

THE PENDLETON TIMES

Serving the Community since 1913

\$1.00
Volume 112, Number 30

Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia 26807

Thursday
July 24, 2025

Community CALENDAR

Senior Sponsored Meal Scheduled

Two secret Santas will be sponsoring a Christmas in July evening meal for seniors aged 60+ on July 31 at the Franklin Senior Center. The meal will be served at 5 p.m. Please contact the senior center at 304-358-2421 by 2 p.m. July 29 to reserve a meal.

Family Support Center in Franklin Sponsors Activities

The Pendleton County Strive to Thrive Family Support Center on Main Street is sponsoring a free pool day on Friday.

On Saturday, the organization will be teaming up with WIC to serve up some fresh fruit salsa from 9 a.m. to noon at the Farmers Market in Franklin. There will also be crafts for the kids.

For more information, call 304-538-7711.

Lane Closures Scheduled on Smoke Hole Road

County Route 2 (Smoke Hole Road) in Pendleton County will have lane closures from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. beginning today through Monday, excluding the weekend, for paving.

Crews will begin paving at milepost 2.70, near Calen Lane, and end at milepost 5.48, near Shreves Store.

Emergency vehicles, school buses and United States Postal vehicles will be accommodated. All other motorists are to expect delays and/or seek alternate routes.

Local Churches To Host VBS

A one-day Vacation Bible School, “Yee Haw: Celebrating God’s Greatest Gift,” for all children ages 3 to 12 will be held Saturday at **Faith Lutheran Church** in Franklin. Registration is from 8:30 to 9 a.m. followed by the program from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. A free will offering will be collected for flood victims.

“Unlocking the Fruits” is the theme of Vacation Bible School scheduled from 6 to 8:30 p.m. July 28 through Aug. 1 at the **First Baptist Church** in Brandywine. A kick-off will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Anyone from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade is welcome to attend. A light supper will be served every evening. For questions, call 304-249-5202.

It’s party time at **Franklin Assembly of God Church** in Franklin. The church will host Vacation Bible School from 6:30 to 8 p.m. July 29 - 31. All kids ages 5 to fifth grade are invited to come see what the fun is all about. There will be games, music, crafts, stories, prizes, food and much more.



Pendleton County participants in West Virginia Poultry Association Youth Day competition were, from left, front row, Kallie Keyser, Gracie Hedrick, Tori Heavner and Bella Hoover; and top row, Branson Smith, Ty Heavner, Tia Heavner and Katie Keyser.

Pendleton County Junior Team Prevails in Poultry Judging

By Stephen Smoot

Once again Pendleton County teams traveled north to display poultry prowess in state level competition.

Once again, Pendleton County youth earned awards from superior demonstrations of knowledge and skills.

“Young people continue to be our future,” said Hardy County Commissioner and

former West Virginia University Extension Agent David Workman. He added that Youth Day serves as “the opportunity to initiate them into the industry that is so important to us.” Importantly, young people can focus “not only on the consumption part, but also the production part.”

And Youth Day covers both of those bases.

Those participating came bright and early to compete last Wednesday morning. Some traveled only a few miles to get to the competition site at Moorefield High School. A team clad in matching green shirts came from Doddridge County to match their skills against the home standing teams from Pendleton, Hardy and Tucker

Continued on Page 2

Pendleton County Sheriff Releases Information

Release from Bradley D. Kimble, Sheriff of Pendleton County — July 21, 2025

On Friday, July 18, 2025, the Pendleton County Sheriff’s Office (PCSO) arrested a juvenile male, in connection with the double homicide on July 10, 2025. The juvenile was taken into custody without incident. The ar-

rest is the result of relentless investigative work by PCSO with the assistance of the West Virginia State Police, Charleston Police, ATF, the West Virginia Fusion Center, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Police, and Rockingham County Sheriff’s Office.

Sheriff B. Kimble
Pendleton County Sheriff’s Office

Volunteers Bring ‘Energy’ to Pendleton County Board of Education Meeting

By Stephen Smoot

“We couldn’t have done this without our partners,” shared Brooke Alt as she praised the community for the success of the inaugural Pendleton County Energy Express pilot program.

Pioneered in Mineral County nearly 30 years ago, Energy Express had a two-part mission. It exists to ensure that children who need it get sufficient nutrition during the summer months. Also, it works to “prevent the summer slide” in elementary-age academic skills. Classes start in mid-June and run through July.

Unlike any of the other programs operating across the state, Pendleton County enjoyed a partnership with Experience Learning. That organization took the students on educational field trips every Friday to areas such as Spruce Knob to learn more.

