to operate as a common carrier by motor vehicle in the transportation of solid waste and the use of roll-off containers in Pendleton County, West Virginia.

NOTICE OF FILING

On March 17, 2025, Flanigan Field Services, LLC, filed an application with the West Virginia Public Service Commission under West Virginia Code §24A-2-5 for a certificate of public convenience and necessity –

To operate as a common carrier by motor vehicle in the transportation of dumpster containers from points and places in Pendleton County, West Virginia to places of disposal.

Rates:

Containers emptied at Southern Transfer Station in Petersburg, West Virginia:

1. 20-yard container: \$650 plus \$82.50 per ton

2. 30-yard container: \$750 plus \$82.50 per ton

Containers emptied at Tucker County Landfill near Davis, West Virginia:

1. 20-yard container: \$900 plus \$55 per ton

2. 30-yard container: \$1,000 plus \$55 per ton

The following additional charges will also be applied:

\$50.00 per container per additional week beyond the first 7 days;

\$350.00 per occurrence to dump and return a container of any size or swap for an empty at the Southern Transfer Station;

\$600.00 per occurrence to dump and return a container of any size or swap for an empty at the Tucker County Landfill.

Anyone affected by or opposed to the application must object, in writing, file a letter of protest or seek intervenor status in this matter **within ten days of this publication.** All such letters must be addressed to: Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P. O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323. If no written protests or objections to the application are received by the Commission within ten days, the Commission may waive formal hearing and grant the application based upon its review of information submitted with the application.

1c

FLANIGAN FIELD SERVICES, LLC

price and other factors considered. 5-1-2c

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR THE PENDLETON COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT'S BRANDYWINE WATER PLANT UPGRADE & MISC. PROJECT

Pendleton County Public Service District, Pendleton County, West Virginia is in the process of obtaining ACCOUNTING service for its Brandywine Water Plant Upgrade & Misc. improvement project. Procurement for services shall be in accordance with 2 CFR 200. Contracts are to be awarded on an hourly fee basis. All interested firms and individuals interested in being considered for this project must submit a letter of interest detailing qualifications, expertise, and related prior experience. The proposal must also provide hourly fees for services. The object of the competitive process is to objectively select the firm/individual who will provide the highest quality of service at a realistic fee. Accordingly, qualifications and experience will be weighed heavily. Selected respondents may be interviewed.

Please submit all requested information to Kim Ruddle, Project Assistant, Region 8 Planning and Development Council, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847 no later than 4:00 p.m., May 15, 2025.

Attention is directed to the fact that the proposed project is to be undertaken with Federal and State funds and all work will be performed in accordance with the regulation issued by those agencies and the State of West Virginia. The selected firm will be required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, Section 109 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1974, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Conflict of Interest Statement and Access to Records provisions.

Pendleton County PSD will afford full opportunity for minority business enterprises to submit a show of interest in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any interested firm or individual on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, age, handicap or

APPENDIX A 25, 2025.

Elise M. White, Clerk of the Pendleton County Commission 5-1-2c

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ATTORNEY SERVICES FOR THE PENDLETON COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT'S BRANDYWINE WATER PLANT & MISC. PROJECT

The Pendleton County Public Service District, Pendleton County, West Virginia is in the process of obtaining PSC ATTORNEY service for its Brandywine Water Plant & misc. improvements project. Procurement for services shall be in accordance with 24CFR Part 85. Contracts are to be awarded on an hourly fee basis. All interested firms and individuals interested in being considered for this project must submit a letter of interest detailing qualifications, expertise, and related prior experience. The proposal must also provide hourly fees for services. The object of the competitive process is to objectively select the firm/individual who will provide the highest quality of service at a realistic fee. Accordingly, qualifications and experience will be weighed heavily. Selected respondents may be interviewed.

Please submit all requested information to Kim Ruddle, Project Administrator, Region 8 Planning and Development Council, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847 no later than 4:00 p.m., May 15, 2025.

Attention is directed to the fact that the proposed project is to be undertaken with Federal and State funds and all work will be performed in accordance with the regulation issued by those agencies and the State of West Virginia. The selected firm will be required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, Section 109 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1974, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Conflict of Interest Statement and Access to Records provisions.

The Pendleton County Public Service District will afford full opportunity for minority business enterprises to submit a show of interest in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any interested firm or individual on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, age, handicap or national origin in the contract award.

