

# THE PENDLETON TIMES

*Serving the Community since 1913*

\$1.00  
Volume 112, Number 39

Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia 26807

Thursday  
September 25, 2025

## Morrissey Joins Treasure Mountain Festival Parade, Discusses EMS Funding

By Stephen Smoot

Since taking over as Governor of West Virginia, Patrick Morrissey has invited the people of the state to join him on a fitness journey he calls “the Mountaineer Mile.” Last Saturday, he came to Franklin to join the Treasure Mountain Festival parade and greet Pendleton County during its biggest regional party.

Before he took part in the parade, the governor addressed one of Pendleton County’s most important concerns. In 2024, an act of the West Virginia State Legislature established the Emergency Medical Services Salary Enhancement Fund. Different counties have applied it in different ways, but Pendleton County used it to boost the stipend amounts used to pay volunteers for EMS service and distributed those amounts on a regular basis instead of annually.

In county commission meetings, emergency officials reported repeatedly the positive effect on reducing the amount of time on call response. This has helped also as the expansion of “adventure tourism” creates a rising need for emergency medical,



West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrissey greets Pendleton County resident Zykijah Wright prior to the Treasure Mountain Festival parade.

fire, and rescue services.

Last year, however, the program did not receive funding and the Pendleton County Commission has worked to help through 2025.

Morrissey shared that he is “looking forward to discussing with the legislature different ways to provide assistance.” He explained that “we’re trying to do things a

little different” and avoid “one shot money that creates a cliff.” That refers to the budgetary concern that an entity could become heavily reliant on help that can disappear too easily.

He said that their intent is to “do something more permanent” and also that “we really value all EMS workers

*Continued on Page 2*

## Franklin Volunteer Fire Department Responds Quickly to Vehicle Fires



FVFD crews respond to a vehicle fire on Main Street just hours before Saturday’s TMF parade.

By Stephen Smoot

Earlier this month, the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department shared that they had scaled back their participation in this year’s Treasure Mountain Festival. They made that decision out of concern that if their volunteers were engaged at festival vendor stands, that not enough would be available for emergency response

calls.

That decision was affirmed as sound by events on Saturday.

Approximately at 12:47 p.m. Saturday at 15 North Main Street in Franklin, according to a Facebook statement from the FVFD, a pickup truck’s engine compartment burst into flame. Fortunately, help was close at hand as “Engines 22 and 26 were staged with members doing our bucket shake fund drive and responded immediately, arriving on scene less than three minutes after dispatch.”

Other apparatus on scene included Tanker 25, which was placed back in service. They then cleared the roadway and restored it to working order only hours prior to the Treasure Mountain Festival parade.

As the FVFD statement shared, “this fire occurred in the heart of downtown as large crowds and multiple vendors were present enjoying Treasure Mountain Festival.” In the statement, the FVFD thanked the West Virginia State Police, Pendleton County Sheriff’s Department, and Bowers Garage for their support.

The real “treasure” came

in the report that “thankfully there were no injuries and no damage to surrounding structures.”

At 1:15, just as crews completed cleanup on Main Street, another vehicle fire call required response, this time on Mountain Crest Lane.

Engines 22 and 26 responded, joined by Tanker 25, Engine 23, and Brush 28. After extinguishing the blaze, crews used a thermal imager to confirm that it was out.

The release reiterated that the situation that played out on Saturday, with two emergency calls, served as why the FVFD did not set up their vendor stand this year. Their statement on Saturday’s calls explained “These two incidents highlight that ‘what if’ scenario that is always present, but more so during the festival when large crowds are present during the weekend.”

It added that “having our apparatus staffed with personnel already staged throughout the town allowed for an immediate response to both incidents with 15 members staffing the apparatus, quickly mitigating both incidents.”



## Pendleton County Treasures Its Festival

As an uninvited guest, a thunder, lightning and rain storm with hail, looms above the mountaintop, Saturday’s 57th annual TMF parade gets underway.

## As Pendleton County Sees Drought Conditions, the WV Department Of Agriculture Releases Guidance



The North Fork River bed at Circleville is dry after weeks with almost no rain.

By Stephen Smoot

In the winter months, West Virginia received healthy amounts of precipitation. Heavy rains drenched the region in spring and early summer with little relief.

Now “healthy” and “heavy” have petered away to “hardly any.” As a result, the Mountain State faces reentry into drought conditions battled for much of 2024. Drier conditions have brought the depletion of water in streams, as well as the onset of brush fires in some of the drier areas.

According to the official federal government website Drought.gov, West Virginia has seen its second driest August since recordkeeping commenced in 1895.

After the update of conditions last Thursday, the National Weather Service has shared that Pendleton County is experienc-

ing drought conditions.

West Virginia’s most significant area of drought centers on Webster and Randolph counties. Most of those two, plus sections of eight other Mountain State counties have hit D-3 Extreme Drought status. D-3 indicates a strong chance of “major crop/pasture losses, extreme fire danger, widespread water shortages or restrictions.”

None of Pendleton County has currently reached D-3 conditions, but the northern section around the Onego area has hit D-2 Severe Drought. Under these conditions, the NWS reports that “crop or pasture loss likely, fire risk very high, water shortages common, water restrictions imposed.”

The remainder of Pendleton County is seeing D-1 Moderate Drought, which indicates “some damage to crops, pastures, fire risk

*Continued on Page 2*

## Pendleton County Officials Share Plans for Use of Recently Purchased Former FES

By Stephen Smoot

In the nearly 40 years after the Flood of 1985, the riverbed of the South Branch River has risen from accumulations of debris. Rocks, trees, logs, and other detritus continues to build up in the riverbed, but a phalanx of federal and other regulations block county and conservation district officials from restoring the riverbed to its proper level.

Last week after Pendleton County Commissioners closed on the purchase of the former Franklin Elementary School, officials revealed initial plans for how to use the structure. Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County Emergency Services coordinator, after the regular meeting of the county commission, gave a tour and update on plans to Shelley Murray of the West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority and Jennifer Peasey, economic

development director for the office of United States Senator Shelley Moore Capito.

Murray’s office provides grant assistance to counties seeking help with courthouses and related government buildings. Gillespie explained the move in terms of removing county and state offices from the community building. When he shared the rising threat of flooding to the current structure, Murray stated, “Include the part where the current offices are in the flood plain.”

He explained that many of the agencies and offices needed for disaster response, including major floods, are located in the community building and in the path of any flood that would strike the area.

The county engaged Thrasher to come up with proposed plans for the use of the new building. Gillespie said that it shows “we’re not flying by the seat of our pants

*Continued on Page 3*

**Community CALENDAR**  
**Bible Study Classes To Begin at Calvary Lutheran Church**

Calvary Lutheran Church will be holding new Bible study classes beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday. An All Aboard the Gospel Express class will focus on the four gospels. The class for ages 4 to 8 will be coordinated and taught by Diana Smith-Cook with ages 9 to 14 being taught by Bonnie Bland. An adult Bible study, focusing on prayer, will be led by Beth Felton. Sunday church services begin at 11:15 a.m. All are welcome.





Anna Elizabeth  
“Libby” Hoover

Anna Elizabeth “Libby” Hoover, 83, of Brandywine passed away on Sept. 19, 2025, at Augusta Health Center in Fishersville, Virginia.

She was born on Nov. 9, 1941, in Brandywine, the daughter of the late Emery Luther and Flodie (Miller) Nesselrodt.

Mrs. Hoover attended Franklin High School and was a member of the Brandywine Baptist Church.

She had worked for 33 years at Hanover Shoe Company in

the hand sewing and cutting department. She took pride in her family and loved spending time with them.

On Sept. 13, 1958, she married the love of her life, Harlan Woodrow “Woody,” who survives.

In addition to her husband, she leaves behind to cherish her memory two daughters, Karen Simon (Larry) of Franklin and Rhonda Stump of Brandywine; two sisters, Lillian Nesselrodt of Brandywine and Arlene Dahmer of Newark, Delaware; two granddaughters, Sheena Simon and Tasha Marshall; and six great-grandchildren, Croix, Kamron, Blake, Ella, Delaney, and Haley.

She was also preceded in death by three brothers, Tyson, Orvin and Bennie Nesselrodt.

Funeral services were held Tuesday in the chapel of the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor Tim Weaver officiating. Interment was at the Pine Hill Cemetery in Brandywine.

Memorials may be made to Brandywine Baptist Church.

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



Debra Ann Simmons

Debra Ann Simmons, 67, of Franklin passed away peacefully on Sept. 19, 2025, at the Pendleton Manor in Franklin, after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born on May 25, 1958, in Cherry Grove, the daughter of the late Annabelle Lamb and foster daughter of the late Ollie and Viola Kimble.

Mrs. Simmons attended Franklin High School and had worked in various positions throughout the community, including the Pendleton Nursing Home in recent years.