Alt brought to the meeting a group of instructors and other volunteers who took their passion and talents to Franklin Elementary School this summer for Energy Express. In the front of the room sat a pile of art projects completed by students of different grades for attendees to examine.

Hannah Bennett led a class of third and fourth graders. Although not going into education, she shared how much she enjoyed seeing the students “learning how to read better or spell more strongly.”



Brooke Alt introduces Energy Express instructors and volunteers at a Pendleton County Board of Education meeting.

She told the board, “I love this program because I am helping them with the summer slide.”

Sierra Braham, who is planning to study elementary education, led first and second graders. She enjoyed seeing the children “use their imagination to do different tasks.” Baylie Curry, also planning to teach in elementary school in her future, said, “My kids really love art and drama.” She added that their “reading and spelling skills have progressed so much.”

After the instructors shared their stories, Alt discussed the cascade of volunteer help from the community. Members of the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department brought an engine to talk about firefighting and emergency medical services. Darren Kimble came from Brandywine Fox’s to show the kids how to make a pizza — then all got to eat their tasty projects. Pendleton Penny, the coun-

ty schools service dog, even paid a visit to engage the kids.

Alt talked about how the community came together to help with their emphasis on “found art” projects. She said, “A lot of found art came into the office. I think Robin Kile cleaned out her craft closet.”

“We’ve been really blessed with our community going along with any crazy idea we have,” said Alt, smiling.

Kids and volunteers also lent a helping hand as they learned the value of helping out. They cleaned up trash, pulled weeds, and even put a new sand pit in at FES.

Burke and Herbert Bank sponsored an open house that featured a spaghetti dinner. About 80 came to enjoy the meal and learn more about what the kids had been doing in the first half of summer.

Alt shared that “we started with 40, had 32 to 34 enrolled, and 20 to 30 there any given day.”

WV Poultry Association Hosts Intelligence Briefing at Education Dinner at Oak Flat



Madeline Johnson, poultry queen, and Aubrey Simmons, teen poultry queen, man the smoker at Dean’s Gap Farm, showing off their culinary skills for the WVPA dinner at the Ruritan building in Oak Flat.

By Stephen Smoot

Though the bulk of activities associated with the West Virginia Poultry Festival take place in Pendleton’s neighboring northern county, Hardy County, the West Virginia Poultry Association holds informational dinners in both counties, known as major producing areas.

Ward Malcolm, current president of the WVPA, welcomed all who attended the dinner. It was hosted by the South Fork Ruritan Club. Some of the farmers in attendance come from families whose agricultural traditions date back to George Washington’s teenage years. The land itself has produced providently since then, making it only natural that a dinner celebrating the poultry industry, and warning of threats to it, would take place there.

The large crowd that gathered last Tuesday evening included Dale Walker, former WVPA president, Dayne Davis from Pendleton Community Bank, Steve Conrad from the Pendleton County Farm Bureau, and many others active in

Continued on Page 2

105th Annual

Tri-County Fair

(Pendleton, Grant & Hardy Counties)



Fairgrounds in
Petersburg
Schedule
of
Events

Saturday, July 26

6 p.m. — Preteen/Teen Pageant

Sunday, July 27

5 p.m. — Livestock Exhibitors’ Meeting/Clinic
Vesper Following Meeting

7 p.m. — Jeff and Sherri Easter (Gospel)

Monday, July 28

9 a.m. — 4-H/FFA Beef Skill-a-Thon

10 a.m. — Breeding Cattle Show

1 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Feeder Calf Show

3 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Beef Showmanship

7 p.m. — Pig Scramble

7:30 p.m. — Queen Scholarship Pageant

Tuesday, July 29

10 a.m. — Breeding Sheep Show

1 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Sheep Showmanship

4 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Goat Showmanship

7:30 p.m. — Renegade Monster Trucks

Wednesday, July 30

10 a.m. — 4-H/FFA Market Lamb Show
4-H/FFA Sheep and Goat Skill-a-Thon

2 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Market Goat Show

6 p.m. — Parade

8 p.m. — Mullin’s Pickers (Bluegrass)

9 p.m. — Parade Awards

Thursday, July 31

(Kids’ Night - \$1 Admission for Everyone)

8 a.m. — 4-H/FFA Market Hog Show

1 p.m. — Livestock Fitting Contest

5 p.m. — Pedal Power Contest

6 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Market Heifer Show
4-H/FFA Market Steer Show To Follow

6 p.m. — Power Wheels Derby (ages 3-5)

6:30 p.m. — Power Wheels Derby (ages 6-7)

