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Thursday July 31, 2025



Senator Joe Manchin makes a point as he challenges FCC maps during his final term in office. Photo

### Overpromised and (As Yet) No Delivery

### Why BEAD Remains Disconnected from Rural America

By Stephen Smoot

In 2023, United States Senator Joe Manchin made an announcement that seemed, at the time, game changing for West Virginians who still had no access to high speed internet. "This is a historic an-

nouncement for the Mountain State and will benefit every West Virginian. . . . Today (we are) announcing more than \$1.2 billion to finally ensure every home in

West Virginia is connected to reliable broadband." Called "Broadband Equity Access and Deployment," the

program came out of President Joe Biden's signature

Inflation Reduction Act. A release by the senator's office gave Manchin significant credit for crafting it, stating "Senator Manchin created the \$42.45 billion BEAD program within the NTIA [National Telecommunications and Information Administration]. Senator Manchin authored the provision that allocates funding to each state based on its proportion of unserved areas in the updated FCC [Federal Communications Commission] broadband coverage map, as well as additional funding for high-cost areas like West Virginia that are more difficult to serve."

When BEAD first rolled

out, some concerns were shared by local West Virginia officials about the potentially prohibitive match requirement. That, however, turned out to be one of the less significant problems with it.

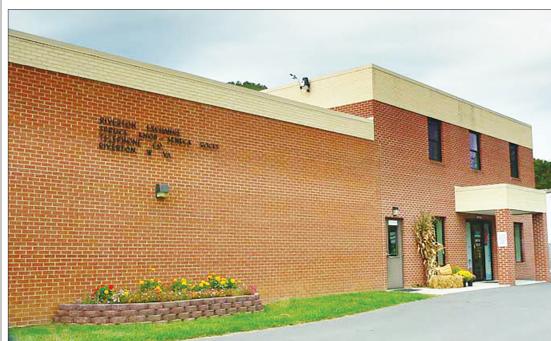
Three years later, as President Donald Trump took office, not a single broadband service network had been constructed through BEAD.

Michael Santorelli, director of the Advanced Communications Law and Policy Institute at New York Law School, penned an opinion piece last February for the online trade publication Broadband Breakfast.

He placed the blame

Continued on Page 3

### In Wake of Constitutional Challenge, Congress Urged to Fix Universal Service Fund



Companies such as Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone in Riverton rely heavily on the Universal Service Fund.

By Stephen Smoot

At the end of June, the Universal Service Fund survived a Constitutional challenge. The United States Supreme Court voted six to three to uphold the Constitutionality of the USF with Chief Justice Fred Roberts, Amy Coney Barrett, Brett Kavanaugh, Elana Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor, and Ketanji Brown Jackson in the majority.

Few argue against the utility of the USF. As Jena Miller, executive director of Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone, a Pendleton County-based cooperative, stated, "Every telecommunications provider that participates in programs such as Lifeline, E-Rate, High Cost, or rural health programs would have been affected" by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling against the USF.

She added that "by the ruling being in favor of continuing USF, SKSRT is in a safer position to continue to participate in these programs and can be confident in long-term compliance."

Miller may have understated the damage that could have occurred to other providers who rely on the fund had the USF been ruled against. "You've got recipients who made clear to us that if this were to happen, you're talking about immediate bankruptcy and firing of companies and cutting back on service to many parts of America," Michael O'Rielly, former Federal Communications Commission commissioner, told the online trade publication Broadband Breakfast.

"That's not a good outcome." O'Reilly also has called himself a "frequent critic" of the USF as currently configured.

The USF originated as a strictly defined program with a strictly designed source of revenue. "Universal service" referred to

Continued on Page 3

### A Community of 'Grayse' to Soon Serve the Potomac Highlands

By Stephen Smoot

"Addiction doesn't define a person, and it doesn't get to write the ending of their

These powerful words reflect one of the key purposes of the soon-to-be-established House of Grayse, to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with recovering addicts "as they fight for sobriety and a better life" with "the resources, encouragement, and faith they need."

West Virginia, as a state, has advanced considerably down the collective long road to recovery. Once considered the place hardest hit by addiction and overdose death, the Mountain State has rolled back a number of its most negative statistics. Last October, for example, the West Virginia Department of Human Services announced that the overdose death rate



House of Grayse board of directors met at Walnut Grove Church of the Brethren. Directors are, from left, Janae Billmeyer, Russ Ratliff, Anthony Ross, D.J. Taylor and Catherine Richardson.

in the months of January through October 2024 had dropped 40 percent from the same period in 2023.

This surpasses the national overdose death rate decline of about 27 percent in 2024.

A drop in deaths represents a battle won, not yet victory in the war. Each life saved will need to continue to ward off his or her addiction with a goal not to just remain alive, but to thrive. Resisting destructive urges while embracing a productive life almost always requires faith and support.

Janae Billmeyer serves as organizational secretary and also as a member of the board. She shared that "the House of Grayse was created based on a dream." Anthony Ross, who started the mission and founded the organization, "was left at rock bottom with nothing"

by addiction. She explains that "the

grace he was shown and continues to receive from his support group . . . keeps him going every day." And Ross shares the wisdom of his own experience, saying, "Recovery is possible. Don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do it."

With successful interventions in preventing opioid deaths, the harder work comes in making sure that the addict can function in their life roles with family, with employment, and with appropriate social interaction and support. As Billmeyer states, "While that road is tough, we believe that no one is too far gone for God's love and redemption."

The National Library of Medicine in 2019 published a study by Brian and Melissa Grim entitled "Belief, Behavior, and Belonging." It shared that "73 percent of addiction treatment programs" in the United States "include a

Continued on Page 3

### Certificate of Need Laws Are Blocking Mental Health and Disability Treatment Facility and Hundreds of Potential Jobs

By Stephen Smoot

In last spring's session of the West Virginia State Legislature, Governor Patrick Morrisey put his political weight behind repeal of the state's certificate of need laws. Despite fighting hard to make the case to eliminate them, the effort faltered.

Now those same laws could block the establishment of a major Potomac Highlandsbased center for the treatment and care of people challenged by autism, disabilities, and other issues. Hundreds of potential health care and support jobs also await the state to provide Liberty Community Programs a certificate of need waiver.

For a time, that waiver appeared an easy hurdle to leap.

In general, certificate of need laws require state authority to grant approval to the establishment of a new health care facility. Applications require in painstaking detail the potential facility's plan of action, including who they will serve, where those clients or patients will come from, and much more.

Just over a half-century ago, the National Planning and Resources Development Act urged states to pass certificate of need laws. It speculated that the "massive infusion of federal funds into the existing health care system has contributed to inflationary increases in health care and failed to produce an adequate supply or distribution of health resources, and consequently has not made possible equal access for everyone to such resources."

By 1986 a national bipartisan consensus emerged that certificate of need laws "were failing to meet their stated goals" and 15 states repealed them altogether. Many more placed restrictions on them. That bipartisanship was underscored by Jessica Dobrinsky of the Charleston-based Cardinal Institute. She stated that every president since Ronald Reagan has urged states to repeal these laws to broaden access to quality health care and create the kind of competition that holds costs down.

The West Virginia Hospital Association marshaled its resources to fight the legislation last spring. At the time, Jim Kaufman of the WVHA stated that repealing the laws would allow health care companies to "enter West Virginia and cherry pick by developing only profitable lines of service at the expense of rural health care in West Virginia."

Opponents of repeal also speculate that these companies would establish "feeder facilities" in state that would direct patients to larger establishments across state lines. Kaufman said at the time that "these dollars should remain in West Virginia and flow back into health programs and services for West Virginians.'

Matthew Mitchell from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University wrote a review of West Virginia's certificate of need laws in 2021. He stated that "the purpose of CON regulation is to limit spending by discouraging providers from acquiring unnecessary medical equipment." but "unfortunately, in practice, the rules appear to protect incumbent providers from competition more than they protect patients from harm or payers from unnecessary costs."

This was, essentially, confirmed by Kauf-

Mitchell remarked that West Virginia's CON laws placed more restrictions, 24, than any surrounding state. He noted that "the state also requires CONs for facilities and types of care that often go to vulnerable populations, such as substance abuse treatment, intermediate care facilities for those with intellectual disabilities, and psychiatric

And that is where Ladale Jackson of Liberty Community Programs comes in.