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 May 1, 2025. Deadline for claims is June 30, 2025.

Louis H. Wilcox Estate – Amber N. Dunn, Executrix;

Lola Graham Estate – Judith Graham, Executrix;

Robert L. Teets Estate – Carolyn W. Teets, Administratrix;

Dale L. Harper Estate – Mark Harper, Administrator.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on April

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

PENDLETON COUNTY PSD
PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
TROUBLESOME VALLEY WATER EXTENSION

General Notice

The Pendleton County PSD (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

TROUBLESOME VALLEY WATER EXTENSION

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received either in person at the Pendleton County PSD office located at 200 Confederate Road, Franklin, WV 26807 or through mail at PO Box 861, Franklin, WV 26807, until 2:00 PM local time on May 15th, 2025, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The method of bidding will be as follows:

CONTRACT #1 – Water line Extension

Unit price contract to provide and install 2,765 LF of 6" DIP and 8,050 LF of 6" PVC water line; 30 LF of 6" highway boring; 70 LF of steel casing; 9 gate valves; 3 air releases; 2 flushouts; 1 hydroconstant booster station; 1 traditional booster station; 43 anchor walls; ; and other work required to provide the complete system extension project.

CONTRACT #2 – Water Storage Tank

Lump sum contract to construct one (1) water storage tank measuring 14 feet in diameter by 28.5 feet in height to the overflow with a nominal volume of 32,000 gallons. Contract also includes access road and appurtenances to make a complete operating system.

Obtaining the Bidding Documents

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Cerrone Associates, Inc., 97-14th Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:00AM – 5:00PM and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

The Bidding Documents may also be examined at the following locations:

1. Construction.com 1(800)393-6343
2. Contractors Association of West Virginia, 2114 Kanawha Blvd., East, Charleston, WV 25311
3. Office of the Owner, Pendleton County PSD, 200 Confederate Road, Franklin, WV 26807

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of Cerrone Associates, Inc. located at 97-14th Street, Wheeling WV 26003. They may be ordered by check or online at the following webpage: www.cerrone1.com.

Digital copies of the Bidding Documents will be delivered electronically. If electronic sharing cannot be accepted, a thumb drive will be shipped upon payment of the following deposit:

Plans and Specifications:

Contract No. 1 – Waterline Extension \$ 50.00

Contract No. 2 – Water Storage Tank \$ 50.00

Printed copies will be shipped, upon payment of the following deposit:

Plans and Specifications:

Contract No. 1 – Waterline Extension \$ 250.00

Contract No. 2 – Water Storage Tank \$ 250.00

The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Pre-bid Conference

There will not be a Pre-bid conference for this project.

Bid Acceptance Period

This Bid will remain subject to acceptance for 90 days after the Bid opening, or for such longer period of time that Bidder may agree to in writing upon request of Owner.

Instructions to Bidders.

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

This Advertisement is issued by:

Owner: PENDLETON COUNTY PSD

By: DARRELL BODKIN

Title: CHAIRMAN

Date: 4/21/25 4-24-2c

REMARKS:

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 Transportation, 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.

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.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, 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.

4-24-2c

Legal Advertisements Continued on Page 9

'Spayghetti' Dinner Helps to Fund Animal Rescue Efforts in Pendleton County

By Stephen Smoot

For a decade plus one year, even during the COVID pandemic, the Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter has served the humans of the county, as well as its cats and canines. The "spayghetti" dinner held by P.A.W.S. has raised funds to support animal welfare programs, specifically those that spay and neuter pets and feral animals alike to cut down on the population of both.

A steady stream of those hungry for homemade spaghetti sauce and pasta, meatballs, garlic bread, salad, and a dizzying array of slices of cake came through the fellowship hall doors of Main Street United Methodist Church.

Almost summer like temperatures likely helped to boost turnout.

Jane Seegar manned the door, collecting payments for the food and offering words of appreciation for every penny. She explained how Rebecca Eason of Pendleton Community Care came up with the idea.

"It was her brainchild," noted Seegar.

Seegar described that "before COVID, it was a sit-down dinner with decorated tables." During the pandemic, however, the dinner changed into mostly take out. That said, a couple from Franklin sat down at one of the tables set up for dine-in with a complete stranger visiting from Hampshire County to break bread in support of a great cause.