Friday, August 1

9 a.m. — 4-H/FFA Swine Showmanship

2 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Swine Skill-a-Thon
Lamb + Goat Obstacle Course

5 p.m. — Master Showmanship Competition

7:30 p.m. — Lamb/Goat Costume Contest

8 p.m. — TUSK - Classic Fleetwood Mac

Saturday, August 2

10 a.m. — Pet Show

11:30 a.m. — 4-H/FFA Livestock Awards

1 p.m. — 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale

7 p.m. — Demolition Derby

Gates Open at 8 a.m. Monday - Saturday
Exhibits Open at 4 p.m. Monday - Friday; 2 p.m. Saturday
Rides Open at 6 p.m. Monday - Saturday



Earl Smith

Earl Smith, 85, of Florida passed away on July 6, 2025.

He was born on June 9, 1940, in Circleville, the son of the late Lora Murphy Smith and Richard Pershing Smith.

Mr. Smith retired from A&P after 30 years. He worked for IGA, Richfood, and P&M sales. He then started his own construction business D&E and

built many homes in the area.

His wife, Debbie Smith, survives.

Also surviving are a daughter Terri Knicely (Harold); son-in-law Craig Mitchell; grandchildren, Chad Knicely, Jordan Knicely, Megan Evans (Logan), Brandon Mitchell, Codie Mitchell (Jenna) and Emma Kyger (Josh); and 13 great-grandchildren; stepsons, Jimmy Bell (Cindy) and Scott Bell (Morgan); step-granddaughter, Jessica Prather; and a sister, JoAnna Robbins.

He was also proceeded in death by his children, Jeffrey Earl Smith and Kimberly Rae Mitchell.

At his request all services were private.

Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.mcmullenfh.com.

Local arrangements were by McMullen Funeral Home in Rockingham, Virginia.

PenCo Junior Team Poultry Judging

Continued From Page 1

counties.

Starting at 9:30 a.m., the various individuals and their teams opened the judging competition. Young people evaluated cuts of meat in different conditions. After judging and ranking the cuts of meat, the judges then requested in the “reasons” stage of the competition why the contestants had placed the items as they did.

Competitors not only showed their knowledge of poultry and related aspects of the industry, they also demonstrated public speaking, social, and other skills sometimes found wanting in young people.

After the youth luncheon came the opening of a type of competition different than that concluded in the morning. About 30 individuals in wide ranges of age made their way to large tents set up across the north parking lot from the high school. Awaiting them were small portable grills, charcoal, lighter fluid and, depending on which meat they preferred to cook, chicken or turkey breast.

Also, for almost a decade now, each received one of the most vital tools, a meat thermometer.

Cady Mitchell, an 11-year-old rising sixth grader from Upper Tract, shared how much she enjoyed the grilling competition and explained her chicken’s unique flavors.

“I used Italian dressing, then I put some seasoning, Kinders. Then I put Blue’s Hog,” she explained, and concluded of her masterpiece, “I thought it was great!”

As in the judging competition, the two pillars of the event come in the form of both fun and learning. Mitchell explained that “I think it’s a lot of fun, seeing all of the experience out here, seeing all the cooks, learning how they cook chicken.”

At 3:15 p.m., all who participated gathered in the cafeteria of Moorefield High School to learn the names of the winners.

Alex Smith of the Hardy County West Virginia University Extension Service announced the winners. Each winner had a photograph taken with Madeline Johnson, poultry queen, Aubrey Simmons, teen queen, or one of the younger members of the court.

First, all there got to christen the new inflatable chicken mascot that had greeted visitors at the door that morning. After great discussion, it was concluded that his name must always and forever be “Cluck Norris.”

In the juniors category, Pendleton Juniors A took first place with 1,395 points. Kallie Keyser, Tia Heavner, and Branson Smith made up that squad.

Hardy County Juniors A earned second place with 1,233. Mitchell, Lelia Bradford, Dannika Vetter, and Allison Ours composed that team. Hardy Juniors C also placed with a score of 1,022 posted by Geoffrey Williams, Grant Alt, and Wyatt Martin.

Senior team results saw Hardy County Seniors A, composed of Ronan Straight, Marcus Cremann, Brylee Reel, and Emily Parish, earn first place with 1,416 points. Hardy County Seniors B came in right behind in second place. Riley Cullers, Drake Kimble, and Emily See earned 1,221 points.

The top five in juniors were Keyser of Pendleton Juniors A with 553 points, then Brett Webb from Doddridge County with 481, Mitchell from Hardy Juniors A with 481, Bryce Herndon from Doddridge County with 448, and Heavner from Pendleton A with 443.