She devoted her time as a homemaker and found joy

in being with her beloved family and pets.

She attended Brushy Run Church of God and loved her church family.

On July 4, 1999, she married Owen Byrd Simmons, who survives.

In addition to her husband, she leaves behind to cherish her memory a sister-in-law, Alma Mae Mallow (Paul) of Franklin; a niece, Cindy Moyers (Alan) of Bridgewater, Virginia; a great-nephew, Tanner Moyers (Hannah) of Verona, Virginia; two great-nieces, Gracie and Lily Moyers of Bridgewater, Virginia; a special aunt, Hazel Bennett; and special friends, Elaine Keplinger, Alisha Adams, and Kay Simmons.

A private graveside service was held Wednesday at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Franklin with Pastor Mike Lambert officiating.

Memorials may be made to Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter.

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

## Sandra Estella Vandevander, 76

Sandra Estella Vandevander, 76, of Franklin passed away Sept. 22, 2025, at the Pendleton Manor in Franklin.

She was born on May 18, 1949, the daughter of the late Ralph and Jenny Almira (Dahmer) Vandevander.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. today at the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at the Smith Creek Church of the Brethren with Pastor Dan Ludwig and Pastor David Morris officiating.

Interment will be at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Franklin. Memories and words of comfort may be left at [www.basagic.com](http://www.basagic.com).

## Gov. Morrisey at TME

*Continued From Page 1*

and all they’ve done. It’s so important.”

Morrisey additionally shared broader concerns. He stated that “in West Virginia, we have so much need to lift up our standard of living” and has in the past two weeks released major initiatives on energy generation and rural health that will be spotlighted in the next two weeks.

The youngest of four siblings, Morrisey shared that “I didn’t grow up with much money” and took pride in being the first from his family to graduate from college, waiting tables and working odd jobs to support himself through school.

“I set up my law firm when I got out of school and I nearly went bankrupt,” he added. “But I came out of that process stronger (and) overcame the obstacles I had from a lack of money.”

Morrisey emphasized the importance of principle as a shaper of his policies and processes. “That’s how I solve problems,” he noted. “I identify the problem, apply principles to the problem and the solution comes from there.” Principled service in office, according to Morrisey, includes being “not afraid to take on the tough challenges.”

His reason to serve, he explains as to help “to lift our people up to a better place, as opposed to someone who may not be in there for the right reasons.”

He went on to say that “I’m also a believer in listening, which is why people see me out at these public events.”

“We’re here in one of the most rural parts of West Virginia, meeting hundreds of people to listen to what’s on their mind. That’s a great day,” he commented.

## Pendleton Drought

*Continued From Page 1*

high, streams, reservoirs, or wells low, some water shortage developing or imminent.”

During the next seven days, the NWS forecasts daytime highs in the 70s and 80s for most of the county, but 60s in the highest elevations. Fortunately, the forecast calls for strong chances of rain through the end of this week.

Streamflow gauges on the South Branch River in Franklin and South Fork River in Brandywine show “normal” levels, as does the gauge on the South Branch River at Petersburg. The North Fork River gauge, east of the Grant County seat, registers that streamflow is “much below” on that river. The North Fork will soon see improved reporting with the installation of new gauges.

The NWS drought page, despite the coming of rain in the next several days, still predicts that area drought conditions will worsen and persist moving forward.

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture offered guidance to livestock producers last week, encouraging them to “take proactive steps . . . to prevent long-term damage.” To protect pasturelands, “WVDA recommends confining cattle if feeding hay and reducing grazing pressure until rainfall improves conditions.”

It goes on to state that “overgrazing during drought can weaken forage stands, making it difficult for pastures to recover.” The WVDA, however, offers “fencing from conservation district offices to help confine animals and prevent damage.” Other relief programs may be approved if conditions persist.

*New River*  
**★TRADING★**  
**1-855-440-SENG**  
**BUYING GINSENG, ROOTS AND HERBS**  
**BUYING NOW!**  
Friday: Marlinton at Pocahontas IGA - 3:30 - 5 p.m.  
Saturday: Petersburg Shop N Save - 8 - 10 a.m.  
Saturday: Elkins, intersection 33E - 250/219, across from KFC - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
**Ginseng Wet \$170 200/lb. / Dry: \$500+/lb.**  
*bigger roots = bigger prices*  

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Black Cohash</b>                        | Dry: \$6 <sup>00</sup> lb.  |
| <b>Golden Seal</b> Wet: \$10 <sup>00</sup> | Dry: \$36 <sup>00</sup> lb. |
| <b>Stone Root</b>                          | Dry: \$4 <sup>50</sup> lb.  |
| <b>Wild Yam</b>                            | Dry: \$8 <sup>00</sup> lb.  |

*plus many other herbs*  
[newrivertradingllc.com](http://newrivertradingllc.com) • 613 Hughes Street, Summersville, WV 26651  
[WVMTNMAN@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:WVMTNMAN@HOTMAIL.COM) • Find us on Facebook

**Asbury's**  
FAMILY RESTAURANT  
Germany Valley Limestone Rd., Riverton  
**Sunday Buffet**  
**September 28 • Noon - 3 p.m.**  
Roast Top Round of Beef, Chicken Curry,  
Baked Pork Chops, Caesar Salad,  
Scalloped Potatoes, Saffron Rice,  
Jalapeño Pinto Beans, Glazed Carrots,  
Rolls/Butter and Assorted Desserts **\$30<sup>00</sup>**  
**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

**“MAKE HEAVEN CROWDED”**  
**WAYSIDE YOUTH GROUP IS SPONSORING A COMMUNITY EVENT!**  
**OCTOBER 4**  
**3PM-7PM**  
**FRANKLIN RURITAN BUILDING**  
**MUSIC SNACKS GAMES**  
**CONTACT WAYSIDE CHURCH FOR ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS:**  
**(304) 358-7797**

**INDOOR YARD SALE**  
**Saturday, Sept. 27**  
**8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**Old Pope Store/D&E Home Store**  
11833 Blue Gray Trail, Brandywine  
Odds & Ends and everything in between,  
lots of mattresses, furniture, kitchen utensils,  
dolls, tools, racks, displays, shelves,  
towels, blinds, etc.

**Request for Bids**  
**The Pendleton County Commission**  
**is seeking bids for purchase and installation of security cameras in the new Annex**  
A full scope of the project can be obtained from the Pendleton County Commission Office during regular business hours, M-F, 8:30-4:30.  
Bids will be received at the office of the Pendleton County Commission until 4:00 p.m. on October 3.  
*The Pendleton County Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids.*  
**Further questions should be directed to the Commission Office at 304-358-7573.**

- Tires
- Parts
- Accessories
- Service

**Everything Automotive**  
*Bumper to Bumper Quality and Value*  
*Expert Vehicle Maintenance*  
**BOWERS GARAGE & BODY SHOP**  
Sugar Grove - 304-249-5154  
Brandywine - 304-249-5900  
**24-Hour Wrecker Service State Inspections**  
*“Serving the area for more than 45 years”*

**NOW HIRING**  
**CLASS A CDL DRIVER**  
**FOR FUEL TRANSPORT**  
**\$65,000 - \$85,000 ANNUALLY**  
**7-9 Loads per week**  
**Home every night!**  
  
**Locations in Petersburg, WV and Romney, WV**  
**No wait time to unload!**  
Salary paid by load. Benefits include: paid time off, paid holidays, uniform allowance, 401K retirement, Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance for employee and family, short term disability, and life insurance. ALL FREE to employees.  
  
**If interested, please call 304-257-4440.**  
Applications can be picked up in the main office at Petersburg Oil Company.  
**112 S. Grove St., Petersburg, WV 26847**

**BORROR SCHOOL REUNION**  
**Saturday**  
**September 27**  
**South Mill Creek Church**  
**Lunch at 12 noon.**  
*Bring a covered dish and enjoy the day.*

**MONTEREY**  
**STOCKYARD LLC.**  
*formerly Monterey Livestock Sales*  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**October 1**  
**Regular Sale ~ 2 p.m.**  
**(take up begins at 6 a.m.)**  
**HAULING IS AVAILABLE!**  
**Regular sales scheduled for first and third Wednesday each month.**  
Sale details/consignment highlights on Facebook.  
**Contact Barry Wilkins 540-607-6032**  
**Rt. 220 / 1367 Jackson River Road • Monterey, VA**



# TMF Association Announces Contest Winners

The Treasure Mountain Festival Association has released the following contest winners:

## Parade Winners

Antique Cars — Gordon Driver, first, Willard Huffman, second, and Michael Catterton, third;  
Antique Trucks — Nathan Propst, first, Conner Armstrong, second, and Terry Harper, third;  
Working Tractors — Gary Shaffer, first, Barrett Cook, second, and Seth Casto, third;  
Show Tractors — Johnny Vandevander, first, Johnny Murphy, second, and Eugene Varner, third;  
Single Horse — Damien Moats, first, and Paige Warner, second;  
Group Walking — Huffman Family, first, and Pendleton County Dixie Boys, second;  
Single Walking — Tillie Griffin, first, Ella Casto, second, and Brandon Long, third;  
Performing Group — Alumni Band, first;  
TMF Floats — Robin Cassell (pumpkins), first, Pendleton County FFA, second, and Christ Central Church, third; and  
Queens Courts — Treasure Mountain Festival Queens, first, Trout Fest Queens, second, and Ultimate Miss, third.