"It's been kind of a nightmare," said Jackson. "I can't even begin to tell you."

After a decade of searching, it seemed that the perfect business match had come to the former United States Navy Base at Sugar Grove. What some national publications called in 2015 "a city for sale" proved difficult to match with a business venture. Several companies brought grandiose ideas that foundered.

For a decade local, state, and federal officials, including members of the state congressional delegation, labored mightily

Continued on Page 3

### Community GALEN **Library Friends**

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.

To Meet Tuesday

### Free Town Pool **Day Scheduled**

The Pendleton County Strive to Thrive Family Support Center on Main Street in Franklin is sponsoring a free pool day Friday at the Town of Franklin pool. For more information, call

304-538-7711.

### **OBITUARIES**



**Herbert Lee Cooper** 

Herbert Lee Cooper, 81, of Edgewood, Maryland, passed away on July 23, 2025, at the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air, Maryland.

He was born on Feb. 7, 1944, in Harman, the son of the late Russel and Mary (Teter) Cooper.

Mr. Cooper was a graduate of Circleville High School class of 1962 and attended Emmorton Baptist Church in Bel Air, Maryland, and Riverside Church in Cabins.

He began his career with the General Motors Plant in Baltimore, Maryland, retiring after 32 years of service. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed being in the woods hunting, building fence, and working on his Seneca home. He especially

heartaches.

loved so well.

loved his family and quality time spent with his children. grandchildren, and greatgrandchildren. His legacy will live on in them.

On Feb. 17, 1964, he married Dorothy Lee (Harper) Cooper who survives.

He is also survived by a daughter, Jacqueline Chariello (Stephen) of Churchville, Maryland; a son, Michael McClure Cooper (Karen Wall) of Bel Air, Maryland; a brother, Freddie Cooper of Seneca Rocks: two sisters. Betty Gordon (Donald) of Circleville and Mary George (Junior) of Joppa, Maryland; three grandchildren, Vincent Chariello, Adam Cooper and Brianna Farmer (Noah); and two great-grandchildren, Emery Larkin and Theo

He was also preceded in death by six sisters, Geneva Champ, Ruth Smith, Jo Ann Watts, Othetta Conrad, Virginia Rexrode and an infant sister; and three brothers, Carl Cooper, Randy Teter and Danny Cooper.

A funeral service was held in the chapel of the Basagic Funeral Home in Petersburg with Pastor Tommy George officiating. Interment was at North Fork Memorial Cemetery in Riverton.

Memories and words of comfort may be left at www. basagic.com or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home.



Leonard John Kosup

Leonard John Kosup, 85, of Harrisonburg, Virginia, passed away on July 20, 2025, at Bellaire at Stone Port in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

He was born on Nov. 6, 1939, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the son of the late John Robert and Helen (Wisdosh) Kosup.

Mr. Kosup attended Redstone High School in Republic, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia University Forestry School in Morgantown.

He worked 32 years for the United States Forest Service. He first worked for the El Cariso Hot Shots in California doing fire suppression. Then, he continued working for USFS at Cleveland National Forest in Santa Ana, California, Lincoln National Forest in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, as a fire preven-

tion specialist and Jefferson National Forest in Natural Bridge Station, Virginia, as a fire management and law enforcement officer. He retired in 1994 and became a full-time

He was Catholic by birth. For 10 years, he was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

He did more volunteer work at Rockbridge Area Relief Association, winning a Volunteer of the Year award for Rockbridge County, Virginia, managed the Habitat Resale Store in Lexington, Virginia, with his wife, Carol, and Christian Assistance Food Pantry in Franklin, as well as other community volunteer services.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Patricia (Garrow) Kosup. He is survived by his current wife, Carol Jean (Williams) Kosup.

In addition to his wife, he leaves behind to cherish his memory two sisters, Emilie H. Kosup and Rosemary (Hvizdos) Kosup, both of San Diego, California: and a niece. Rachel Throesch of San Diego, California.

In honoring his wishes, his body has been cremated.

Memorials may be made to Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter, PO Box 804, Franklin, WV 26807 or to the charity of donor's choice.

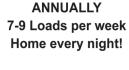
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in silence for the one we

Loved and very sadly missed by

Lorraine and Judy

August 6 Regular Sale ~ 2 p.m.

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Regular sales scheduled for first and third Wednesday each month.

Sale details/consignment highlights on Facebook.

Contact Barry Wilkins 540-607-6032

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12th Annual Sugar Grove Antique Tractor Parade



Saturday, Aug. 9

Tractors ONLY! No Floats Allowed!

Parade starts at 4:00 p.m. Registration begins 3 p.m. Registration/Line-up at Pigley Wigleys, Sugar Grove Trophies will be awarded.

> Cash prize for the People's Choice Award Questions, call 304-902-0123

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Following Antique Tractor Parade **South Fork Rescue Squad** 

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### Seafood Buffet

Friday, August 1 • 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Crab Legs, Steamed Shrimp, Fried Calamari, Shrimp Creole, Scampi Style Scallops, Fried Clams, Fried Oysters, Roast Beef w/Gravy, Herb Baked Chicken Breast, Hush Puppies, Steamed Rice, Corn, Buttered Potatoes, Cheddar Bay Biscuits, Assorted Desserts  $\$34^{95}$ 

### Sunday Buffet August 3 · Noon - 3 p.m.

Carved Top Round of Beef, Herb Baked Chicken, Bouillabaisse, Spinach Salad, Scalloped Potatoes, Wild Rice Blend, Peas and Pearl Onions, Buttered Corn off the Cob, Rolls/Butter and Assorted Desserts  ${}^{\$}24^{95}$ 

**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

Friday - Monday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 3328 Germany Valley Road., Riverton

304-567-2691

### WV's Sales Tax Holiday **Begins Friday**

School starts next month and so does the West Virginia Sales Tax Holiday.

The annual sales tax holiday is to help families with their back-to-school shopping. Shoppers may take advantage of free sales tax beginning at 12 a.m. Friday and ending at 11:59 p.m. on Monday.

During the sales tax holiday, the state's sales tax, as well as local sale tax, is eliminated for certain items including certain clothing and footwear costing \$125 or less, certain laptop and tablet computers costing \$500 or less, certain school instruction materials costing \$20 or less, certain school supplies costing \$50 or less and certain sports equipment costing \$150 or less. There is no limit on the amount of the total purchase.

According to the West Virginia Tax Division, all vendors are required by law to comply with the sales tax holiday. The exemption does not apply to items used in a trade or business.

The tax holiday also applies to layaway items. According to the division's website, qualifying items that are placed on or picked up from layaway during the sales tax holiday qualify for the exemption. It does not apply to rebates as they occur after the sale and does not reduce an item sales price for the item to qualify for the sales tax threshold.

While the exemption does not apply to separately-stated shipping and handling charges, items sold to West Virginia consumers by "mail, telephone, e-mail or Internet" will qualify for the sales tax exemption as long as the customer orders and pays for the item and the retailer accepts the order within the exemption period "for immediate shipment." This applies even if the item doesn't arrive until after the sales tax holiday. However, if the customer requests a shipping delay for an ordered item, or if they order the item during the sales tax holiday but do not pay for it until after, it will not qualify.

If retailers offer a discount or store coupon that reduces an item's price to below the threshold amount for exemption, the product will then qualify for the exemption.

Eligible items that customers purchase during the sales tax holiday using a rain check qualify for the exemption regardless of when the rain check was issued. However, issuance of a rain check during the holiday will qualify an eligible item for the exemption only if the purchase price is paid in full at the time the rain check was issued.

If a consumer buys an eligible item during the sales tax holiday and later exchanges it for the same item in a different size or color, the retailer should not charge sales tax even if the exchange is made after the end of the sales tax holiday. However, if a consumer returns the item after the sales tax holiday period for credit on the purchase of a different item, the retailer must charge sales tax on the newly purchased item, even if it would have been eligible for the sales tax exemption.

For a more detailed list of items that qualify or do not qualify, as well as information on and rules for refunds, exchanges, discounts and sales during the Sales Tax Holiday, go to http://tax.wv.gov/Business/Pages/SalesTax Holiday.aspx.