In seniors individual scoring, Ty Heavner from Pendleton County A earned first place with 564, Makinley Branson from Hardy County took second with 548, then Katie Keyser from Pendleton Seniors B with 544, Ronan Straight 511, and Jocelyn Sherman with 505.

WV Poultry Association Hosts Dinner

Continued From Page 1

the field.

Malcolm reserved special thanks for Pendleton Community Bank, sharing that “they make these dinners possible.” The South Fork Ruritans, with help from the West Virginia Poultry Queen and Teen Queen, produced the dinners.

Madeline Johnson earned poultry queen in a recent pageant while Aubrey Simmons wore the sash of teen queen. Both traveled to Dean’s Gap Farm in Fort Seybert to man a smoker that produced the incredibly tasty turkey breast served that evening. Malcolm explained that they will soon represent the area at the West Virginia State Fair and receive more similar opportunities down the road.

Matt Monroe from the West Virginia University Extension Service gave an invocation, praying, “Thank You for this industry.”

After the invocation, one table of attendees at a time rose to line up for a buffet style dinner including the smoked turkey, scalloped potatoes, salad, green beans and ham, gravy, a dinner roll, blackberry cobbler, and vanilla ice cream.

As the dinner concluded, Dr. Joe Moritz rose to introduce Thomas Link, an intelligence officer with the United States Department of Homeland Security. Link moved from intelligence roles with the U. S. Department of Defense to the U. S. Department of Homeland Security in 2008. One of his most important roles places him at the West Virginia Fusion Center as a liaison.

He opened by sharing a story about discussing security

clearances with West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey.

Link then provided, essentially, an intelligence briefing to those in attendance about some of the most prevalent established and emerging threats to American agriculture.

He stressed that, though the intelligence was not classified, that those in attendance would not share specifics of issues discussed.

Some events discussed reflected similar concerns as a recent news item not mentioned by Link. Federal law enforcement, for example, recently arrested two travelers from Red China who claimed to be going to the University of Michigan to study a fungus that could threaten multiple major United States crops. They had the fungus on their person, but had no permission to violate U.S. border protection laws to bring it in. Authorities also doubted their story and they remain under investigation.

Other concerns shared could be addressed by legislation backed by United States Congressman Riley Moore. He has repeatedly backed bills that would prevent purchases of farmland by Red China.

Cybersecurity and threats of taking over or disrupting certain networks and systems were also discussed.

Link covered much more ground in his talk. He encouraged all those present to make themselves partners with the efforts of DHS to protect American farmland by reporting unusual activity, should it seem to fit the issues discussed in the presentation.

After the presentation, Johnson and Simmons returned to the front of the room to help pass out innumerable door prizes. As all collected their prizes, Malcolm dismissed and thanked attendees. They sauntered into the still warm and humid July twilight, still talking about the issues discussed.

Pendleton County Schools will be conducting routine vision, speech and hearing screenings on all preschool and kindergarten students.

Students in first grade and up who are new to Pendleton County will receive a speech screening. Students new to West Virginia in the first grade and up will receive a hearing screening. Students in second and fourth grades will receive a vision screening.

Students who are referred for testing by the school psychologist will receive a hearing and vision screening, **and possibly other relevant screenings per the referral (i.e., gifted, dyslexia, autism).**

If a parent does not want their child to participate in the screenings, a written notice needs to be sent to the Director of Student Services by August 8, 2025, at Pendleton County Schools, P.O. Box 888, Franklin, WV 26807, Attn: D. Mullens.

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PENDLETON COUNTY SCHOOLS PROVIDE MEALS TO STUDENTS AT NO COST

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

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

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

Pendleton County expects to have four schools participate in the CEP. The program allows the school system to feed nearly 850 students each day.

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

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

FISHER MOUNTAIN

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****July Events****

•Saturday, July 26, 5 - 8 p.m.

Jonathan Zinn Live Music

at Fisher Mountain



ANCIENT OAK KITCHEN

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4 - 6 p.m. Daily



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HAPPY HOUR:

5 - 8 p.m. Fridays

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

Saturdays – 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Sunday Brunch – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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Sunday Buffet

July 27 • Noon - 3 p.m.

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RESTAURANT HOURS:

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

Sunday Noon - 5 p.m.

(Sunday Buffet Noon - 3 p.m. Menu Items Available All Day.)