She then expressed appreciation to "the lovely ladies of the church," and specifically thanked Barb Hamilton, because their kitchen "is the perfect facility."

Support could also come from purchasing t-shirts and raffle tickets for a small succulent garden created by Barb Heavner of Cunningham Place.

Kristen Dingess, volunteer and council member for the Town of Franklin, shared that "this is my fourth year," then explained that "this funds the spay and neuter program for the county." She described how it helped both feral and domestic dogs and cats and explained that Dr. Gregory Bowers and his Faithful Friends Animal Clinic works with P.A.W.S. to try to defer as much cost as possible for "alterations" as the procedures are also called.

At the same time Bob Horan, Franklin mayor, stopped in to pay for and pick up a box full of food, also expressing his support for the cause.

For a time, the need to raise funds for alterations took on a greater sense of urgency. The West Virginia State Legisla-



P.A.W.S. volunteers cooked up a "spayghetti" feast to raise funds for dog and cat spay and neuter programs in Pendleton County.

ture for a time considered ending a program that charged a small fee on each item of pet food sold in West Virginia. Those funds went to support local level spay and neuter programs.

The program has served the state since 2018 and cost taxpayers nothing.

She shared that entreaties were made to the Pendleton County Commission to help to educate state legislators on the issue. Outreach was made to State Senators Bill Hamilton and Robbie Morris, as well as Delegates Bryan Ward and Elias Coop-Gonzalez.

One of the points made by P.A.W.S. to lawmakers was that the program brought more than \$86,000 to the area in the past seven years from out-of-state sources and requiring no burden on the taxpayers. The state overall received approximately half a million in support for the program.

The spay and neuter program also correlated with a substantial drop in shelter intakes and euthanasia rates, which many times do rely on direct taxpayer support. In a decade

starting in 2013, the need for shelter facilities dropped from 52,000 to 32,000 while euthanasia fell from 20,000 instances to 5,000.

Seegar joined the effort run by the West Virginia Foundation of Humane Organizations to lobby legislators to keep the program. Their main message lay in not only explaining the benefits, but also reminding lawmakers that the program puts no burden on the state or local budgets.

After meeting with legislators and holding a dinner event, the program was continued.

Seegar also related that P.A.W.S. itself needs more boots on the ground. They currently have a board of six, with the potential to have 11.

Additionally, they need other volunteers as well to serve as foster pet parents. Since Pendleton County has no animal rescue facility, P.A.W.S. relies on generous households to take in dogs and cats until they can be adopted out.

NRA Foundation Awards \$1,453 to 4-H Program

The National Rifle Association Foundation has awarded Pendleton a grant totaling \$1,453 to fund the purchase of air pistol and rifle equipment for the local 4-H shooting sports program.

"We are very excited about this opportunity," said Brooke Alt, Pendleton County's 4-H extension agent, "and pleased that the NRA is making an investment in our community."

Each year, Pendleton County 4-H applies for grants through the NRA to help expand their shooting sports program, which is mainly utilized during their annual 4-H camps. In the past, they have supplied the program with archery equipment, including 10 new bows, arrows, targets, and shotgun supplies, including a new shotgun.

"We are very fortunate that the NRA continues to do this program, and support youth nationwide," said Alt.



Brantly Propst shows off his perfect shot during an archery class at 4-H camp in 2024.

Farm Credit Returns Cash Dividends to Customers

Farm Credit of the Virginias, a cooperative lending institution serving Virginia, West Virginia and western Maryland, will return \$33 million to its customer-owners through their annual patronage program.

FCV's cooperative framework allows the association to return a portion of its profits back to customer-owners on an annual basis. During 2024, agricultural producers and rural homeowners faced another year of challenges with economic uncertainty, high interest rates and severe weather events. Fortunately, FCV maintained a strong financial position, so their board of directors elected to return more than 80 percent of net profits to their customer base through the patronage refund program. The association hopes that this refund will enable customer-owners to feel more equipped to navigate continued economic challenges affecting the agricultural

industry and rural communities.

The patronage program effectively lowers the cost of borrowing from FCV. This year's \$33 million distribution equates to having an interest-free loan for approximately three months and represents approximately 26 percent of the net interest accrued on loans. In total, the association has returned more than \$498 million to its members since 2001.

"We're glad to be able to return crucial dollars to our customer-owners and re-invest money in our rural communities through our patronage refund program," said Brad Cornelius, FCV's CEO.