#### **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

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.



302 Golf Club Drive, Franklin www.fishermountain.com 304-358-2261

\*\*August Events\*\*

Saturday, August 2 Weaver Open House, 12 - 3 p.m. Live Music w/ Thieves of Burden, 6 - 9 p.m.

•Wednesday, August 6, 6 p.m. Book Club w/Krystal Raymond •Thursday, August 7, 7 p.m.

Paint Party w/Marjorie Rawson •Saturday, August 9, 7 p.m.

Taylor Swift Trivia Night •Saturday, August 16, 6 - 9 p.m.

Live Music w/Mike Eye •Saturday, August 23

West Rockingham Ruritans Golf Tournament



TOPTRACER RANGE 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.

Page 2 - July 31, 2025 - The Pendleton Times

### BEAD Remains Disconnected

Continued From Page 1

squarely on the former president's administration, calling it "the direct result of excessive bureaucracy, regulatory overreach, and a misguided approach by the Biden administration, which prioritized its political agenda and program micromanagement over connecting people to broadband.

Santorelli went on to explain that "rather than adhere to the law's straightforward and laudable goal of working with states to get money into the hands of ISPs to build broadband in areas that need it, the Biden NTIA larded the program with rules and restrictions that slowed deployment to a crawl."

One of the issues faced came in the form of the Biden Administration's insistence on price controls. The law establishes the requirement for a "low-cost option." Santorelli describes how the law with one hand seems to provide states latitude to find that level within their own market. With the other hand, the federal government also states that it can deny the state proposed low-cost rate and strongly encourages adopting a \$30 per month price.

He added that "NTIA could withhold approval of a state's initial proposal – and thus delay or cancel a state's BEAD program - if the state does not accede to NTIA's preferred approach to any issue." As of 2024, the Commonwealth of Virginia had yet to see its proposal accepted, even after several revisions. Santorelli stated that the sticking point seemed to be where they set their low-cost option price.

In a move that critics have called "everything bagelism," the Biden Administration loaded its social welfare and other agenda points into the program as well. Santorelli described them as a "slew of requirements involving environmental reviews, climate resilience, prevailing wages, and labor mandates to grant awards. Few of these requirements have any basis in the BEAD statute and have made many ISPs think twice about seeking funding.'

In other words, every added hoop through which to jump convinces many internet service providers that seeking the funding is not worth

Santorelli suggests a number of reforms that the Trump Administration could pass that would help BEAD to fulfill its mission much more effectively. He states that funding should go to experienced broadband providers with

Additionally, since rural areas typically struggle to give profitable returns, Santorelli states that public-private partnerships have seen the most success. One of the models that attracted much attention nationally several years ago was the partnership set between the Hampshire County Commission and Hardy Telecommunications. Hampshire County gets the funding to build out the infrastructure and Hardy Telecommunications provides service

BEAD has fierce critics from all political camps. Ezra Klein, New York Times column-

Continued From Page 1

ist, went on the Jon Stewart Show to share the bewildering 14 step (with numerous points and sub-steps within each step) process that states must follow should they wish to participate. At one point, Klein stated that states could

apply for up to \$5 million in planning grants. "Planning grants?" asked a bewildered

"Planning grants," Klein confirmed.

Klein had appeared on Stewart's show to promote a book he co-authored with Derek Thomson called "Abundance." Its thesis lies in showing how the federal government prioritizes the proper process over getting results - in essence a critique of modern liberal-left governance as a whole.

Tim Stelzig, who administered the program for the Biden Administration through the NTIA fired back. He called the interview "a comedic bit" that "sounded like a Byzantine regulatory process churning away for years without delivering promised results." He also bemoaned how Klein and others do not prioritize what he called "progressive" elements in the process.

In a subsequent article, Stelzig explained that "many states and territories had never been involved in broadband infrastructure grant funding and thus in 2021 and 2022 lacked the experience required to achieve good outcomes. Many did not even have an office nominally charged with such expertise. The fundamental structure of the BEAD program thus necessitated giving states and territories time to establish such offices, irrespective of other timing goals."

in this because the law took a federal approach and allowed states flexibility. That said, the law also seemed to give that flexibility to meet very difficult mandates and guidelines. Also, the example of the continued rejection of proposals from Virginia seems to call the actual level of flexibility into question.

He explained that BEAD's structure resulted

He continually emphasizes that this came out of bipartisan agreement, but that would stretch (as the term often is stretched by both sides) the meaning of "bipartisan" quite a bit.

No explanation came of why the federal government created a \$42 billion program that necessitated the existence of non-existent state government agencies. Nor did he make reference to how much these new entities would cost state governments in the long term.

Stelzig also blamed delays on the Federal Communications Commission mapping process taking longer than expected, without mentioning that the problem was the FCC's own. That agency's maps played a key role in identifying underserved areas.

Stelzig did not specify who caused the delay but it came, at least in part, from the maps' serious inaccuracies. Manchin stated in a release that he was "the only Member of Congress to formally challenge the FCC coverage maps and prove them wrong."

### and maintains the system.

Grayse to Serve the Highlands

spirituality-based component." It referred addicts to Alcoholics Anonymous and similar programs that "emphasize reliance on God or a Higher Power to stay sober."

And that belief works. Almost 85 percent of scientific studies show the vitality of faith "in addiction prevention or recovery." Only two percent experienced negative results from a faith-based approach.

The Grims go on to assert that the decline of personal faith, church attendance, and membership in the United States "constitutes a national health concern" due to the importance of faith to mental

and physical health. In May, the House of Grayse held its initial board of directors meeting and all "have been working diligently ever since." They recently cleared the hurdle of receiving tax exempt nonprofit status, so they can start to receive tax deductible donations. Board members have started planning fundraisers to help gather resources to reach out into the community to assist

When established, the program will offer "up to 21 days of safe housing, encouragement, a warm bed, and faith-centered guidance." The program focuses on "a hand up, not a hand-out." It also provides "mentorship, prayer, and encouragement from people who care," guidance to recovery and opportunities in housing and work, and life-skills coaching with focus on changing one's mindset.

Faith and hope underscore every effort

Recovery means not only embracing a new life, but also a new mindset. As Billmeyer explains, it means adopting different strategies to confront pain and resolve problems rather than escaping into drugs, other substances to abuse, or self-destructive behaviors that feel good in the moment, but lead to more problems.'

"He calls us to lean on Him and discover the person He created us to be," implores Billmeyer.

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2018 SUBARU IMPREZA AWD WAGON, 4-cyl., 5-spd., ldd., maroon, 125K miles	FOR ONLY \$12,900
2017 NISSAN PATHFINDER PLATINUM AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., bronze, only 50K miles	\$21,900

### Universal Service Fund

Continued From Page 1

landline telephones. The program originated during the Great Depression as a method of connecting customers in remote areas. For each customer connected to a landline the company - or in the case of SKSRT or Hardy Telecommunications, the nonprofit cooperative - received funds from the federal government. Funds came from fees charged to customers nationwide.

By the internet age, these companies could reinvest those funds into expanding fiber optic high speed internet service.

In 1996, the United States Congress passed a Telecommunications Act that removed the boundaries. Universal service started to encompass a broader spectrum of services while the law stated that telephone fees could be set at levels "sufficient" to pay for universal service.

It also allowed the erection of a corporate structure called the Universal Service Administrative Corporation to collect, manage, and disburse the USF. Costs of this have skyrocketed in recent years. The Technology Policy Institute states that the "Universal Service Administrative Corporation – the organization the FCC created to manage the USF – has increased its administrative expenses from \$105 million in 2010 to \$204 million in 2020 to \$365 million in 2023 while program expenditures stayed fairly constant."

The entire 2023 budget of the Federal Communications Commission lies at only \$25 million more than the cost of operating USAC.

The majority ruled that "sufficient" met the Constitutional requirements set on how the government can charge this fee, which the suit sought to have defined as

Justice Neil Gorsuch penned one of the dissents. While not disparaging the fund or the need for it, Gorsuch started his dissent by asking why "the Administrative Company, dominated as it is by industry insiders, has allowed universal-service contributions to grow so dramatically. FCC regulations supply at least a partial explanation: 'Federal universal service contribution costs may be recovered . . through a line item on a customer's bill.' 47 CFR §54.712(a). So, in the end, it is consumers who pay for the agency's

universal-service programs."