Seneca Caverns Open

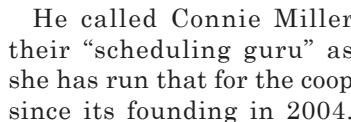
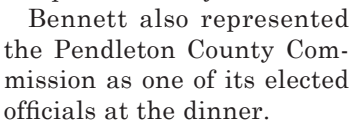
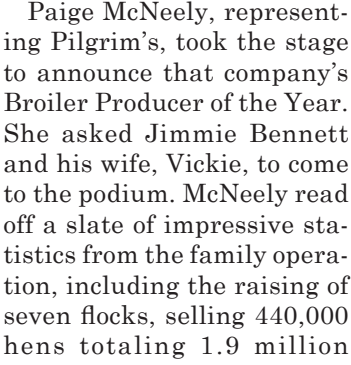
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the poultry pageant queens,
WVPA scholarship recipi-

the poultry pageant queens,
WVPA scholarship recipi-



Mowery then went over policies for review, starting with 5460

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Electricity Eased the Burdens of Every Day Life

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

Let's continue with the greatest generation's way of life at that period of time. They were survivors, to say the least.

Before electric lines graced the mountains, valleys, pastures, and meadows, homes were lit up with kerosene lanterns. Kerosene was an expensive commodity and not very easy to get since stores were few and far between. That explains why everyone went to bed early, shortly after dark, and rose with the morning's sunrise in order to conserve kerosene.

Once electricity arrived, each room in the house had one bare light bulb in the very center of the ceiling. There was a string hanging down to turn the light off and on. Were one to need the light during the night, all one had to do was to stick out the hand and walk towards the center of the room, hoping to grab on to the string to turn on the light.

Most of the light strings were too short for children to reach. So, there was no fear with them having fun by turning the light on and off continuously. Should the child need the light, an adult would have to assist in pulling the string.

In order to use the chamber pot during the night, a string would be attached to a nail hammered into the wall just above the headboard of the bed. A simple wave of the hand during the night resulted in locating the string very quickly, and there would be light to see the path to get to the pot.

Those were the days!

Life's little lessons include the following:

1. Be grateful.
2. Inspire.
3. Don't sweat the small stuff.
4. Smile.
5. Think positive.

The heat has been quite exhaustive everywhere. Most persons are making the best of staying cool. Friday afternoon rains were well received. So far, they have been gentle rains which is a good thing.

Queen Anne's Lace has been busy waving its beauty to the motorists. The "happy face" stays in the shadows of the tree branches where it seems a little cooler.

Quotes for the week are as follows:

"Storms make trees take deeper roots." — Dolly Parton
"Being lost is worth the being found." — Neil Diamond
"The love you take is equal to the love you make." — Paul McCartney

"Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game." — Babe Ruth

"The Earth does not belong to us, we belong to the Earth." — Prince Charles

Sitting under an umbrella is the best place to hear the



John Pendleton Dyer (Nov. 19, 1845 - Sept. 12, 1905) and his wife, Mahulda Florence Bolton Dyer, (Jan. 3, 1863 -Jan. 7, 1948) are pictured. Their son was Foster.

"Talk of The Grove."

Phil Downs enjoyed the visits of Eric Tichenor, K.D. Puffenbarger, and Kathy Rexrode.

Clickety-clacks for the chin waggars are as follows:

- Chicago is known as "The Windy City."
- A fortnight is the name given to two weeks.
- Brazil's official language is Portuguese.
- There are 24 time zones in the world.
- The Cherry Blossom is Japan's national flower.