Cornelius continued, "Patronage is just one of the many benefits of doing business with our customer-owned cooperative. The refund is our way of showing our customers that we appreciate their business and we will always do our best to support their goals and dreams."

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Friday, May 2, 2025 Saturday, May 3, 2025

2:00pm-6:00pm Book Sale @ Pendleton County Library basement

4:00pm-8:00pm Vendors will be open at TMF Craft Building and grounds

4:00pm -6:00pm Trout Dinner @ Community Building

4:00pm-8:00pm Rodeo Registration in TMF Building

6:00pm-8:00pm Jack & Davis Reid on Main Stage

6:30am-11:00am Rodeo Registration in TMF Building

7:00am-10:30am Breakfast served @ Pendleton Senior Center

8:00am-12:00pm Trout Rodeo

10:00-1:00 - Kids Care Conservation Area

9:00am-8:00pm Vendors will be open at Craft Building and grounds

10:00am-3:00pm Book Sale @ Pendleton County Library basement

11:00am-12:00pm Raymond's Gymnastics in lower end of TMF Craft Building

12:15pm-1:45pm Jonathan Zinn/Fender Ridge on Main Stage

2:00pm-3:00pm Rodeo Awards on Main Stage

3:15pm-5:00pm Justin Hensley on Main Stage

5:00pm-5:30pm Bryer Moyers on Main Stage

6:00pm to 8:00pm Non-Friction on Main Stage

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Pendleton County OUTDOORS

T&K MARKETS

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2024: 304-2341 North Fork River Care
2024: 202-4134 Pendleton Health Center

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PENDLETON COUNTY
Department of Commerce

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Burke & Herbert Bank

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Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone, Inc.

Upper Tract DENTAL

Easter Bunny Stops at Senior Center



Seniors at the Franklin Senior Center enjoyed two “hoppin’” days of Easter fun. They first hosted the Franklin Elementary School pre-kindergarten classes for an Easter egg hunt, which featured a surprise visit from the Easter bunny. The Easter bunny delighted the seniors with their own egg hunt the very next day, followed by a delicious Easter meal sponsored by two hoppy sailors. Ruth Warner was the lucky senior who won an Easter basket full of goodies. Before hopping down the bunny trail, the Easter bunny wanted to remind everyone to watch for upcoming events at the senior center and to join folks for lunch at 11:45 a.m. Monday through Friday.



Jameson, Judy Earn Golden Horseshoe Award

In a remarkable achievement that speaks volumes about their dedication and intellect, Isabella Jameson and Abigail Judy have been awarded the prestigious West Virginia Golden Horseshoe Award. This distinguished accolade, recognized statewide, is celebrated for honoring outstanding students who exhibit exceptional knowledge of West Virginia history, culture, and geography.

The Golden Horseshoe Award has a long-standing tradition dating back to 1931, symbolizing academic excellence and pride in West Virginia’s unique heritage. Each year, eighth-grade students across the state participate in this challenging competition, showcasing their understanding and appreciation of the Mountain State’s rich history.

Both Jameson and Judy demonstrated exceptional prowess and dedication in preparing for the competition, which requires rigorous study and a deep understanding of the state’s history and values. Their success is a testament to their hard work, commitment, and passion for learning.

The accomplishment of Jameson and Judy has brought immense pride to their school and community. Their success serves as an inspiration to fellow students, encouraging them to pursue academic excellence and embrace their cultural heritage. The community is united in celebrating their achievements and supporting them in their future endeavors.

They are to be commended for their outstand-

ing achievement and are wished continued success in all their future pursuits. Their accomplishments remind everyone of the importance of celebrating academic excellence and the rich heritage of West Virginia.

The culmination of the Golden Horseshoe

Award is a grand ceremony scheduled to take place in June in Charleston. The ceremony will be hosted at the historic West Virginia State Capitol, a fitting venue that embodies the state’s pride and legacy.

MENU

Pendleton Senior & Family Services

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Baked Chicken
Hashbrown Casserole
Carrots, Banana

MONDAY, MAY 5

Cold Cut Hoagie
Broccoli Salad
Grapes

TUESDAY, MAY 6

Fish, Tator Tots
Slaw
Blueberry Crisp

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

Chicken Wrap
w/Lettuce & Tomato
Cucumber Salad
Cantaloupe

THURSDAY, MAY 8

Beans w/Cornbread
Stewed Tomatoes
Cabbage, Apple
Coconut Cream Pie

Meal times are from 11:45 to 12:45. All meals served with 2% milk & bread. Reserve your meals. Reservations served first. Menus are subject to change.