## Children's Games

### 50-Yard Dash

Pre-K and Kindergarten — Mason Rose, first, and Axel Kimble, second;  
First grade — Emily Rowand, first, and Rose Latif, second;  
Second grade — Titus Simon, first, and Braxton Kimble, second;  
Third grade — Benson Harper, first, and Briggs Kimble, second;  
Fourth grade — Carson Mitchell, first, and Karson Fox, second;  
Fifth grade — Luke Kimble, first, and Ella Garrett, second;  
Sixth grade — Hyrum Hartman, first, and Macie Mitchell, second;  
Seventh grade — Bentley Wimer, first, and Braxton Beachler, second; and  
Eighth grade — Paige Errington, first, and Daisy Hartman, second.

### Sack Race

Pre-K and Kindergarten — Will Marsh, first, and Luke Marsh, second;  
First grade — Sidney Hardman, first, and Arlo Brooks, second;  
Second grade — Arya Nalaren, first, and Colt Hiett, second;  
Third grade — Paige Garrett, first, and Benson Harper, second;  
Fourth grade — Carson Mitchell, first, and Nathanael Vincell, second;  
Fifth grade — Luke Kimble, first, and Ella Garrett, second;  
Sixth grade — Hyrum Hartman, first, and Macie Mitchell, second;  
Seventh grade — Bentley Wimer and Braxton Beachler, tie for first; and  
Eighth grade — Paige Errington, first, and Daisy Hartman, second.

### Three-Legged Race

7 and Under — Briggs Kimble/Elle Kimble, first, and Emily Rowand/Arya Nalaren, second; and

8 and Up — Gracelyn Mongold/Madison Mongold, first, and Luke Kimble/Nathanael Vincell, second.

## Obstacle Course

7 and Under — Braxton Kimble, first, and Arya Nalaren, second; and  
8 and Up — Braxton Beachler, first, and Luke Kimble, second.  
Softball Throw  
7 and Under — Braxton Kimble, first, and Jackson Rose, second; and  
8 and Up — Hyrum Hartman, first, and Braxton Beachler, second.

## Watermelon Seed Spitting

7 and Under — Scarlett Plaughter, first; and  
8 and Up — Braxton Beachler, second.

## Balloon Toss

7 and Under — Luke Marsh/Will Marsh, first; and  
8 & Up — Macie Mitchell/Landon Bowers, first, and Xander Plaughter/Karson Fox, second.

## Horseshoe Pitch

### Singles

Class A — Roger Johnson, first, Jerry Nelson, second, and Jerry Redman, third;  
Class B — Bud Duncan, first, Bruce Redman, second, and Scottie Tilley, third; and  
Class C — Mark Harper, first, Wyatt Redman, second, and Stacey Hudson, third.

### Doubles

Bud Duncan and Mark Shanholtz, first, Jerry Redman and Bruce Redman, second, and Leisa Breeden and Stacey Hudson, third.

## Beard and Mustache

Mustache — Royce Plaughter, first, and John Bilheimer, second;  
Trimmed Beard — Eugene Varner, first, and Mark Bagdon, second; and  
Mountain Man — Clyde Hamilton, first, Brice Smith, second, and Shane Miller, third.

## Pumpkin Weight Contest

Mallow Family — Bryce Basagic, 293 pounds, first, Sadie Armentrout, 259 pounds, second, and Tinley Basagic, 237 pounds, third.

## Pumpkin Decorating

Most Fall Like — Melissa Baird;  
Most Original — Atticus Stevens;  
Most Unique — Alex Adams;  
Cutest — Sadie Armentrout;  
Prettiest — Judy Hunt;  
Creepiest — Everett Helmick;  
Most Creative — Leyton Albertson and Zoe Boyles;  
Scariest — Zander Adams;  
Funniest — Tinley Basagic; and  
The Best (Queens Choice) — Cora Stevens.

## Period Costume Contest

Boy's Everyday Dress (6 and under) — Denver DeWitt, first, Dallas DeWitt, second, and Wade Smith, third;  
Girl's Everyday Dress (6 and under) — Avery Smith, first, Rosalee Wayne, second, and Annabelle Wayne, third;  
Girl's Everyday Dress (6-12) — Cora Alexander, first;  
Women's Sunday Dress — Frances Conrad Morgan, first;  
Modern Women's Sunday Dress — Marilyn Propst, first;  
Authentic Family — Harper Marsh, Will Marsh and Luke Marsh, first; and  
Family Everyday Dress — Avery Smith, Wade Smith and Hannah Smith.

## Turkey Calling

Senior Division — JB Smith, first, Cooper Smith, second, and Will Martin, third; and  
Junior Division — Cooper Smith, first, and Will Martin, second.

## Owl Hooting

Senior Division — JB Smith, first, Will Martin, second, and Cooper Smith, third; and  
Junior Division — Cooper Smith, first, and Will Martin, second.

## Window Display

Pill Box Pharmacy, first, Pendleton Community Bank, second, and Pendleton County Board of Education Office, third.

## Treasure Hunt Chest

\$500 — Amy and Michael Drake (donated winnings to the Boggs House Museum).

## Youth Heritage Pageant Winners

Tiny Baby Miss — Avery Smith, queen, Sylvia Neil, first runner-up, and Elsie Griffin, second runner-up;  
Baby Miss — Rosalee Wayne, queen, Clara Fleisher, first runner-up, and Willow Armentrout, second runner-up;  
Tiny Miss — Tillie Griffin, queen, Ali Kesterson, first runner-up, and Mavis Ruddell, second runner-up;  
Little Miss — Evelyn White, queen, Mia Mahoney, first runner-up, and Kinley Minor, second runner-up;  
Young Miss — Abigail Cayton, queen, Bella Hoover, first runner-up, and Leah Wheeler, second runner-up;  
Baby Boy — Dallas and Denver Dewitt, kings;  
Tiny Lad — Leo Warner, king; and  
Little Lad — Carter Mahoney, king.

# Plans for Former FES

*Continued From Page 1*

here," then showed where about two thirds of the top floor will be designated a restricted area. That area will house the office of emergency management, an emergency operations command center (based on the design of the same facility in Randolph County), the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Police and Wildlife offices, the West Virginia Department of Forestry, and the Pendleton County Sheriff's office.

One part of the facility's top floor will be set aside for coordination with HAM radio operators. Eddie Caplinger with the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department coordinates regularly with local enthusiasts to maintain a network that will be available to supplement emergency communications if needed.

Outside of the restricted zone will be a large room for press use during emergencies.

On the main floor near the main entrance will be the Pendleton County Public Service District, which will receive office space and a conference room. Nearby the former cafeteria, converted into a sanctuary complete with an ample catty-cornered stage, has been envisioned as a space that can be used for community meetings or rented out for events. Gillespie stated that it offers much more space than the current community building for such events. Three large mounted screens allow for the display of video or visual aids.

The main floor will also feature the West Virginia University Extension Service. That agency will receive space for three offices and a full classroom for activities. Remaining space not allocated to offices will be left vacant in case the county needs the space in the future.

Murray and Gillespie discussed a major project that her office could assist with, replacing large banks of single pane windows with walls and smaller windows for security and savings on climate control. Counties can apply for up to \$100,000 per year from her program, but must match 20 percent of the total grant award for an 80 to 20 split.

Gillespie also described the need to repair the roof on the north end of the building.

"Parking will obviously not be as convenient as at the community building," noted Gillespie. He shared that current capacity is at about 50 in the school's lots with more on side streets. The county will also likely pave over the basketball court to create more parking in the short term.

He subsequently stated that the community building, constructed in 1979, has started showing its age and will have increasing maintenance needs.

## Thank You For Reading The Pendleton Times

## Cunningham Place GREENHOUSE Hardy Mums Pumpkins



**Hours:** Wed. thru Fri. 9–5 • Sat. 9-3  
**CLOSED:** Sunday, Monday and Tuesday  
**304-358-2591**

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### MECHANIC

**40 HOUR WORK WEEK**

**Monday - Friday**

**Wages are based on experience**



**Location in Petersburg WV**

Wages are based on experience and are hourly. Benefits include: paid time off, paid holidays, uniform allowance, 401K retirement, Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance for employee and family, short term disability, and life insurance. ALL FREE to employees.