Concerns are for the following: Mike Adams, Charles An-

derson, John Ashley, Roger Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Dave Basagic, Allen Beachler, Liz and Mick Bodkin, "Bo" Boggs, Larry Byers, Joyce Calhoun, Marie Cole, Stanley Dahmer, Kim Davis, Phil Downs, Jennifer Errett, Isaac Eye, Marie Eye, Mary Eye, Carl Gant, David Gillispie, Patsy Green, JC Hammer, Sharon Harr, Steve and Armanda Heavner, Hannah Hedrick, Jack and Starr Hedrick, Chuck and Tracy Hiett, Jim Hiner, Evan Hise, Tim Hively, Henry Hodges, Edsel and Mary Ann Hogan, Julia Homan, Keith Hoover, Delbert Olin Hoover, Debbie Horst, Bob and Cynthia Hurry, Mike and Lisa Jamison, Linda Jones, Richard Judy, Marsha Keller, Tara Kelley, Ruth Kile, Tom and Kim Kline, Tracie Knight, Laura Kropp, Melissa Lambert, Robert Lambert, Rex Landis, Donna Mallow, Roger and Skip Mallow, Audree Marsh, Anna Mauzy, Ed May, Gene and Joan McConnell, Gary McDonald, Neil McLaughlin, Rose Miller, Bruce Minor, Tom Mitchell, Barbara Moats, Gloria Moats, Jim Moats, Helen Nash, Aaron Nelson, Dwight Nelson, Ruth Nelson, Cheryle Paine, Terri Parker, Andy Pond, Wayne Price, Daniel and Debbie Propst, Janice Propst, Alda Propst, Janis Propst, Marily Propst, Mike Propst, Sheldon Propst, Virginia Propst, the Charlsey Puffenbarger family, Eldon "Butch" Puffenbarger, Tom Rader, Willard Rader, Brandon Reel, Jason Rexrode, Jimmy Rexrode, Linda Fay Rexrode, Bernie Sasscer, Annie Simmons, Erin Simmons, Eva Simmons, Greg Simmons, Judy Simmons, Nelson Simmons, Tonya Simon, Robbie Sites, Mike Skiles, Bruce Smith, Ed and Carolyn Smith, Natalie Stephenson, Tina Stuben, Steve Stump, Linda and Larry Vandevander, Sandra Vandevander, Amy Vaus, Estelle and Don Wagner, Mary Louise Waldschlager, Amby Waybright, Jr., Mike Waybright, Rene White, Sherry Wilfong, Judy Williams, Ann and Ed Wimer and flood victims making every effort in their recovery efforts in Texas, North Carolina, West Virginia, Missouri, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Arkansas.



SUPERMAN 2025 JULY 25 & 26

Rated PG 13
\$6 for Ages 12 & Over
\$4 for Ages 5-11
Free for Under Age 5
Movie Starts at Dusk
Snack Bar Opens at 6 p.m.
Carryouts are welcome
Keep up-to-date at
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Healthy Saturday

GRANT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION

August 2
6:00 am – 9:00 am

- Limited to **200** people.
- **Appointment Only** ~ Please contact Julie Kesner at 304-257-5806 by July 31, 2025, to register.
- No walk-ins.
- Masks are optional.

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

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

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


Elder Abuse Awareness

Elder abuse is an intentional act or failure to act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult (age 60 or older).

Physical Signs of Elder Abuse:

- Dehydration or unusual weight loss
- Missing daily living aids
- Unattended medical needs
- Unexplained injuries, bruises, cuts or sores
- Unsanitary living conditions and poor hygiene

Emotional/Behavioral Signs of Elder Abuse:

- Increased fear or anxiety
- Isolation from friends or family
- Unusual changes in behavior or sleep
- Withdrawal from normal activities

Financial Signs of Elder Abuse:

- Fraudulent signatures on financial documents
- Unpaid bills
- Unusual or sudden changes in spending patterns

*No patient denied services because of inability to pay!

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MONDAY, JULY 28
Chicken Fillet Sandwich
Potato Wedges
Mixed Vegetables
Apple

TUESDAY, JULY 29
Lasagna, Garlic Bread
Carrots, Pears

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30
Meatballs
Buttered Potatoes
Collard Greens
Strawberry Cheesecake

THURSDAY, JULY 31
EVENING MEAL@5PM
Turkey w/Dressing & Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Cranberry Salad
Birthday Cake



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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It's Miller Time In Louisville

Pendleton County's Jameigh Miller gets in position on defense. She competed in the Run for the Roses AAU Tournament last week. Miller played for an all-star two state squad called Team Mountain Mambas. They drew from Pendleton, Tucker, Hampshire, Keyser, Fort Hill, Mountain Ridge, and Northern. Former Keyser standout, Ryan Kunis, and Dillon See coached. Kunis will join the staff of Salem University as an assistant next year.

County Commission Hears Courthouse Annex Construction on Schedule

By Stephen Smoot

"Lord we pray that You help us to make the right decisions," shared Roger Dahmer, Pendleton County commissioner, as he delivered the customary invocation prior to the second County Commission meeting of July.

Commissioners heard first from Pastor Carl Annable of Redeeming Grace Church in Brandywine. Accompanying him was a member of the congregation whom the church had helped through difficult times.

Annable came to share information about "West Virginia Goes Purple: the Hope Dealer Project." He spoke of the individual who came with him, calling her "one of the beautiful people that the Lord has gifted us with."

The Hope Dealer Project that he referred to is a Martinsburg-based advocacy organization. Its website states that it has been active in all 55 West Virginia counties "through our flagship initiative West Virginia Goes Purple, uniting communities in support of National Recovery Month and year-round advocacy."

The website goes on to state that it specializes in detox, recovery, and sober living placement assistance.

"We support all those who have a heart for the broken," stated Annable.

Pendleton County Commission president Carl Heavner replied, requesting that they send the proclamation to be signed during September.