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REAL ESTATE

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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. **\$84,000**

FRANKLIN, Birchwood Drive, 3BR, 1.5 bath, brick ranch house. **\$229,000 \$209,000 REDUCED \$198,000.**

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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Gene Boggs - 304-668-2982; Angie Nelson - 304-358-8150

FRANKLIN - 3 BR, 2.5 BA home with 1 car garage on 0.43 ac. Heat pump/AC, WVPT2000846; \$225,000. Call Gene Boggs.

BRANDYWINE - 1 BR, 1 BA rustic log cabin on 32.28 ac bordering national forest. Solar and propane. WVPT2000860; \$239,000. Call Gene Boggs.

UPPER TRACT - 3 BR, 1 BA, **Under Contract** VPT2000850. \$150,000.

FORT SEYBERT - ROUGH RUN - WVPT2000818; \$150,000; 11.87 ac. Level wooded land adjoining **Under Contract** excellent hunting/fishing. Cleared bldg. Site. Road frontage. Call Gene Boggs.

FRANKLIN - DRY RUN - WVPT2000800 \$225,000; 8 acs. 3 BR mobile home, deck, pool, lg garage. Call Gene Boggs.

PETERSBURG - WVG2001048 \$239,900; 4BR 1 ½ BA, heat pump/AC, new cabinets. Call Kathy Sponaugle.

SMOKE HOLE - WVG2000894 ~~\$975,000~~ \$899,000; 13.93 +/- ac., 2 Story Cabin, 3 rentals cabins, 2 ponds, electric hookups for campers. Call Gene Boggs.

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2023 RAM 2500 CREW CAB SHORTBED 4X4 "BIGHORN EDITION," 6.7 Cummins diesel, ldd., white, only 3K miles.....**"SPECIAL" \$64,900 \$59,500**

2022 FORD F-150 STX SUPERCREW 4X4, Ecoboost, auto., ldd., charcoal, only 32K miles.....\$39,900

2022 FORD F-250 CREW CAB S/BED 4X4, XLT pkg., 6.7 diesel, auto., ldd., white, 81K miles.....\$46,900

2022 FORD E-450 CUTAWAY UTILITY TRUCK, 7.3 gas, auto., refrigerated enclosed body, only 38K miles.....\$24,900

2021 FORD RANGER CREW CAB S/BED STX 4X4, 2.3 liter, auto., ldd., blue, 95K miles.....\$27,900

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

2014 FORD F-350 4X4 CREW CAB ENCLOSED UTILITY TRUCK, V-8, auto., ladd., white, only 79K miles.....\$26,900

2010 FORD F-150 SUPERCAB RAPTOR 4X4, 6.2 liter V-8, auto., ldd., black, 133K miles, very sharp truck.....\$19,900

2008 TOYOTA TACOMA EXTRA CAB 4X4, 4-cyl., 5-spd., air, etc., silver, 171K miles.....\$12,900

PASSENGER VEHICLES.....SALE

2022 NISSAN PATHFINDER SV AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., blue, 148K highway miles.....**GREAT BUY FOR ONLY \$16,900**

2022 SUBARU FORESTER AWD, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., silver, only 55k miles.....\$19,900

2022 NISSAN ROGUE SV AWD, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., charcoal, 104K miles.....\$17,900

2019 FORD EXPLORER XLT AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., white, one owner w/111K miles, ex. cond.....\$21,900

2019 FORD EDGE SEL AWD, 2.0 liter, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., charcoal, 131K miles.....\$17,900

2019 DODGE JOURNEY GT AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., 56K miles, black, very sporty 3rd row SUV.....**SPECIAL \$24,900 \$21,900**

2018 TOYOTA 4-RUNNER LIMITED 4X4, V-6, auto., ldd., pearl white, 110K miles.....**SPECIAL \$34,900 \$32,900**

2018 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN, V-6, auto., ldd., charcoal, 106K highway miles.....**SPECIAL \$17,900 \$15,900**