Job Duties include, but not limited to: changing truck tires, brakes, oil changes, and general maintenance.

**If interested, please call 304-257-4440.**

Applications can be picked up in the main office at Petersburg Oil Company.

**112 S. Grove St., Petersburg, WV 26847**

## SCHMUCKER GRADE SCHOOL REUNION

**Sunday, September 28**  
**Schmucker Grade School**  
**Lunch @ 12:30 pm**  
*Bring a covered dish.  
Everyone Welcome!*

**TOWN OF FRANKLIN**

# CASH BINGO

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 5PM**  
**GAMES BEGIN AT 6PM**  
AT THE COMMUNITY BUILDING  
IN FRANKLIN, WV

## 20 GAMES

20 games 6up pack \$25 Buy 2packs for \$40 (same person)  
Winner will take 1/2 the pot each game  
**COME EARLY TO BUY PULL TABS!!**

**EXTRA GAME 3UP \$5 EACH**  
**WINNER WILL TAKE ENTIRE POT**

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
FRANKLIN BOARD OF PARKS

# ALL Night PRAYER

## For Our Community

October 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 2025  
7PM to 7AM

Join us anytime, for 15 minutes or all night

Pendleton Community Center  
200-299 Confederate Rd.  
Franklin, WV 26807

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer" ROMANS 12:12*

**PRECISION LEGAL**  
YOUR TRUSTED INVESTIGATIVE FIRM  
WV Lic. F241106025827

**DUSTIN BOGGS**  
MANAGING MEMBER

PO Box 453 Phone: 304-890-3071  
MacArthur, WV 25873 dustin@precisionfirm.com

www.precisionfirm.com  
Licensed • Confidential • Experienced

## A SPECIAL THANKS

*We would like to thank the many loyal  
volunteers who made the TMF Games so much  
fun!*

Thanks to Jay Hartman, Chris Wilburn, Andrew Vargo, Derek Lambert, Zac Smith, Krystal Raymond, Trey Cooper, Jonathan Kimble, Stephanie Latif and Debbie Vargo.

Special thanks to the many businesses who donated money, candy and gifts for the Treasures in the Hay: T&K Markets, Pendleton Community Bank, Potomac Highland Rec. Center, Korner Shop Cafe, Brandywine Fox's Pizza, EJ Wheeler Hardware, Subway, Potomac Hardware, Burke & Herbert Bank, Orange Cat Cafe, AGK, Town of Franklin and Elizabeth Scott.

**Frisky Lambert**  
**Keely Smith, Recreation Director**

## Position Opening Food & Nutrition Team Leader Part-time

**PENDLETON  
MANOR**

Apply online at [www.pendletonmanor.org](http://www.pendletonmanor.org).  
Click CAREERS.

Pendleton Manor is an equal opportunity employer and hires qualified individuals  
without regard to race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, disability,  
ancestry, veteran/military status, or other protected classes.









## 100 YEAR CELEBRATION

### Celebrate With Us

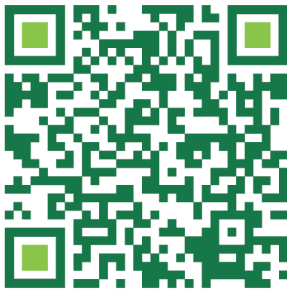
We hope you'll join us for a day full of free food, fun, and entertainment. Activities taking place from 1 pm to 5 pm will include a cruise in, bounce house, and live performances by Cameron Simmons and Spencer Wenger. Seating will be provided under the music tent, however bringing a lawn chair is also encouraged. Following the events of the day, we will be hosting a Drive-in movie night for those who wish to attend at Warner's Drive In beginning at 7 pm.

#### WHEN

October 4th, 2025,  
1pm-5pm

#### WHERE

Franklin Town Park  
344 Mill Road  
Franklin, WV 26807



Learn More Online  
[yourbank.bank](http://yourbank.bank)

## Local Residents Sightsee In Scandinavia and Iceland



*Touring Scandinavia and Iceland were, from left, Bill and Elizabeth Mitchell, Zach Propst, Donna Morgan, Lindsey Propst, Allyssa Morgan and Karen and Dwayne Propst.*

At the beginning of August, a group from Pendleton County traveled to Scandinavia and Iceland for a 13-day adventure. Karen Propst, group leader, coordinated with EF GoAhead Tours to provide an amazing experience for all.

First stop was Stockholm, Sweden. The itinerary was full of opportunities to visit local sites, such as the Vasa Museum, Drottningholm Palace, and the Royal Palace in Uppsala and to explore on one's own.

A flight took the group to Bergen, Norway, where the weather was typical, rain. Their hotel was conveniently located within walking distance of the train station and to the Harbor District. The group rode a funicular to the top of the mountain overlooking the city and also rode by train, bus, and boat to and through the fjords that had incredible scenery, experiencing the routes the Vikings took long ago.

The next flight took the travelers to the Danish capital of Copenhagen, Denmark, where they enjoyed a tour through Rosenberg Castle and visited the statue of The Little Mermaid from Hans Christian Andersen's story.

Lastly, they traveled to Reykjavik, Iceland. For the perfect ending to the trip, the tourists visited the Blue Lagoon Spa that is heated with geothermal energy from the nearby volcano.

So many memories from the places visited were made that they all couldn't be described. There was an incredible group of people on this tour.

The next trip for adults only will be in November of 2027 to the country of Thailand with an optional extension to Cambodia. Anyone interested in more information about the trip please contact Karen Propst at [propstks@yahoo.com](mailto:propstks@yahoo.com), by calling 304-358-2745 or going to Propst's information link at <https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/tomgkaren>.



**We are seeking additional housing  
for our Moorefield, WV facility**



### BROILERS

Contact  
Duke Dunkle  
304.703.7407  
[Larkin.Dunkle@pilgrims.com](mailto:Larkin.Dunkle@pilgrims.com)



Upgrade incentives and new housing incentives available.



Fuel pay incentives of \$.05/sq. ft. paid year round.

All litter amendments and bug spray paid year round.

We offer many opportunities to expand existing farms. Upgrades can be done within one year of transfer.

### BREEDERS

Contact  
Michael Mallow  
304.538.5352  
[Michael.Mallow@jbssa.com](mailto:Michael.Mallow@jbssa.com)

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

Extended term contracts and new increased building incentives are available!



208 S. Main St.  
Moorefield, WV 26836



Visit our website  
[www.pilgrims.com](http://www.pilgrims.com)



Contact us  
304.538.5356



EOE, including disability/vets



# Festival Tends To Foster Social Growth in Communities

## Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

The Treasure Mountain Festival has become deep-rooted and serves as the county's cultural event which emphasizes community, family, and heritage through music, storytelling, and food. This event which featured local organizations selling ham sandwiches, kettle beans and cornbread, pork and beef sandwiches, and pies, among other vendor foods, provided a space for elders to pass down traditions and stories, a sense of belonging, and strengthening family ties. These gatherings of shared history and connection remain central to the county.

The culture and traditions are a fundamental way to pass on to the younger generation through this annual activity. This year's music adhered to the ears of the young and old, through the genres of country and bluegrass. The elders felt connected with overhead conversations of family history and memories which connected the generations and preserved the past.

In a sense, this festival serves as a reunion which reinforces the strong sense of community and mutual reliance which indeed is a cornerstone of Pendleton County's way of life.

Perhaps this year's parade goes down in the annals of history books. Lasting about 1 hour, the determined, stoic parade persons withstood the thunder storm which included hail and torrential rains. Nothing short of several inches, it is interesting to note that Sugar Grove received nary a drop.

Needless to say, another Treasure Mountain Festival goes down into the history books to be preserved for future conversations.

Life's little instructions include the following:

1. Turn off the television and technology devices and talk.
2. Encourage an older person.
3. Smile. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more.
4. Speak kindly to a stranger.
5. Express appreciation.

Trees that are safely tucked in these mountains are heeding the call of color changes. This call has been running like

a scalded dog, with muted colors beginning with hope of the maples doing their chorus line of scarlet and gold along the county scenery. Soon the leaf peepers will be motoring to witness this seasonal process.

Quotes for the week are as follows:

"I alone cannot change the world. But I can cast the stone across the waters to create many ripples." — Mother Teresa  
"Never answer an anonymous letter." — Yogi Berra  
"Onion rings are just vegetable donuts." — Cookie Monster  
"To sing like a hillbilly, you had to have lived like a hillbilly. You had to have smelled a lot of mule manure." — Hank Williams

"An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind." — Mahatma Gandhi

Sitting under an umbrella is the best place to be when hearing the "Talk of the Grove."

Bob and Marti Fisher of Romney were Friday visitors in the home of Willard and Judy Rader. They also enjoyed stopping at the Treasure Mountain Festival.