Next, Karen Pitsenbarger, Pendleton County administrator, updated commissioners on

courthouse annex progress. "As you can see," she explained, "the bar joists are delivered . . . they are pretty much on schedule. We are not out of money, contrary to rumor."

The commissioners then approved a series of draws totaling approximately \$401,000 to pay for work.

Annie Humes, executive director of the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau, came to express gratitude to the commission. She thanked them for a letter of support to place an Almost Heaven swing near a scenic view in the county and said, "Your involvement means a lot."

Humes also shared that a Mon Forest Towns initiative resulted in "beautiful drone photography" and other images gathered around Seneca Rocks and the Franklin areas. The Town of Franklin will administer footage in and near Franklin. Since Seneca Rocks has no municipal government, the Pendleton County Commission will retain authority over images around the iconic monument.

She then told the county commissioners that a previous communication had been in error, that they had requested three Mon Forest Town signs instead of just two.

Mike Alt, who owns and operates Shreve's Country Store in Smoke Hole, as well as serves as training officer for Pendleton County Emergency Rescue, suggested that the West Virginia Route 28 and West Virginia Route 42 direct traffic to Smoke Hole via both methods of access instead of southbound on WV 28.

Franklin VFD Parades Through Downtown Community Supports Firemen's Lawn Party



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Pendleton County CVB Sees Strong Marketing Engagement

By Stephen Smoot

As the summer tourist season hit its midpoint, the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors' Bureau reviewed activities and developments this year.

Newly installed permanent executive director, Annie Humes, first asked for the financial report. After budget reconciliations, the CVB could report total current funds as of the end of June at \$130,088.06.

Other notes from the finance committee included the receiving of assistance from the Pendleton County Commission, though hotel/motel tax receipts had not come in yet. By law, an official county CVB receives support from county hotel and motel tax revenues. She did report that the organization received a local and anonymous donation of \$5,000.

"That's great news," Humes shared, adding "that's unrestricted funds . . . we're deeply appreciative of that."

Through the year so far, the CVB has come in under budget in payroll. This gives them more flexibility in using unrestricted spending funds for various projects. By law, a CVB receiving hotel and motel tax funds must apply them to a ratio established by law. It sets 40 percent for marketing, 40 percent for payroll and 20 percent for administration and operation.

Humes told the board members that the CVB must remain "mindful" for "adhering to the mandate here."

The board members heard from the marketing committee next.

Its meeting in the past month focused on tremendous successes so far this year. The CVB in April purchased a "rather large advertising package with New South Media" that started that month "and will conclude at the

end of July."

Humes explained that prior to the campaign, the number of visits to the website hovered in the low hundreds per month. "Those numbers exploded as soon as we started our campaign," she noted. "In June, we had over 16,000 visits to the website." Those visitors also showed a tendency to remain longer and look at more materials on the webpage, showing deeper engagement than before.

With email remaining the most productive way to market anything online, the CVB offered a "Getaway Giveaway" basket. Those signing up to win the basket gave their email address to the CVB to remain in contact. This boosted the number of those receiving the monthly newsletter from about 550 to 1,422.

Additionally, the program running the email campaign reports high levels of engagement there as well. Melinda Brooks, board member, said, "There's some really big things happening here . . . not only are we getting lots and lots of eyeballs on the new website" but "people are spending a significant chunk of time on the website when they get there." Also, the "open rate" of the newsletter doubles the general industry standard.

Board members also heard about the recent visit of a social media influencer who created a "lovely selection of assets" on her Instagram accounts. All feature some aspect of Pendleton County. The influencer posted video of herself taking a horseback ride to the top of Seneca Rocks, went mountain biking at Sweetwater Farms and much more, including an "epic view" in the words of the influencer, of Germany Valley

Another group, Wild Hair Media, completed a photo shoot for Mon Forest Towns. Shoots

focused on the areas around the county's two official Mon Forest Towns, Franklin and Seneca Rocks. While the CVB has a role in managing these assets, the Town of Franklin has authority over photos of that locality. Since Seneca Rocks has not municipal government, administration of its imagery goes to the Pendleton County Commission.

Mon Forest Towns will also ramp up its regional promotional efforts. As Humes mentioned, the organization will post "a robust website featuring all 12 towns later this summer."

Humes then shared discussions with the Mills Group, which is crafting the design for Pendleton County welcome signs. She noted that they will also provide designs for "signs we'd like to see in the future," such as wayfinding and direction signs.

Next, Humes and the board discussed that body's composition, including the possibility of adding more members. Currently at seven, the bylaws allow up to 11. They agreed that while an even number of board members was acceptable, odd would be preferable in case of a tie vote.