2016 FORD EXPEDITION PLATINUM 4X4, Ecoboost V-6, auto., ldd., black, 152K miles.....\$17,900

2015 FORD EXPLORER SPORT AWD, Ecoboost V-6, auto., ldd., black, 137K miles, in excellent condition.....**SPECIAL \$17,900 \$15,900**

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SGR370A 599.19 Acres located in Sandy Ridge area, Franklin District. Excellent Hunting, Food Plots, Timber, Catfish Pond, Mountain Views w/Roads Throughout. **\$1,695,000.00.**

SGR367A 2.75 Acre wooded building lot at end of Highland Estates Subdivision, Lot 13, Grant County, Perk approved. Some restrictions. **\$59,999.00.**

SGR366A 5 Acres w/Cabin, Buck Ridges Development. Panoramic View. Lots of upgrades: New Vinyl Siding, New flooring throughout, New Solid Surface Countertop, Freshly Painted, New Door. Two bed, Two Bath, Large Loft. Finished walkout basement. Hot Tub conveys. 1000 gallon Cistern supplies water to cabin, New 8x12 storage shed. New 1 car garage. **NEW LISTING \$320,000.00.**

SGR365A 0.84 Acres, Public Water access. Road Frontage along Sugar Creek. **UNDER CONTRACT NEW LISTING \$29,900.00.**

SGR364A 2.65 Acres w/2006, 3 Bed, 2 Bath Ranch Modular, Hardwood floors, New Main Floor Carpet, Septic, 2 Car Garage & Storage 30'x40' Steel 2 Bay Garage w/concrete floor. Located in Riverton. **NEW LISTING \$349,000.00 REDUCED \$299,000.00.**

SGR363A 3 Bed, 1 Bath Home located in Franklin Corp., Heat Pump, Propane Wall Unit, Electric Baseboard and Central AC, Town Water & Sewer, Double Pane Windows, Deck, One Car Garage & Storage Shed. **NEW LISTING \$169,000.00.**

SGR362A 29.9 Acres, mostly wooded, located in Hammer Run. Septic, Solid Electric. Franklin District, Pendleton County. **NEW LISTING \$199,999.00.**

SGR361A 1.32 Acres w/4 currently rented residences located in Brandywine, Bethel District. Public Water. **NEW LISTING \$134,900.00.**

SGR360A 0.98 Ac. in Brandywine w/2 Unit Apartment Bldg. and 100'x100' Home. All units occupied. **UNDER CONTRACT NEW LISTING \$129,900.00.**

SGR359A 4.35 Acres w/3 Units, 100'x100' Home. Located on Big Stony Rd. Sugar Grove District. \$199,000.00. **UNDER CONTRACT**

SGR357A 0.44 Acres w/4 Bed, 2 Bath Home, circa 1937. Charming home with lots of character. Newly sealed metal roof, Public Water, 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.**

SGR351A 1.53 Acres w/3 Bed, 1 Bath Rancher. Attached Garage, 16'x20' Unattached Garage. Kellers Ridge, Petersburg. **\$249,000.00 \$239,000.00 REDUCED \$215,000.00.**

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.**

SGR343A 5 Acre lot w/Log Siding Cabin, Buck Ridges Development. Great View. 2 Bed, 2.5 Baths. Walkout Basement with newly remodeled bath. New carpeting in Basement. Expansive covered deck provides even more outdoor living space to enjoy. Wood floors upstairs. Spring Water. **\$283,000.00.**

SGR340A 327.98 Acres, with 4 Bed, 3.5 Bath Home w/2 car garage and Barn. Property adjoins lands owned by Fisher Mtn. Golf Course. Expansive view of Shenandoah Mountain and Fisher Mountain Golf Course. Year round spring-fed creek w/several other Springs and nice bldg. sites. **NEW LISTING \$2,250,000.00.**

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 \$129,000.00-REDUCED \$119,000.00 REDUCED \$99,900.00.**

SGR327A 0.44 Acres w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Rancher Fixer Upper. Selling "AS IS". New Floor, New Appliances, New AC. Located in Brandywine, South Fork Crossing. Newly rehabbed. Some Restrictions. **\$109,900.00 \$104,900.00 \$99,900.00 REDUCED \$89,900.00.**

SGR326A 141.74 Acres, Raw Land, Buffalo Hills. Excellent Hunting. Franklin District. **\$379,000.00.**

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

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 REDUCED \$229,000.00.**

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.**

Page 12 - May 1, 2025 - The Pendleton Times