Later in the dissent, Gorsuch argued that the fee did, in fact serve as a tax by another name, referring to the fact that former FCC commissioners have referred to it thus. Once one sees the fee as a tax, the rest of the legal justification for the structure crumbles.

Additionally, Gorsuch states "this court has never approved legislation allowing an executive agency to tax domestically unless Congress itself has prescribed the tax rate."

The issue has come up as the changing market of communications technology and consumer consumption of it has shrunk the base of revenues from which the USF draws. In response, it has considerably expanded the size of the fee while having to charge it to fewer people.

The Technology Policy Institute added that regardless of the question of Constitutionality, "the current mechanism for funding the USF is fundamentally flawed by any measure of the right way to tax." It states that usually, government makes "the cost of a tax as small as possible" by targeting less price-sentitive areas while broadening the base to spread the impact.

USF, conversely, "taxes a narrow base of price-sensitive behavior" and also falls most heavily on those least able to pay.

While telecommunications companies felt relief in the wake of the decision, Gorsuch warned that it would be ripe for overturn and the U.S. Supreme Court has, in its history, overturned some decisions after only a handful of years. The recommendation from entities such as the Technology Policy Institute is for Congress to eliminate the USF's revenue and distribution structure altogether and operate it like any other federal program.

They said, "The best solution . . . is to fund USF out of general tax revenues. That would require annual Congressional appropriations. Congressional appropriations would have two benefits. First, the tax burden would be shared over a large base, meaning it would be relatively small and minimally distortionary. Second, it would create pressure to keep the size of the fund low and therefore for its programs to operate efficiently."

### Certificate of Need Laws

Continued From Page 1

to find a new mission for the former navy base. Liberty Community Programs is a for profit company, which means that Pendleton County would get the full benefit of tax revenues from the facility.

Jackson shared last spring that "my C.O.O. had a vision of what that base could offer." He said that the parent company, Liberty Behavioral and Community Services out of Los Angeles, had the Sugar Grove site "on our radar for several years."

"We took a visit. I fell in love with the environment," said Jackson.

Liberty planned a graduated, step-by-step rollout of services with an eventual goal of employing between 350 and 400 in fields from janitorial to health care. They realized, however, that earlier attempts to use the base had brought too much, too quickly and failed as a result.

They have also worked, as they describe, diligently with the West Virginia Office of Health Facility Licensure and Certification.

Delays have come in part as a result of protests from a group called Disability Rights West Virginia. Based near Charleston, the activist group has launched a number of high profile challenges in recent years. Liberty Community Programs has

worked to try to satisfy their inquiries. including about program aspects that have little or nothing to do with the certificate of need. One of the stated concerns of the group had to do with a program that Liberty has no plans to offer.

"We made many attempts to contact (Disability Rights West Virginia) to find out what it was protesting," shared Jackson. **Eventually Liberty Community Programs** hired counsel to represent their interests in the matter.

Jackson hopes that an October hearing will satisfy all parties and allow Liberty to

implement its program as planned. "The pushback is disappointing," said Jackson. He said, "We need to put it into action and the Legislature needs to step up" and repeal or reform the state certificate of need laws. The goal, Jackson said, lay in "improving health outcomes in West Virginia."

Future goals include more integration of services for the community at large, including health care, ways to take advantage of the firefighting facility built prior to the base closure, and opening up the restau-

"Good will prevail," stated Jackson.

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10 Years Ago Week of July 30, 2015

**Library Marks 10 Years** Of Summer Reading Fun

The summer reading program began in 2005 in an effort to alleviate what is commonly known to educators as "the summer slide." The term refers to the decrease in reading proficiency that students experience during the months when school is not in session. Students are affected by this loss due to lack of reading and exposure to a structured learning environment.

The summer reading program continues to grow in popularity each year. This year nearly 120 children and adults actively participated in activities at the three locations.

The program at the library was expanded in 2011 to include programs at Brandywine Elementary School and North Fork Elementary School.

**Week of July 28, 2005** 

20 Years Ago

**SUGAR GROVE** 

#### The Peaceful Porch Is an Oasis On Sweltering Summer Days

After leaving the country, one can clearly hear the "creeea...k, creeea...k" of the porch swing at the farmhouse. Most everyone loved going out on the front porch on a summer evening. Long before air conditioning became common, it was an oasis from a sweltering day. Porches were windows of the world. They made the house breathe. Actually, porches were the place of momentous spots of family time. Toddlers practiced their first shaky steps on the floor under the watchful eyes of aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. "Careful, don't let the baby get close to the edge!" After the chores were completed and supper eaten, everyone would head to that peaceful porch. The swing would be the first choice of furniture. Others would join and crowd in to swing faster and faster, back and forth. The setting sun shimmered as it danced through the leaves. Insects would serenade orchestras, hummingbirds would dart, bullfrogs croaked their resonating cry and the lightning bugs set their lanterns aglow. "Creeea...k, creeea...k" the swing moaned as the days' chores and community events were shared. There were many on the concern's list and discussions led to how to be a good neighbor to them. Oftentimes the infirmed were visited, called on or a card sent to them. Songs were sung, nursery rhymes recited, stories told, peas

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all. "Creeea...k, creeea...k" the swing would moan once more before retirement. In a matter of hours, there would be another sweltering day.

30 Years Ago Week of July 27, 1995

#### Ground Broken for Franklin Ruritan Club

A ground breaking ceremony was held recently by the Franklin Ruritan Club at the site of their proposed new club house on the Propst Gap Road south of Franklin. The 42x100 foot facility will be suitable for use for meetings, picnics, auctions, etc. Participating in the ceremony were Sherman Lambert, secretary; Dale Kile, director and building designer; Earl Junior Kimble, Jim Waybright, vice president, Green Hedrick, Otis Harper, director, and Carroll Kile, president.

60 Years Ago Week of August 5, 1965

#### Fishermen Land 12 Copperheads

All fish stories are not about fish that got away.

Some fish stories are about snakes that didn't get away. Here's one of them.

Quintin Barrett, 46, principal of a school at Whitesville in Boone County, and Bill Montgomery, 35, coach of a school at Sundial in Raleigh County, were bass fishing last Saturday in the South Fork River north of Fort Seybert.

Barrett dropped one of his lizards which he was using for bait, and when he finally caught up with it and was about to pick it up, he was terrified to find that he had a snake instead of a lizard.

Dropped to the ground, the frightened serpent slithered into a nearby crevice in a ledge of rocks. Barrett, now too nervous to bait his hook, decided to poke the snake out of the crevice.

Taking a long pole, he started poking, and out came not one, but 12 or them—all copperheads.

After a busy half hour, Barrett and Montgomery started for home, their creel filled to the brim—not with succulent small mouth bass, but with 12 scaly copperheads—just to prove it wasn't another fish story.

70 Years Ago Week of July 28, 1955

#### 44 Pints of Blood Given H. Mitchell

Hugh Mitchell of Sugar Grove, who has been critically ill in University Hospital, Charlottesville, has received what is believed to be a record amount of transfusions of blood during his illness. He had received 44 pints as of Monday evening, most of which had been given during the past week. Fifteen pints were administered to him last

Mr. Mitchell cut an artery

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in his leg above his knee while repairing bee hives at his home on May 30. It was dressed the same day at the hospital in Harrisonburg, and when it became worse he entered the Harrisonburg hospital June 9 for treatment where he remained 4 weeks before being transferred to Charlottesville. Blood clots which had formed were removed at Charlottesville.

A total of 50 pints of blood have been donated for Mr. Mitchell by local residents, most of whom are from the Sugar Grove section. Fortyfive pints were donated Sunday by persons who went to Charlottesville for that purpose.

Mr. Mitchell's condition is reported to be improved somewhat at this time.

Week of August 4, 1955

#### 'Butch' Eye Is Big Strawberry Dealer

Howard "Butch" Eye, 4-H club member from Deer Run, has picked 1,506 quarts of strawberries off his 1/8 acre of land this season. This is Howard's second year in club work. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Eye.