At the conclusion, Humes shared that West Virginia Living's "Best of" voting opened that week. Anyone can get on that publication's website to nominate local representatives in all categories. "There was so much energy coming off of this in the past," said Humes.

She furthermore mentioned that a West Virginia University art professor would join efforts with Petersburg-based muralist Kelson Thorne for a fishing themed creation of public art throughout the area.

WV Farm Bureau Rep. Provides Update on State and Federal Government Laws and Policies

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, during the annual meeting of the West Virginia Poultry Association, Dwayne O'Dell, West Virginia Farm Bureau Government Affairs director, provided an update on different actions of the state and federal government related closely to the interests of agriculture.

He started with mentioning a 78-page report from Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Though not always based on what O'Dell called "sound science," it contains a "significant portion" that addresses use of pesticides. He also speculated that little of its presentation on that subject could be applied on a widespread basis.

Next, he turned to the "One Big Beautiful Bill" recently passed by the United States Congress and backed by President Donald Trump. It preserved the \$15 million floor on estate taxes set by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This helps to preserve moderate to large scale family-run farming operations as they pass from one generation to the next.

"This will benefit agriculture down the road and the next generations," he explained.

He then shared the worrisome statistic that the number of farmers under the age of 35 had fallen under 10 percent "an alarming factor to us in agriculture." O'Dell explained that the loss of family farms when the younger generations lose interest and pass on running them grows more distressing when considering the always escalating cost of starting an



Dwayne O'Dell serves as director of government affairs for the West Virginia Farm Bureau.

operation, such as a poultry house.

O'Dell then brought up the passage of recissions packages that take money back from areas to which United States Congress had allocated it. These included National Public Radio, USAID, and the Public Broadcasting Service. He said that "is quite a bit of money affected," but that "when you spend \$6.7 trillion a year and bring in \$4.5 trillion a year, something has to give."

He went on to explain the mammoth expansion of state government since 2015, which covers the end of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's tenure and Governor Jim Justice's entire administration. In that time period, State of West Virginia's spending increased from \$2.2 billion to \$5.3 billion.

O'Dell discussed Governor


Patrick Morrissey's backing of West Virginia-based data centers with "their own generational capability" using microgrids. "This could help coal, oil and gas, but there's a number of folks opposed."

He then criticized "folks who move into places like West Virginia who like to see the green grass, like to see the cows, but don't want these other things to come in."

One important change that he mentioned came in changes to the governance of the land grant institutions West Virginia University and West Virginia State University. Both have in the past produced the perception that they gave neither rural areas nor farmers "a fair shake." Now representation from agriculture will join the board of governors of both schools.

Another bill from the West Virginia State Legislature provided relief in some areas for Future Farmers of America and 4H students. O'Dell shared that some students in different county school systems attended schools where principals marked students absent, as opposed to recognizing an individual learning day, when they attended competitions and events or even went on college tours.

Legislators passed an act requiring schools to give up to 10 days of approved absences for these types of trips. O'Dell noted that many of these trips provided more education and skills development than most average days attending school.



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SGR378A 0.31 acres w/3 bed/2 bath & 2 bed/1 bath Duplex, Full basement, oil heat, investment opportunity, 15 A/B Meadow Lane, Franklin. **\$324,900.00.**

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SGR376A 0.28 Ac, 0.22 Ac 64 Mulberry St., Franklin District. 3 Bed, 2 Bath w/2 Car Attached Garage, Full Basement, Lots of Outbuildings and Located at the End of Street. **NEW LISTING \$289,900.00.**

SGR374A Spectacular View! 2.81 Ac w/2 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin w/Loft, located on Kile Knob. Propane cook stove & lighting. Propane & Wood Heat. On site Septic, Cistern Water Source. **NEW LISTING \$299,000.00.**

SGR371A 0.04 Acres w/3 Bed, 2 Bath 1600 sq. ft. Home located in Franklin. Town Water/Sewer. Double Pane Windows, Mini-Splits, Woodstove & half basement. Large deck on back w/Nice Mtn. View. Lot #4, Franklin Corp. **\$150,000.00 REDUCED \$139,000.00.**

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 Por. 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 REDUCED \$299,900.00.**

SGR364A 2.65 Acres w/2006, 3 Bed, 2 Bath Ranch Modular, Hardwood floors, Metal Roof, Well, Septic, 2 Car Garage & separate 30 x 40 Steel 2 Bay Garage w/concrete floor. Located in Riverton. **NEW LISTING \$349,000.00 REDUCED \$299,000.00.**

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