Rose Smith motored from Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania, to spend the weekend with Phil Downs.

Enjoying the Friday night Darren and Vincent concert at the Waynesboro Theater were Evelyn Varner, Rose Brackman, and Judy Costello. Judy and Sonny Brooks spent the weekend with Evelyn.

A big "shout out" to Steve Stump for his beautiful yard work. His mums, pumpkins and other floral arrangements bring happiness to the motorist as they drive by.

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

The sport of football (soccer) originated in England in the 19th century and is now one of the most popular sports in the world.

Singapore, Michigan, is a ghost town on the shores of Lake Michigan that was buried under sand in 1871.

On Oct. 14, 1947, Air Force test pilot Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager from West Virginia completed the first successful attempt to break the sound barrier.

The human body's largest organ, the skin, weighs about 8 pounds.

The unique blooded pitohui of Papua, New Guinea, is the

world's only poisonous bird.

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

Concerns are for Mike Adams, Charles Anderson, Joan Ashley, Roger Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Dave Basagic, Allen Beachler, "Bo" Boggs, Larry Byers, Joyce Calhoun, Christy Sole, Marie Cole, Austin Conn, Stanley Dahmer, Kim Davis, 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, Edsel and Mary Ann Hogan, Julia Homan, the family of Bill Hoover, Delbert Olin Hoover, Keith Hoover, Debbie Horst, Bob and Cynthia Hurry, Mike and Lisa Jamison, Linda Jones, Richard Judy, Marsh 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, the Neil McLaughlin family, Rose Miller, Bruce Minor, Dottie Mitchell, Tom and Brandon Mitchell, the family of Thomas "Harvey" Jerry Mitchell, Barbara Moats, Gloria Moats, Jim Moats, Helen Nash, Aaron Nelson, Dwight Nelson, Ruth Nelson, Cheryle Paine, Terri Parker, Andy Pond, Wayne Price, Janice Propst, Alda Propst, Mike Propst, Sheldon Propst, Eldon "Butch" Puffenbarger, Tom Rader, Willard Rader, Brandon Reel, Jason Rexrode, Jimmy Rexrode, Kevin Rexrode, Linda Fay Rexrode, Bernie Sasscer, Annie Simmons, Erin Simmons, Eva Simmons, Greg Simmons, Judy Simmons, Nelson Simmons, Tonya Simon, Robbie Sites, Mike Skiles, Ed and Carolyn Smith, Natalie Stephenson, Tina Stuben, Steve Stump, Carolyn Thomas, Linda and Larry Vandevander, Sandra Vandevander, Amy Vaus, Estelle and Don Wagner, Mary Louise Waldschlager, Mike Waybright, Rene White, Sherry Wilfong, Judy Williams and Ann and Ed Wimer.

# Pendleton County Schools Joins Effort to Fill C. A. N. Coffers

By Stephen Smoot

"Bless the nation," prayed J.D. Wilkins, Pendleton County Board of Education president, in the customary opening invocation, "bless the people of this nation."

One of the most important messages shared in last week's Pendleton County Board of Education meeting came near the close. Nicole Hevener, superintendent, shared that the Franklin-based Christian Assistance Network has run low on stocks of food and supplies for struggling households in Pendleton County.

Hevener stated that the school system would step up and promote more donations to C. A. N., who rents a building beside Pendleton County Middle/High School to store and distribute goods. She encouraged others to support their efforts as well.

At the opening of the meeting, Hevener shared that J. P. Mowery, treasurer, had received an invitation to edify the West Virginia State Board of Education with a finances-based presentation. She praised his "depth of knowledge" and added, "It's a great thing that we have him here."

The board then heard the names of students earning accolades at PCM/HS. Breena Bowers earned September Student of the Month and Vivian Pownell the James Huffman Award. Bowers excelled in SAT testing and serves as class vice president. Pownell has been active with Future Farmers of America and also, through the Grow Your Own program at Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College, has already started her academic journey to service as a Pendleton County teacher.

Wilkins offered, "Congratulations to both of them."

Next, Mowery provided the financial update, which included some official year end totals from the 2025 fiscal year that ended on June 30. Total revenues for the year hit \$18,745,989 with just under \$4 million coming from property taxes. Total spending

reached almost \$15.7 million with \$1.8 million going to transportation. Mowery shared that "we have a large county" and told how that resulted in the sizable cost. Additionally, almost \$1.7 million went into facilities maintenance.

Much of the rest goes to payroll (which came in at just under \$10 million), nutrition, and other big ticket items in public education.

Mowery noted that the balance at the end of the fiscal year "ended up on target" and that the system needs to "make sure that we maintain" the healthy cash balance through fiscal year 2026, the current one. Last year, he explained, "We held our own and even increased a little bit."

As Mowery has stated in a number of meetings during the years, the threat to PCS financial security lies not in a single large problem, but the threat of death by a thousand cuts. Secure Rural Schools funding from a federal program that compensates school districts for lands owned in district by the United States Forest Service still has an unsure future.

The 1,400 formula that subsidizes sparsely populated counties could adjust to the disadvantage of Pendleton County Schools. Pocahontas County may have to report a student population dip of 50. Mowery shared that "now they may be smaller than us, which may be the first time ever."

Though Pendleton County is "holding steady at about 850," the complex funding formula could shift and lessen funds received from that program. Neither program cut would have a decisive impact on its own, but when added to other declines in funding and grant opportunities, it could hit the county schools budget going forward in adverse ways.

Mowery shared that he continues to communicate with key members of the West Virginia State Legislature about the 1,400 floor that remains vital to the finances of several counties. In partial explanation of how it works, it provides funding to fill the gap

between the actual number of students and what the system would receive if it had 1,400.

Funding is based in comparisons of the relative student populations between counties, not a fixed and objective number.

Mowery provided examples of where the spending went during the fiscal year. The report included a little more than \$118,000 for bus repairs, but the state will reimburse PCS for 95 percent of that. Galliker Dairy charged a little more than \$75,000 for dairy products, mostly milk. Fuel from Southern States in Moorefield came to approximately \$200,000 and liability insurance from the West Virginia Board of Risk came to about \$154,000. Mowery shared that had increased sharply from approximately \$60,000 not long ago.

Mowery shared last month that PCS received one of the best quotes from that entity due to an exemplary safety record.

Payments to the Public Employees Insurance Agency, PEIA, reached more than \$1.7 million as well.

In the treasurer's report, which focuses on short term financial information, Mowery shared the current cash-on-hand balance as \$2,748,261.25 as of Aug. 31. He explained that August and September typically see healthy inflows of revenue as property tax payments add up close to their due date.

In the month of August, PCS earned \$9,781.62 in interest off of 4.43 percent; the

fiscal year to date number was \$19,689.23. Mowery remembered that "back when we had no money, that was a full year of interest."

Travis Heavner presented the facilities update, which kicked off with him discussing a "needs grant" application submitted the previous Friday with the assistance of Thrasher. He shared that the Pendleton County Middle/High School roof required repairs, along with the HVAC at Brandywine Elementary School and other needs.

That said, the air conditioning system at Franklin Elementary School is "back up and running," as is the unit at PCM/HS, "but not at full steam." Also, repairs to the Harold Michael Building at North Fork Elementary School have neared completion.

Discussion then focused on the West Virginia Balanced Scorecard results from last year, released last week statewide. Pendleton County fared well and details will be shared elsewhere in this week's edition.

In the superintendent's report, Hevener stated that she joined service personnel for an appreciation luncheon on the day set aside by the state for recognition of their hard work. "That was a lot of fun," she said. "We really appreciate our service personnel."

Next meeting will take place at 6 p.m. on Oct. 7 at Brandywine Elementary School. Board members and the superintendent will also hear a presentation from the BES Local School Improvement Council.

## HUGE COLLECTIBLE AND VINTAGE AUCTION

**Saturday, September 27, 2025 at 9:00 AM**  
**15664 South Ford Road Moorefield, WV 26836**

**Keep Checking Auctionzip ID# 39421 for Updated Photos! There is lots pictured that is not listed in the Sale Bill!!**

**Directions:** From Moorefield: Turn onto South Fork Road. Continue on South Fork Rd for 15 miles and sale will be on the left at Burgess' Farm. From Franklin and Brandywine: Take route 33 to Oak Flat. Turn onto South Fork Road. Follow for 15 miles north sale will be of the right and Burgess' Farm. Watch for signs!

**Housewares:** Commercial Star Manufacturing Popcorn Popper with accessories. U.S Berkel Store scales. Victorian Lamps, lots of miscellaneous lamps, Melmac services sets, Clarksburg WV restaurant service china. Miscellaneous plates and cups some are china. Coffee Pots. Numerous salt and pepper shakers, Vintage store jars, Ceramic and class dishes and figurines. Cardboard vintage Christmas, Christmas trees, Christmas bulbs and lights. Canning Jars, Glass jugs, Rocking Horse. Vacuum cleaners.