There were 950 plants set out on his 1/8 acre plot of land which brought in a nice little nest egg for Butch. Each plant produced on the average of 1.7 quarts per plant. He now has three \$100 bonds saved for his college days, went shopping for some new clothes, and to top off his spending spree, he bought a bright new fishing rod (which Pop didn't approve). So you see 4-H'ers what you can do with a 4-H project.

Next year Butch plans to set out 1,000 more virus-free Catskill plants to add to his strawberry patch. He also has a feeder calf as another project this year.

Many of the 4-H members carrying strawberries for a project are interested in berries for fresh consumption and for freezing. The surplus is then sold on roadside stands, to neighbors, or to a local grocery store.

Any boy or girl with some available land and plenty of ambition can carry a strawberry project and make it pay. How about coming to the County Extension Office for added information on growing strawberries.

#### DAVY CROCKETT **ESCAPES HEAT**

Davy Crockett, who has been chased all over the country by hero worshippers, turned up in Pendleton

County. Estyl Lambert said yesterday that Davy was found sitting in the Seneca Caverns on a ledge atop of

Niagara Falls. "I'm not surprised," Lambert said, "Where else could he find 58 degree temperature in this kind of weather? Davy Crockett is a

smart man." What actually happened, Lambert explained, is that a large stalagmite approximately 1200 yards from the entrance of the caverns closely resembles Davy Crockett wearing his coon skin cap, and we named it Davy Crockett much to the delight of all the young cave explorers.

#### **DAHMER**

#### **Buckwheat**

A few years ago a field of buckwheat was as common as corn, oats, barley and wheat. At that time the demand for buckwheat for making flour was much greater than it is today.

Buckwheat cakes, tree molasses and sausage were a regular breakfast. Pennsylvania is the leading state in the production and followed by New York, Ohio, Michigan, some counties in West Virginia ranked highly too in production, but not like it once did because other grain crops have proven more profitable.

There are six common varieties or types of buckwheat—Japanese, Calcutta, Common Gray, Silverhull, Australian and Tartary. Most of the buckwheat grown is of the first five varieties which are suitable for milling purposes and the most widely grown. The Japanese variety makes a better and bigger yield to the acre than the other five mentioned. Tartary is only used for feeding purposes.

Buckwheat is more resistant or tolerant to soil acidity than any other grain crops. Lime and fertilizer can be used to make the crop more profitable.

Once in Pendleton County the buckwheat trade was very profitable, but now in some localities it as dropped almost out of existence or not grown at all. We will mention a few families who were expert growers, whom we knew-John Pitsenbarger and family, William Propst and family, Henry Sinnett, Jr. and family, and Sylvester Simmons and family and scores of others not mentioned.

The time mentioned tractors were unknown to the farmers here. The land was plowed and harrowed with horsepower and the seed usually broadcast or sown by hand. Of course a few farmers had drills. When ripe it was cut with a grain cradle, threshed with the old time flail—that is the grains of buckwheat were beaten from the straw, and the chaff was separated from the grain by the use of the family mill.

Two mills famously known for the manufacture of buckwheat flour were McCoy's Mill at the mouth of the Black Thorn and Kiser's Mill at Sugar Grove.

Farmers often took their buckwheat flour to the Valley of Virginia and exchanged it for wheat flour or cash in hand was often paid for this valuable product. —John Dahmer

> **LETTERS** TO THE EDITOR

#### Local Taxi Driver Is **Proud of Tires**

Editor, the Times:

So many people have asked me in the last number of months about the tires that I use that I have decided to take this method of telling everyone the whole story.

In May of 1953, I bought

five used Goodyear Double Eagle tire casings that had approximately 20,000 miles wear on them. I had these tires recapped and put them on a 1953 Studebaker and then drove the Studebaker 121,000 miles. I then placed the tires on a 1953 Ford which I have driven 30,000 miles to date. This makes a total of 171,000 miles of wear on the tires. Some of the tires have been recapped six times and the others seven. Most of the recapping was done by the Pendleton Motor Sales, whom I think has done a very fine job.

I still have all five tires, and they are in use both day and night, 365 days a year; and, in all kinds of weather. I can not say how much more wear they will give, but they are still in first class condition and should give many more miles of service. Any one who desires to is welcome to examine the tires for their own satisfaction. They have been so superior to anything else that I have used that there is no comparison.

I am not a tire salesman, nor am I trying to sell tires, but as I stated in the beginning, so many people have asked me about my tire service. I thought I would state the facts about them up to date, for all to see.

> Simmons Taxi A. M. Simmons, Owner

80 Years Ago Week of July 27, 1945

#### MOUTH OF SENECA "A Bull Attacks Farmer'

Walter Thompson was attacked recently by a mad bull and injured right badly. sustaining a dislocated shoulder, broken collarbone and other chest and body injuries. The bull is owned by Roy Bowers and was driven off by his son with the aid of a pitch fork when he heard Thompson calling for help, otherwise the result might have been more serious.

This is the first case we ever heard of any one being injured on North Fork in like manner and the second case in county.

The National Stockman always placed special emphasis on "Keep your eye on the Bull."

Mr. Thompson, who was removed to the hospital for treatment, has sufficiently recovered to come home. Don Bland brought him over last week.

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### Smith Creek/ Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

This Saturday, Aug. 2, is the half point of summer. Summer is here as the area is experiencing the three H's... hot, hazy and humid. With all three, there is a good chance of afternoon rain.

Smith Creek and Friends Run Churches of the Brethren: shut-ins — Bucky Moyers, Pam Riner, Anna Tesi, Sandra Vandevander, Larry Moyers, Sandy Washburn, Mary Alice Simmons, Anna Lee Mitchell and Carol Propst; prayer list — Richard Campbell, Joshua Shirk, Ava George, Roberta Bennett, Kenny Williams, Dennis Mitchell, Debbie Horst, Neal Eye, Donald Burns, Ruth Bauer, Rick Waggy, Anna Mauzy, Gloria Moats, Ruthalene Judy, Frankie Judy, David Berg, Tim and Dee McCormick, Jim Judy, Jessie Simmons, Minny Rhoads, Larry Rexrode, Troy Bennett, Jim Fawley, Tom and Judy Borror, Bob and Brenda Sites, Judith Ours, Nancy and Toney George, David M. Hartman, George Hevener, Tonya Simon, Danny Nelson, David M. Parkinson, Cleo Simmons, Tom Butterworth, Sherry Hedrick, Bobby Parsons, Robert Bennett, Mary Alice Evick, Rick Phares, Virgil "Bub" Yokum, Hannah Hedrick, Barbara Judy Harman, Joyce Calhoun, John Moyers, Norma Auville, Shana Johnson, Chuck Hiett, Betty Smith, Gretta Pope, Chase Shepke, Woody and Libby Hoover, Sherry Cham-

bers and Ginger Kimble. Prayer thought: "Through Jesus' death, resurrection and sending of the spirit, God is with all who believe in Christ. That's an excellent

reason to rejoice."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for July 21 through July 27, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: July 21 - 79°, 61° (85°, 60°), July 22 - 82°, 58° (80°, 65°, .09"), July 23 - 84°, 64° (83°, 61°), July 24 - 86°, 63° (81°, 65°, .01"), July 25 -90°, 67°, .02" (82°, 64°), July 26 - 91°, 68°, 1.53" (84°, 58°) and July 27 - 85°, 68°, .46"  $(85^{\circ}, 56^{\circ}).$ 

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#### Page 4 - July 31, 2025 - The Pendleton Times

### Spicy, Clever Sayings Reflect Area's Culture

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

Hillbilly sayings are often associated with the southern part of the United States. They are colorful and very expressive phrases to convey a variety of meanings. These sayings add a unique flavor to the language and reflect the region's culture and history.

So, let's take a look at some of the unique sayings: Somewhere there is a lid to fit every pot.

If you jump over the devil's back, you'll have to crawl back ınder his belly.

If you make yourself a sheep, the wolves will eat you.

A watched pot never boils.

Chickens always come home to roost.

If you have a good mother, any old stick will do for a father.

The world wasn't made of green cheese.

One good turn (of the dog's tail) deserves another.

Where there's so much smoke there has to be a little fire. If you poke your head into a hornet's nest, you'll get stung.

He'll knock you into the middle of next week looking both ays for Sunday.

She couldn't carry a tune if she had a bucket with a lid on it. That fellow is knee-high to a grasshopper.

They are as poor as a church mouse.

If the lips are moving, they are lyin'.

Perhaps the reader has heard, or better still, used these phrases to make onversation quite unique and flavorful.

Life's little lessons to allow one's life to be better include the following:

- 1. Keep one's promises, no matter what.
- 2. Compliment even small improvements.
- 3. Don't expect life to be fair.
- 4. Look people in the eye.

5. Carry a chain saw and jumper cables in the trunk of the car.

Spotty showers have been ending the daily heat wave. The writer finds it very interesting how the mountains deflect the thunderstorms and showers to fall intermittently in areas. Lawns have remained green all summer, which is quite unusual for this time of the year. The heat and humidity are quite unbearable. Walking to the mailbox and back, however, is right up there with swimming the English Channel.

Farmers have been busy making the second cutting of hay for winter

Clickety-clacks for the chin waggers are as follows:

- •A dog's sense of smell is 1,000 times greater than a human.
- •Egyptian pharaohs were often overweight. Their diet was rich in sugar, alcohol, and carbohydrates.
- •In Australia, sheep outnumber people 2.5 to 1.
- •The world's first public zoo, the London Zoo, opened in 1828 in London.
- •The original publication of Dr. Seuss's "The Lorax" contained the line, "I hear things are just as bad up in Lake Erie." Fourteen years later, the Ohio Sea Grant Program wrote Dr. Seuss to make the case that conditions

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John Jasper (Aug. 27, 1874 - Sept. 24, 1946) and Phoebe Jane Propst Sinnett (June 16, 1885 - Aug. 21, 1972) are pictured. John was the son of Henry, Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Moyers Sinnett, and Jane was the daughter of John Wesley, Sr. and Susannah Mitchell Propst.

had improved. He removed the line.

Sitting by the air conditioner is the best way to hear the "Talk of the

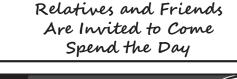
Sunday found many subscribers of Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone without network connections. In time it was restored.

Family members traveled from as far as New York, Virginia, and Tennessee to attend the Martin Smith and Howard Grogg family reunion. The occasion was held at the Sugar Grove Rescue Squad building where music was coupled with delicious foods for all to enjoy. A hayride followed before everyone returned to their respective home.

The Tom and Paula Mitchell families enjoyed a week's vacation this past week on the Outer Banks in North Carolina.

St. Paul Independent Lutheran Church parishioners had their annual picnic Sunday at Thorn Spring Park. The Crestmen were also there with their performances.

### This week's quotes are as follows: **HOOVER REUNION** Sunday, August 3 **Thorn Spring Park**



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•••

#### "Oh, I offended you with my opinion? You should hear the ones I keep to myself." — Patsy Cline "God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does."

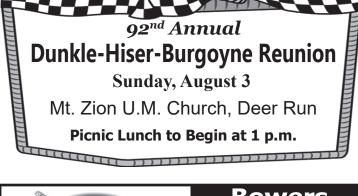
"I usually take a two-hour nap from 1 to 4." — Yogi Berra

"You can't get much done in life if you only work on the days when you feel good." - Jerry West

"Well, I could do it for a day, but I wouldn't want to be a teenager again. I really wouldn't." — Jamie Lee Curtis

August birthdays include Justin Via, David Puffenbarger, Lonnie Conley and Eddie Armentrout, first; Tracy Armstrong, second; Nancy Enyart, third; Junior Bolton, Skyler Frame and Brittany Gumm, fourth; Steve Stump, Paula Price, Doris Hoops, Carter and Colby Hott and Charlotte Hoover, fifth; Jerry Smith and Johnny Rexrode, sixth; Amy Berg, seventh; Amanda Rexrode, Karen Peer, Gary Smith and Carl Hevener, eighth; Dolly Rexrode, and Phillip Simmons, ninth; Corrina and Carrigan Hedrick, Sherman Bennett, Margaret Kiser and Daren and Sara Olka, 10th; Brandon Mitchell and Becky Rightsell, 11th; Doug Simmons, Pat Godfrey, Sam Harper and C.J. Eckard, 12th; Sandy Bennett, 13th; Moni Harman, 14th; Denise Neil and Bobby Shanholtz, 15th; and Wanda Rexrode and Lynn Nelson, 16th.

Concerns are for Mike Adams, Charles Anderson, Alfred Armstrong, John Ashley, Roger Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Dave Basagic, Allen Beachler, Liz and Mick Bodkin, "Bo" Boggs, Larry Byers, Joyce Calhoun, Christy Cole, Marie Cole, Austin Conn, 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, Ginger Kimble, 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, Marilyn 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, Riley Thompson, Carolyn Thomas, 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 and Ann and Ed Wimer.





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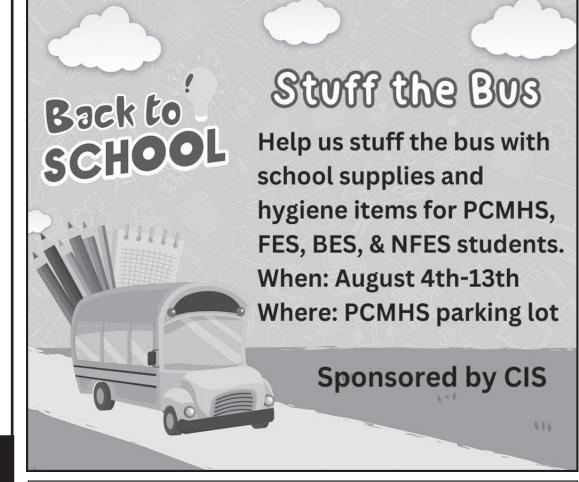
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### Pendleton County's Post COVID Economy, As Illustrated in Newly Released Census Numbers

By Stephen Smoot

Last month, the United States Census Bureau released the 2023 set of County Business Patterns Data. According to the Census Bureau, this represents "an annual series that provides subnational economic data for establishments with paid employees by industry and employment size.

The Census Bureau usually releases a year's data approximately 18 months after the end of the year. Data can be accessed by nation, state, county, zip code, congressional district, or, in the cases of more populated counties, sections of

Data availability does come with limits. The United States Department of Agriculture, for example, collects and disseminates economic data on farming operations. Though CBPD does include the agriculture sector, it does not go into much detail on that.

Additionally, CPBD does not release information in a data point when that could be used to identify individual companies. With that data available, competitors could discern proprietary information from that company's operations. This would eliminate the incentive for such companies to comply with census surveys.

clearer picture of an area's rebound from the economic ravages of the COVID pandemic. That said, Pendleton County's sparse population and business community restrict the Census Bureau in the details of information that it can release.

Throughout West Virginia, the number of businesses marked by the survey increased from 2020. Numbers expanded slowly from 35,323 to 35,839, about one and a half percent. Locally, however, those numbers rose in the same time frame from 138 to 140. The largest jump came in the category of businesses that employ between 10 and 19, going from 11 to 15.

Pendleton County had 20 construction firms in 2020 and 24 three years later. All but one in 2020 had less than five employees while 21 fell into that category in 2023. According to the United States Census Bureau, such businesses in many ways make up the foundation of the U.S. economy. The majority of businesses in the U.S. have five employees or less.

The number of retail businesses declined slightly, from 23 to 21, but the county also added three businesses in the 10 to 19 employee category that were not noted in 2020.

Transportation and warehousing businesses increased from 2020 to 2023. In the former year, the county had nine, with five of them employing less than five. Ten such businesses operated in the county by 2023 with three employing between 10 and 19.

Pendleton County's tourism economy has seen strong growth in recent years. as evidenced in the significant growth of hotel motel tax receipts for both the county and the Town of Franklin. The food service and accommodation sector showed resilience during those challenging years. Pendleton County had 13 such establishments in 2020 and the same number in 2023. In both years, five had less than five employees and five had between five and nine.

Manufacturing saw an increase from five to seven businesses in the years covered, while science and technology firms rose from six to seven.

West Virginia University's Economic Outlook for 2022 to 2026 shared that the state's employment numbers bounced back fairly quickly. The Mountain State lost 94,000 jobs in March and April 2020 and saw 16 percent unemployment, but gained 96 percent of those numbers back by late-summer 2021.