**Lawn and Garden:** Long handled tools such as rakes and shovels, picks, rock rakes, fire rakes, garden hoes, snow shovels. Wooden Ladders. Weedeaters, fertilizer spreaders. Child bicycles.

**Advertising Items:** Beer signs, Pepsi Cola advertising. Work Mate Tobacco thermometer. as well as promotional store advertisement from Dr Pepper, Cow Tales, Slimjims and many others.

**Furniture:** There is a large assortment of furniture including, but not limited to; Kitchen tables and chairs, Living room sets, recliners and rockers. Whicker table and chairs and end stands. Lane Cedar cushion top blanket chest. Lots of end table as well as coffee table and end table sets. Treble pedal Singer sewing machines, Nice OLD solid wood corner cabinet. Miscellaneous ladder back and rope back chairs. Iron Beds, Chest of Drawers. Entertainment Centers, Miscellaneous Shelving, and cabinets. Replacement doors. Tabletop electric organ, Prayer chair. Magazine racks, all sizes of mirrors, old pictures, and vintage frames.

There is also a 7'6" Boss snowplow that with mounting brackets for 1990s model Ford F250 and F350s. As well as a 7' 3pt rear scraper blade. Check auction zip for details on automobiles to be added.

**Auctioneers Note:** This is a lifetime collection with connection to H&J Market Brandywine, WV. Pictures will be listed up until day of sale.

**Terms:** ID needed for bidder number, cash or good check with proper ID. Nothing to be removed until paid for on the day of auction. All items sold as is. Not responsible for accidents. Anything announced on sale day takes precedence over what is written.

Refreshment available.

Consigners: Juanita Scott  
Carl Burgess

Auctioneer: Col. Tyler Bradfield WV#2147  
Charles "Dick" Rigglesman WV#308

**Bradfield Auctions, LLC**

5361 US Highway 220N Old Fields WV 26845 Phone: 304-490-9650  
Licensed and Bonded in the States of Virginia and West Virginia.

## Cold Weather Is Coming!

# HARMAN™

BUILT TO A STANDARD. NOT A PRICE

## We Can Get You Ready for Winter!



**We sell the #1 Pellet - Hamer's Hot Ones**

**•DELIVERY •INSTALLATION •SERVICE**

# EJ Wheeler Hardware

**•Best Products •Best Service •Best Prices**

Main St., Franklin — 304-358-2303

Mon-Fri 7-5 • Sat 7-3:30

www.bowmans.doitbest.com

**Do it Best**



# Pendletonians Tour Five European Countries



Traveling to see the sights of Europe were, from left, Ethan Hawk, Kathie Heavner, Tricia Hawk, Logan Hawk, Gracie Lough, Charles Cook, Susan Bennett, Jax Bennett, Vanessa Harper, Carol Babash Mongold, Mona Childs, Alexee Mongold, Olivia Gonshor, Mason Warner, Michelle Gonshor, Elizabeth Gonshor, Henry Warner, Lisa Jamison, Rebecca Lough, Allden Rexrode, Lesley Cook, Krystal Raymond, Jennifer Cook, Kevin Raymond, Lydia Heavner, Sandra Simmons, Vaylee Harper, Katie Heavner, Joeann Moyers, Janice Heavner, and Liz Rollins.

In July, a group of 31 from Pendleton County traveled to Europe to see five countries in 12 days, including Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein, and France. The group, led by Liz Rollins with Janice Heavner, Lesley Cook, and Jennifer Cook as chaperones, included 11 present students or recent graduates of Pendleton County High School and 20 adults. The tour was offered through Education First Tours, an organization that has been providing travel opportunities to students for more than 50 years and specifically to students in Pendleton County for at least 30 years.

Sandra Simmons, retired teacher, touring with her mother, Joeann Moyers, said, "The trip to Europe was wonderful! Even though it was geared towards students, it was still very educational for adults in the group as well. As a seasoned traveler, I appreciated how organized all aspects of the journey were." Simmons journaled the entire trip and made a beautiful photo journal upon return, that she happily shows to others on request.

The tour began in Vienna, Austria, with a highlight Schonbrunn Palace and an evening of classical music. During the next several days the group crisscrossed the Austrian, German, and Swiss borders seeing such highlights as The Sound of Music Tour in Salzburg, Hofbräuhaus and Marienplatz in Munich, and Dachau Concentration Camp.

Moving to the glorious Alps the group visited the famous Neuschwanstein Castle and Linderhof Palace in Germany and Lake

Lucerne, Chapel Bridge, Mount Rigi, and an entertaining Swiss Cultural Performance in Switzerland. Thanks to an ambitious and knowledgeable tour guide, Benedikt, and a beloved driver, Krzysztof, the group had an unplanned stop adding a country to the itinerary. The stop was in the medieval town of Colmar, France, often called the Venice of France due to its picturesque canals. The group completed the tour by way of Germany seeing Heidelberg Castle and wine barrel, a Rhine River cruise in Koblenz, the Haribo gummy bear store in Bonn, a Holocaust Museum, and finally the gothic masterpiece of Cologne Cathedral before flying home from Frankfurt.

Some of the travelers had never flown on a plane before and the trek to Europe was their first major travel experience. One such travel newbie, was Allden Rexrode of Sugar Grove, a 19-year-old recent graduate from PCMHS and now employed by Owens HVAC. He had received the trip as a graduation gift from family. Not knowing what to expect, Rexrode was initially reluctant to go but returned raving about the experience. "My favorite part of the trip was seeing all the castles and how much detail they put into everything. It was a great experience," said Rexrode, who is clearly bitten by the travel bug and trying to work out joining the planned 2027 tour to Scotland and Ireland.

Those interested in future travel can get more information via the following link, [www.eftours.com/2888628PW](http://www.eftours.com/2888628PW), or contacting the group leader at [elizabeth.rollins@k12.wv.us](mailto:elizabeth.rollins@k12.wv.us).



Commissioners welcomed those honoring National Recovery Month.

## National Recovery Month' Recognized by Pendleton County Commission Proclamation

By Stephen Smoot

The prayer to open the Pendleton County Commission shared by Roger Dahmer, commissioner, asked the Lord to help "us as a country and as a people" overcome the rise of discord nationwide.

Emergency management work occupied the beginning and the end of the meeting. Bruce Minor came to the county commission in his capacity with the Pendleton County Office of Emergency Management and as chair of the Local Emergency Planning Committee. He stated that the LEPC needed to adjust its bylaws and that the law requires consultation with the county commission.

Minor also shared that "the new emergency operations plan adds amendments for avian flu and points of distribution." The LEPC meets quarterly to discuss emergency management issues and to plan for potential threats.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Minor went over the bylaws and other elements of LEPC work with the three commissioners.

Karen Pitsenbarger reported on progress with courthouse annex construction, reporting that "everything's going on smoothly." Commissioners approved a draw of \$256,546.06 to cover the recent construction costs.

Next, commissioners welcomed a large group who gathered on this day to hear the Pendleton County Commission approve the National Recovery Month proclamation. Eight came from different agencies to hear the official reading and approval of the document.

Erin Gaertner represented Jobs and Hope, a state organization linking those in recovery to training and gainful employment. "I just wanted to thank everybody," she said, adding "you all have a great group here."

Dahmer read off the proclamation that emphasized "the importance of recovery in the community" and recognized the many entities whose work comes together to roll back the drug crisis affecting the state. The proclamation also "applaud (s) businesses . . . that provide second chance employment."

After the reading, Roger Dodd from Potomac Highlands Guild shared that his organization now has a mobile outreach program. It uses vans to go to remote areas and help residents access mental health care.

Next, a representative from the Pendleton County Health Department came to touch base on a discussion held months prior. The health department wished to expand the subdivision plot from two to five acres. It has

noted that in too many instances, two-acre plots ended up in areas where "they may not be able to put a house or a sewer system" because of "the way the land lays."

Commissioners had not opposed the move at the time, but the health department had to observe legal guidelines when introducing the change. After hearing their request for approval, commissioners did so.

A second request was made for a vehicle for use of the health department for field work. Currently, officials must use their personal vehicles as they travel around the county. Sometimes they have to take their vehicles into difficult to access areas and also endure regular wear and tear. It was stated that they were more than willing to accept an older vehicle that had aged out of service for another county agency if one were available.

Additionally, the official shared that the health department has two trailers that require a truck to pull. The office of emergency management has assisted with that in the past, but having their own truck would prevent the need to ask. In the past, officials have used personal vehicles to pull the trailers, but the question of legality and liability halted the practice.


Two other visitors came to inquire about county needs. Shelley Murray, executive director for the West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Authority and Jennifer Peasey, a field representative from the office of United States Senator Shelley Moore Capito, both arrived together.