### Emergency Low Income Energy Assistance Program Announced

The West Virginia Department of Human Services announced that applications for the Emergency Low Income Energy Assistance Program will be accepted through Aug. 8 or until funds are exhausted. This program helps low-income families in West Virginia who are facing an energy emer-

E-LIEAP may also help with cooling costs in some situations. Each application is reviewed individually, and some types of cooling sources may require approval before assistance can be given.

To qualify:

· Households using gas or electric must present a termination notice when applying.

 Households using bulk fuels like propane, fuel oil, kerosene, wood, or coal must show that their supply is low when applying.

 Households that have already received a regular LIEAP payment for bulk fuel (such as propane,

or coal) must provide a receipt or proof showing that the LIEAP payment was used to purchase fuel. Applications for E-LIEAP assistance may be denied without this documenta-

Eligibility for E-LIEAP is determined based on household income, household size, and whether the household is responsible for paying utility costs. In emergency situations, all applicants must meet in person with a DoHS worker.

The maximum allowable gross income levels for LIEAP Fiscal Year 2025 are as follows (household size, monthly allowable income): one, \$2,357; two, \$3,082; three, \$3,808; four, \$4,533; five, \$5,258; six, \$5,984; seven, \$6,120; eight, \$6,590; nine, \$7,263; 10, \$7,935; and each additional member add \$673.

Households whose countable income exceeds the maximum amount are

fuel oil, kerosene, wood, not eligible. However, some types of income may be excluded for E-LIEAP. To apply, residents must go to their local DoHS office. A list of local offices may be found at https:// dhhr.wv.gov/pages/field-

#### and territory. I have witnessed smaller birds chasing ravens or crows for miles because they presented danger to their nest or young. I read online that ravens really try to avoid human beings. They are usually present where there is a dead animal or another source of food. If you hear

I believe most of us know that a bird

and most birds are territorial and will

aggressively protect their nests, babies,

a raven calling there is usually a food source close.

I have a friend who will tell you the thing about avoiding humans isn't true. Not at her house anyway! She doesn't live in the house where this story is taking place, but she maintains it and the yard like she was there every day. A garden is even planted. It seems this mischief started with the cover that was over the grill on the back porch. She found the cover lying on the floor torn to pieces and she wondered what animal had done that. Bears have been known to damage property in the area so a special, heavy-duty screen had been made for the back door. Imagine the shock she had on her next visit to the house. The screen on the back door was destroyed, exposing the door. I believe it was on this day that my friend encountered a raven. Checking to see if there was more damage she found that some of the rubber gasket under the kitchen window was torn loose and

In an effort to save the French doors, she fastened a tarp over them only to find that the raven had managed to get behind the tarp and it was torn full of holes. A new cover was placed over the grill and it too was torn to pieces. A box of books that had been taped shut and put on the porch, until her daughter could take them, had been torn open and one book was torn to bits, lying on the porch floor. While in the house my friend heard a noise outside and when she looked, the raven was in her flower bed pulling the buds off the snapdragons and daisies that she had planted and it was carrying them off.

another screen or so destroyed.

A nephew who has a house just over the hill from my friend came to check on things and to mow around his house. She asked if he had seen any ravens and he said that he had heard them calling close to his house. While moving the yard he found several of the screens that had been in the upstairs windows had been torn out and were laying in the vard.

When this mischief started my friend saw a lone raven and that was all for a

few weeks. One day when she arrived there were two sitting on the back porch, and not long after that there were four in her yard—a family in training.

The Ruthless Ravens...

In the past few weeks, the ravens have focused on the picture window. They have torn part of the rubber seal from under the picture window. It seems the two young ones helped in this operation My friend placed a wide board across the bottom of the window to save the rest of the seal. The door put in for the dog so it could enter/leave has been destroyed. The male raven has been observed flying from the porch rail into the picture window in an attempt to break it. You might ask, how does my friend know all this—she has a game camera which the birds haven't yet discovered. Imagine the damage that has been done to the outside of the house and what it will be like if one day that raven is successful in getting inside the house.

The nephew took the screens from the windows at his house to be repaired and said that he would put them back in when he was there and remove them each time when he leaves for home.

I went online to read about ravens and their behavior and came across an article about a man in Nova Scotia, Canada, who bought a \$300,000.00 house. His job was in a different area, so he was away from his house all week. A neighbor called him at work and told him that birds were destroying his house. He left work and returned home to find broken windows and screens destroyed. He found ravens destroying his house.

In Boston, Massachusetts, it's the red headed woodpeckers breaking out car windows and breaking off mirrors. It would seem, for whatever reason, some of our feathered friends aren't very happy, or maybe they are!

I talked with my friend a few days ago and the destruction continues, but only the original raven is being seen. The family members may have graduated from the lessons dad was teaching or maybe they are on vacation.

A story like this is kind of hard to believe but the evidence is there to be seen with one's own eyes, and on the game camera. Two members of my family have been there and have seen the damage. All of this has been going on since the first of April.

I have withheld names for the sake of privacy and the locations where this story is playing out. Permission has been given to share this story with the public.

Violet R. Eye



WOW Look who's

turning 13 July 30

Michael

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Page 6 - July31, 2025 - The Pendleton Times



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#### **REUNIONS**

THE DICE/HARPER/ MALLOW/PHARES and extended families reunion, Satur- 1088 Germany Valley day, August 3, Clinton Hedrick Community Building, River- This notice solicits comton, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch at 1. Bring a the above preliminary de covered dish. Blue- termination and provides grass/Gospel music after lunch. Everyone **STORAGE** Welcome! LLC KIRK AND JANIE (Crites) Armentrout Family Reunion 5x10, 10x10, 10x15, 10x20 and Potluck Lunch, August 2, 12 noon, Moorefield Assembly of God Church. Drinks and eating utensils provided. Extended family and

#### to attend. 7-24-2p YARD SALES

friends are welcome

YARD SALE AT previous Warner's Wood Shop, Rt. 33 East, Friday, August 1 & Saturday, August 2, starting at 8 a.m. 1c MOVING & YARD Sale Saturday, 9-4, 2519 Mountaineer Drive (Route 33), Franklin. Furniture, arts & crafts, office, miscellaneous. Sale benefits Friends of Pendleton Library. Rain or shine.

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NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD FOR DRAFT/ PROPOSED OPERATING PERMIT RENEWAL Title V of the Federal

Clean Air Act and the state

3265, www.penco requires that all major sources and certain minor sources have a permit to mitted by the public and operate which states all outdoors. 10-12-tfn requirements (e.g. emission limitations, monitorrequirements, etc.) aforementioned programs. The Division of Air Quality (DAQ) has determined that renewal referenced herein meets this requirement.

The DAQ is providing notice to the general public Houses, Barns, Roofs, of its preliminary deter-Churches, Outbuild- mination to issue an operating permit renewal to the following company for operation of the referenced etc. Call Ronnie Limestone Quarry and Lime Manufacturing Op-

> Greer Industries, Inc. d.b.a. Greer Lime Company Riverton Facility Plant ID No.: 03-54-071-00001 Limestone Road Riverton, WV 26814

ments from the public and affected state(s) concerning

an opportunity for such parties to review the basis for the proposed approval and the "draft" permit renewal. This notice also solicits comments from the U.S. EPA concerning the no public hearing has been same preliminary determination and provides an opportunity for the U.S. EPA to concurrently review the basis for the proposed approval as a "proposed" per-Air Pollution Control Act

All written comments sub-

affected state(s) pursuant

to this notice must be received by the DAQ within thirty (30) days of the established by regulations date of publication of this promulgated under the notice. Under concurrent is given. The DAQ will conreview, written comments submitted by the U.S. EPA must be received by the draft/proposed permit the DAQ within forty-five (45) days from the date of publication of this notice or from the date the U.S. EPA receives this draft/ proposed permit renewal, whichever is later. In the event the 30th/45th day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the comment period will be extended until 5:00 p.m. on the following regularly scheduled business day. The public shall have 135 days from the date of publication of this notice to file petitions for concurrently reviewed permits. Upon notice by the U.S. EPA to the DAQ, prior to the end of the 45 day notice period, the U.S. EPA may choose to hold the 30 day comment period on the draft permit

period on the proposed per mit sequentially. During the public comment period any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit and, if scheduled, may request a public hearing. A reques for a public hearing shall be in writing and shall state the nature of the is sues proposed to be raised in the hearing. The Director of the DAQ shall grant such a request for a hear ing if she concludes that a public hearing is appropri Any public hearing shall be held in the general area in which the facility is located, after 30 day notice

Copies of the Permit Application, DAQ Fact Sheet and Draft/Proposed Permit Renewal may be download ed from the DAQ's web site at: https://dep.wv.gov/dag/ permitting/titlevpermits Pages/default.aspx.

sider all written comments

prior to final action on the

permit.