Murray discussed how the county could benefit from applying for one of the annual grants from her organization, but warned that the deadline would be Friday. She said, however, that she would remain available to provide support "to help you guys meet that deadline." Murray also confirmed that a grant could be used for renovation on the newly purchased former Franklin Elementary School building.

Later, Gillespie took Murray and Peasey to that building for a tour and to share the county's plans for it already crafted by Thrasher.

Mike Alt and Gillespie then shared concerns about the buildup of debris in the South Branch and other area rivers, noting that the entire region faced different threats from the lack of river maintenance permitted. Annie Humes, representing the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau, shared that she had brought up the matter with the Mon Forest Towns group currently working with the United States Forest Service.

## Healthy Saturday



### October 4

6:00 am – 9:00 am


GRANT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION

- Limited to **200** people.
- **Appointment Only** ~ Please contact Julie Kesner at 304-257-5806 by October 2, 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**



## Flu & COVID-19 Drive-Thru Vaccination Clinics


**PENDLETON Community Care, Inc.**


**Date:** Friday, October 3, 2025  
**Location:** Pendleton Community Building, Franklin WV  
**Time:** 9am - 4pm

**Date:** Tuesday, October 7, 2025  
**Location:** North Fork Primary Care, Riverton WV  
**Time:** 4pm-6:30pm

**Date:** Thursday, October 9, 2025  
**Location:** Harman Health Center, Harman WV  
**Time:** 4pm-6:30pm

**Pre-Register at**  
<https://phreesia.me/PCCDriveThruClinic>





## We offer DOT PHYSICALS

### at the Bensenhaver Clinic



## 100 Hospital Drive, Suite 1 Petersburg, WV 26847 304-257-1944

GRANT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

## Suicide Prevention Month

**If you or a loved one are experiencing suicidal thoughts**

- Call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.
- Call the Potomac Highlands Guild Crisis Hotline at 1-800-545-4357.
- Chat with the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at <https://988lifeline.org/chat>.
- Call 911.
- Go to the nearest emergency department.

\*No patient denied services because of inability to pay!

**PENDLETON Community Care, Inc.**

Franklin (304)358-2355 • Riverton (304)567-2101  
Harman (304)227-4134  
[www.pccnfc.org](http://www.pccnfc.org)



**Suicide Prevention Month**



# Treasure Mountain Festival 2025



*Injured or Sick - But Not an Emergency?*

# RAPID CARE

**Same-day care. No appointment needed.**

**WVU Medicine Rapid Care** at the **Elkins Corridor Medical Center** offers walk-in treatment for minor illnesses and injuries — including on-site lab and imaging services, vaccinations, and sports physicals.

**We Treat:**

- + Cough/Cold
- + Diarrhea
- + Ear Infections
- + Fever
- + Minor Burns
- + Fractures and Sprains
- + Vomiting

 **WVU Medicine**  
UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER



**EVERY DAY**  
**8 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas

Conveniently located off Corridor H • 1013 N. Randolph Avenue • Elkins, WV 26241 • [elkinscorridorwv.com](http://elkinscorridorwv.com)





Clara Raines launches a serve against Tygarts Valley.

# Wildcats Tame Bulldogs in Volleyball Action in Franklin

By Stephen Smoot

Tygarts Valley brought their squad from across the mountain to challenge Pendleton County and got bulldogged by a Wildcat team gaining experience and confidence. The visitors opened service in the initial set, but the Wildcats took the score and the serve immediately. Chesnee Colaw served first for the home team, firing an ace to the back line for a 2-0 advantage. Shortly after the opening of the game and up 3-2, Pendleton County took the serve. Breena Bowers stepped in and fired an ace off the hands of a back line defender. Emily Poling then corralled a shot, popped it up to Phoebe Pownell, who then set Poling back up for a scoring play against the Bulldogs. Four serves later, with Bowers still in service, Pendleton County rattled off six straight aces. When Tygarts Valley could return it, the Wildcats stingy defense shut down all attempts at scoring. Down 14-2, the Bulldogs fired back a return. Colaw passed it to Pownell, who then set up Brynlynn Waggy for a spike to the middle and a 15-2 lead. On the very next play, Poling put the ball up for Pownall, who popped up a nice set for Colbie Wimer to deliver a spike. Pendleton County dominated the first set 25-2. The second set opened with the service of Alyssa Bennett. The Bulldog return arced to Wimer who got the ball to Pownell. She set up Laney Bowers for a hard spike and the first score of the set. Not long after, the Wildcats built up an 8-2 lead. Tygarts Valley scored three of the next seven to close the score to 12-5. Clara Raines took the serve and promptly gave her team an ace and its 13th point. On her next serve, the Bulldogs put back a return. Raines herself gathered the ball and put the

ball in the air for Callie Judy. Judy lofted a ball for Waggy who drove a spike into the middle of the defense. Raines then put three consecutive aces across, the second finding nothing but floor. By the time the Bulldogs got the serve back, the Wildcats had pushed the lead to 17-6. Bennett got the serve with her team up 21-7 and scored an ace with her first of the series. Next, a volley went to Tia Heavner who tapped the ball to the middle and scored. Another ace and a sure shot by Laney Bowers closed out the set with another win, 25-7. By set number three, Tygarts Valley had started to put their game together. As they battled to extend the game, they beat themselves less often and returned shots more capably. Pendleton County, as they had in the previous sets, took the early lead. Down 3-1, however, the Bulldogs started to bite. They took advantage of a few Wildcat miscues and also scored on their own improved play. An ace from the visitors put them up 4-3. Pendleton County knotted it back up when Breena Bowers set up Wimer for a big spike. On the very next serve, Tygarts Valley blocked a spike. Breena Bowers hustled almost all the way across the court to extend the volley, sending it back across for no return and a 5-4 Wildcat advantage. The Bulldogs took the lead one more time at 7-6 before relinquishing it permanently. Judy put an ace across to regain the lead 8-7. She sent two more serves across for aces and a 10-7 lead. A six to two run extended the lead to 16-9. Colaw helped to close out the set and the game with five of the final six serves resulting in aces and a final set three score of 25-11. The Wildcats will host Pocahontas today and Tucker County on Tuesday.

# Pendleton County Golf Secures Top Spot Among Class A Teams in PVC Tournament

By Stephen Smoot

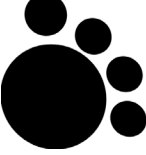

The Pendleton County varsity golf squad has steadily continued its journey in recent years. Dedicated coaches and parents, a top flight facility, and the sheer love of the game have helped to build the foundation for success individually and collectively. This year's Potomac Valley Conference Tournament, held at Pendleton County's own Fisher Mountain, saw the Wildcats surge into dominance. "The key to golf is consistency," shared Mike Eye. Pendleton County head coach, who added "we've been consistent all season." Eye explained that most smaller school squads rely on one or two key performers to buoy team scores, but that "we consistently had at least four players at each match who really performed well." "There's something to be said for having a middle school program," noted Eye. He explained that one can easily identify the schools that have a middle school option from those that do not. Schools with a team for sixth through eighth graders have high school players who mastered fundamentals of play and are ahead of those who lacked that opportunity or experience. "We reap the benefit of that," said Eye, who then explained that after three or four years of competition "they start to really hit their stride and play well." An interesting twist at the PVCs saw Petersburg joining the competition. The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission had moved Petersburg to Class AA



Two Wildcat golfers, Landon Davis, left, and Dylan Eye, earned spots on the All PVC team.

this year for all sports, including golf. Because golf is the sport of Kings and gentlemen, the PVCs allowed Petersburg the option to compete with the Class A teams this season. Petersburg took the title with a score of 337, or 53 over par. Pendleton County came in second with 374 and scoring 90 over par. The Bulldogs of Tygarts Valley came close to the Wildcats with a 379 and 95 over par. Tucker County, East Hardy, and Union rounded out the field. "Petersburg had the option to stick around and play in our PVCs and not their new Class AA division. We came in second behind them," Eye said. From tournament results, the top six earn recognition as All Potomac Valley Conference. The top two placers, four to

tal, came from the Viking team. Pendleton County's Dylan Eye placed third with an 87, 16 over par. Landon Davis also made the all PVC team with a 20 over par and a 91 overall. Coach Eye shares credit for the team's success with some of its most dedicated supporters. "I can't say enough about what Fisher Mountain has done for us. I'm so grateful." He added that they allow players to use the holes and driving ranges for practice. "There's no place like it. We're very fortunate," he said. Looking ahead, the team has more regular season tournaments leading up to regional and state postseason play. Regionals take place on Oct. 6 on 18 holes at Canaan Valley Those who advance from that will compete in Wheeling on Oct. 14 and 15.