Comments and questions concerning this matter should be addressed to:

WV Department of Environmental Protection Division of Air Quality 601 57th Street SE Charleston, WV 25304 Contact: Robert Mullins (304) 926-0499 ext.: 41286

Robert.A.Mullins@wv.gov

#### This Week in A History...

July 31, 1932: Actor Theodore Crawford "Ted" Cassidy was born in Pittsburgh but was raised in Philippi. He was best known for his role as Lurch on The Addams Family.

Aug. 3, 1897: Fire destroyed much of downtown Lewisburg. The town rebuilt and evolved in the next century into the hub of one of the state's major farming areas and a center for education and the arts.

Aug. 3, 1907: Harley Orrin Staggers Sr. was born in Keyser. Staggers served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 32 years. Aug. 4, 1897: Musician William

Jennings "Billy" Cox was born near Charleston. Cox, known as the "Dixie Songbird," ranked as one of West Virginia's premier country music vocalists and songwriters during the 1930s.

Aug. 4, 1930: Lewisburg set the record for the state's hottest temperature ever: 112. Six years later, Martinsburg would tie it.

Aug. 5, 1958: Jennings Randolph defeated former governor William Marland in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate. Randolph soon became the senior senator from West Virginia and served for 26 years.

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James Vincell

James Vincell, a 2025 graduate of Pendleton High School, earned the 2025 Leo Slusher Award. The \$2,500 award will support his studies this fall at Concord Uni-

Vincell is a fitting choice, as he spent hours at football practice and games on the Leo Slusher athletic fields, where he also joined in field prep and painting. Among his community service involvements, he has been a youth basketball coach, instructor at baseball camp, and announcer at various high school and middle school games. He is an active member at Living Faith Church.

He carried a grade point average of 3.96.

"The financial assistance that Mr. Slusher's scholarship provides is a big help to me and my family as we plan for my upcoming collegiate academic and athletic careers. More than that, it is humbling to be awarded the Leo Slusher award, a name that I have grown up hearing in conversations and seeing on signs involving Pendleton County athletics for my whole life. I really appreciate your generosity in investing in my future. I'll do my best to make you and Pendleton County proud," Vincell wrote in a thank-you note.

The award, started by Harrisonburg, Virginia,

\$

resident Dr. Cathy Slusher, honors the memory of her father, Pendleton County resident Robert "Leo" Slusher. He was involved in the Lions Club, founded the local Relay for Life event, and earned the Pendleton County Service Award. He also established the athletic booster club at Pendleton County High School, volun-

concession stand.

The scholarship is open to Pendleton County High School students, with consideration given to the student's interest/participation in athletics, community service involvement, and academic record in good standing.

Past recipients include Madison Sites (2018), Marteering for many years in its cus Sites (2019), Hunter

Turner (2020), Marshall Harper (2021), Tanner Townsend (2022), Ryleigh Cook (2023), and Allie Cooper (2024).

The generous donors of the Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham annually give more than \$6.8 million in grants and scholarships.

For more information, visit www.tcfhr.org.



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BLACK THORN MOUNTAIN ESTATES, 6.18 acres, Lot #22, top of mountain, great views, all wooded, HOA applies, west of Doe Hill Road. \$74,000. \$64,000. REDUCED \$50,000.

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SGR382A 45 Ac. w/1 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin, Solar \$310,000.00 REDUCED \$299,900.00. powered, no restrictions, Cistern & Septic, Range, Excellent Hunting, Franklin District. \$399,000.00. Iar, Hardwood floors, New Metal Roof, Well, Septic, 2 Car SGR380A 5.62 Acres, Lot #3, Sharp Ridge, Electric Garage & separate Septime Steel 2 Bay Garage w/concrete nearby, Easy Access, Some Restrictions, Franklin District. floor, Located in Riverton. NEW LISTING \$349,000.00 Range, Excellent Hunting, Franklin District. \$399,000.00. nearby, Easy Access, Some Restrictions, Franklin District. \$49.500.00.

several other buildings and outbuildings, adjoins National Forest, very unique property. \$279,000.00.

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. SGR377A Family Retreat! 10 acres w/4 Bed, 3 Bath Cabin, Finished Basement w/additional family room. Primary

Bdrms Upst & Dwnstrs w/en suites & WICs. Full size kitchen, Wood & Propane Heat. Septic & Cistern. Buck Loft. Gas FP. Hiseland Subdivision. Sor Ridges Development, Franklin District. **NEW LISTING** tions. Beautiful wooded setting. \$389,000.00. \$349.900.00.

SGR374A Spectacular View! 2.81 Ac w/2 Bed. 1 Bath Water. \$283,000.00. Cabin w/Loft, located on Kile Knob. Propane cook stove SGR340A 327.98 Acres, with 4 Bed, 3.5 Bath Home w/2 & lighting. Propane & Wood Heat. On site Septic, Cistern

Unfinished cabin ready for you to add your design touch!
Septic installed. Cistern on property. All building materials and solar panels on site convey. Some Restrictions.
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SGR371A 0.04 Acres w/3 Bed, 2 Bath 1600 sq. ft. Home & Restrictions. Nice View. \$89,900.00. located in Franklin. Town Water/Sewer. Double Pane SGR302A "The Hollow" Restaurant, fully furnished, at 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.

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SGR366A 5 Acres w/Cabin, Buck Ridges Development. New flooring the glob 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 hed. New 1 car garage. NEW LISTING \$320,000.00

Shooting SGR364A 2.65 Acres w/2006, 3 Bed, 2 Bath Ranch Modu-REDUCED \$299,000.00.

**SGR379A** 5994 Mount Freedom Drive, Cherry Grove 14.70 acres, 2 bed/1 bath house; one room w/loft cabin, Heat Pump, Propane Wall Unit, Electric Baseboard and Heat Pump, Propane Wall Unit, Electric Baseboard and Central AC. Town Water & Sewer, Double Pane Windows. Deck, One Car Garage & Storage Shed. \$169,000.00. SGR361A 1.32 Acres w/rentals located in Brandywine Bethel District. \$134,900.00 REDUCED \$98,900.00.

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, His Cubley Subdivision. Some Restric-

SGR343A 5 Acre lot w/Log Siding Cabin, Buck Ridges SGR376A 0.28 Ac & 0.22 Ac 64 Mulberry St., Franklin District. 3 Bed, 2 Bg Dolp w/2 Car Attached Garage, Full Basement, Lots of Outbuildings and Located at the End of Street. NEW LISTING \$289,900.00. outdoor living space to enjoy. Wood floors upstairs. Spring

car garage and Barn. Property adjoins lands owned by

SGR316A 10.35 Acres, Entry Mountain, Some Covenants

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.

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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.



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FRANKLIN - 3 BR, 2.5 BA home with 1 car garage on 0.43 ac. Heat pump/AC, WVPT2000846. \$225,000, \$210,000

BRANDYWINE - 1 BR, 1 BA rustic log cabin on 32.28 ac bordering national forest. Solar and propane. WVPT2000860. \$239,000. FRANKLIN - DRY RUN - WVPT2000800 \$225,000; 8 acs. 3 BR mobile

home, deck, pool, lg garage.

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Contact **Duke Dunkle** 304.703.7407 Larkin.Dunkle@pilgrims.com

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### **BREEDERS**

Contact MIchael Mallow 304.538.5352 Michael.Mallow@jbssa.com

Pilgrim's Moorefield Breeder Department is seeking additional housing for hatching egg production for our growing facility.

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