| PENDLETON COUNTY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL  |  |  |   |  |   | October  |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   |
|  | HS - High School<br>MS - Middle School   | Pendleton County Schools<br>is an Equal<br>Opportunity Provider  | <b>1</b> MS Football<br>Moorefield<br>6:30 (H)<br>Travel Club<br>in Library 6:00  | <b>2</b> HS Volleyball<br>Tri Match<br>5:00 @Moorefield<br>MS Volleyball<br>Petersburg 6:00 (H)  | <b>3</b><br><br>HS Football<br>Tucker County<br>7:00 (A)  | <b>4</b><br><br>HS/MS<br>Cross Country<br>@ Keyser<br>10:00/1:00   |
| <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b> HS Golf Regionals<br>Canaan Valley 10:00<br>JV Football<br>Hampshire 6:00 (H)<br>MS Volleyball<br>East Hardy 6:00 (H) | <b>7</b> HS Volleyball<br>Petersburg 6:00 (H)<br>MS Volleyball<br>Tygarts Valley 6:00 (A)<br>HS JV Football<br>Bath County TBD (H) | <b>8</b> HS Cross Country<br>@ Tucker Co. 5:00<br>MS Football<br>Tygarts Valley<br>6:30 (A)                                   | <b>9</b> HS Volleyball<br>Tucker County<br>6:00 (A)<br>MS Volleyball<br>Capon Bridge<br>6:00 (H) | <b>10</b> HS Football<br>Bath County<br>7:00 (A)<br><br><b>EARLY RELEASE</b>  | <b>11</b>  |
| <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b> MS Volleyball<br>Romney 5:00 (A)<br>HS Volleyball<br>Highland 4:30 (A)<br><b>NO SCHOOL<br/>FOR STUDENTS</b>          | <b>14</b> HS Volleyball (H)<br>East Hardy 6:00<br>HS Cross Country<br>4:00 @Frankfort<br>MS Volleyball<br>Moorefield 6:00 (A)      | <b>15</b> MS Football<br>Capon Bridge<br>6:30 (H)<br><b>Parent/Teacher<br/>Conferences</b><br><b>Report Card Distribution</b> | <b>16</b><br>MS/HS Volleyball<br>Paw Paw<br>TBD/6:00 (A)   | <b>17</b> Pork Tenderloin<br>Meal 4:00 - 7:00<br>By Sophomore Class<br>HS Football<br>Pocahontas County<br>7:00 (A) | <b>18</b> HS Volleyball<br>PVC<br>Championship 9:00<br>HS Cheerleading<br>Petersburg 1:00<br>PVC Championship<br>D2 5:00 |
| <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b><br><br>HS JV Football<br>Tucker County<br>6:00 (A)   | <b>21</b><br><br>HS Volleyball<br>Tygarts Valley<br>6:00 (A)   | <b>22</b> MS Volleyball<br>Mountaineer<br>6:00 (A)<br>MS Football<br>Petersburg 6:30 (A)                                      | <b>23</b> HS Volleyball<br>Elkins<br>6:00 (A)<br>HS Football<br>Mountain View<br>7:00 (H)        | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b><br><br>HS<br>Cross Country<br>@ Braxton County<br>TBA  |
| <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b><br><br>HS JV Football<br>Keyser<br>6:00 (A)  | <b>28</b> HS Volleyball<br>East Hardy<br>6:00 (A)<br>MS Volleyball<br>Petersburg 6:00 (H)  | <b>29</b><br><br>MS Football<br>Tucker Valley<br>6:30 (A)   | <b>30</b><br><br>MS Volleyball<br>East Hardy<br>6:00 (A)   | <b>31</b><br><br>HS Football<br>Moorefield<br>7:00 (A)  |                                     |



**304.358.2311**  
*Your bank for generations...*  
Member FDIC

Schedules are subject to change.  
Please call the school at 304-358-2573 to confirm events.

Proud Supporter of  
Education and Our Community!



**WILDCATS**  
PENDLETON COUNTY







# CLASSIFIEDS

Buy, Sell or Trade! Place Your Ad Today.

## CLASSIFIED BUSINESS DIRECTORY

### AUTOMOTIVE

**Aumann's**  
Custom Auto

- Custom Paint Mixing
- Complete Body Work
- Frame Straightening
- Insurance Work

Accepted



OPEN Monday - Friday 8-5

358-7758

53 Mill Road ~ Franklin

### CLEANING

**J&L's RECONDITIONING**

- Detail Vehicles
- Steam Clean Carpets & Furniture
- Contract Cleaning

Joyce Moates, owner

304-249-5480

BBB Accredited

### CONTRACTORS

**JERRY L. LAMBERT**  
Construction, LLC

- Stick Built Homes
- Additions & Garages
- Decks
- Remodeling & Repairs
- Replacement Windows

1-304-358-2500

WV 027848

### HEATING/COOLING

**OWENS**  
HEATING, COOLING & SERVICES  
WV051083

**Josh Owens, owner**  
Brandywine, WV

**Heil Dealer**  
Service & Installation  
Heat Pumps, Oil & Propane  
Furnaces & Commercial Refrigeration Units

304.249.5420 304.668.9616

**Mountain Air**  
Heating & Cooling L.L.C.

Franklin

- Installations
- Custom Duct Work
- Service on All Brands

Trane, Carrier & Heil

Serving the area for more than 30 years

Here Today and Here To Stay

Tyler Scheibner

304-668-9296

License # WV 062818

### ELECTRICAL

**MALLOW ELECTRIC, LLC**

- Residential
- Commercial
- Standby Generators

304-668-9885

304-358-7515

Brandon Mallow

Licensed and Insured WV057572

### FUEL

**PROPANE PROMISE.**

- Automatic Fill Plan
- Budget Payment Plan
- Small Tanks Filled
- Heating Systems - Sales

(304) 358-2307

Service Heatline

1-800-287-3494

**MATHESON VALLEY**  
ask. . .The Gas Professionals™

1256 Mountaineer Dr.  
Franklin, WV

### STORAGE SPACE

**FOX DEN** MINI STORAGE LLC

Storage Units  
5x10, 10x10, 10x15, 10x20

24-Hour Accessibility

Call 304-358-3514

6.7 MILES SOUTH OF BRANDYWINE  
ON ROUTE 21 IN SUGAR GROVE, WV

just south of Navy Base

**Storage Spaces**  
Available Now  
Spaces for Vehicles  
Also Available

Call Julie VanMeter at 304-358-7492 (after 6 o'clock)

Very Reasonable Prices

**E-ZEE SELF STORAGE**  
Glover Dr. - Franklin

304-358-3651

Inside Units  
7x10  
10x20

**TNT SELF STORAGE**  
Upper Tract

304-257-1421 or 304-703-3054

NEW SELF STORAGE UNITS  
5X10 • 10X10  
10X20

### FOR SALE

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

### LIVESTOCK

50 HEAD OF cross-bred ewes. Call 304-567-5720. 1c

### FOR RENT

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

### WANTED

**LOOKING FOR** hunting land to lease in or around Pendleton County. 540-830-2812. 8-28-10c  
\* PAINTING \* 35 years experience: Houses, Barns, Roofs, Churches, Outbuildings, Poultry House Roofs, Log Homes, etc. Call Ronnie Kimble, 358-7208 WV03545. 2/6-11/6p

### YARD SALES

**OLD FARM** House yard sale, Saturday and Sunday, September 27 and 28, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 986 Ravenswood Lane, Franklin. 1p

### CLOSING NOTICE

**F A I T H F U L** FRIENDS Animal Clinic will be closed Saturday, October 4. Greg Bowers, Sarah Bowers, DVM. 9-25-2c

### LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

**SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS' SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE**

By virtue of the authority vested in the undersigned Special Commissioners, namely, Duke A. McDaniel and Nathan H. Walters, by virtue of that certain Initial Hearing Order, entered within Grant County, West Virginia Civil Action No. 25-C-12, by the Honorable James W. Courrier, Jr., Grant County Circuit Court Judge, and styled as Clint W. Nesslerodt, Plaintiff v. Daniel J. Nesslerodt, Wade T. Nesslerodt, and Julie

Vandevander, Defendants. Your undersigned Special Commissioners will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder(s) at the backdoor of the Grant County Courthouse, located at 5 Highland Avenue, Petersburg, West Virginia 26847, on

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025 AT 12-----NOON**

*the following described tract or parcel of real estate:*

All those two (2) certain contiguous tracts or parcels of real estate containing **31.00 acres**, more or less, and **82.60 acres**, more or less, with the aggregate thereof being 113.60 acres, more or less, lying and being situate in the **Union District, of Grant County, West Virginia**, and designated as Parcel 3.4 & 3.7 on Tax Map 406 of the Union District, Grant County, West Virginia Assessment records.

**Tract 1:** All that certain tract or parcel of real estate containing **31.00 acres**, more or less, and designated as **Tract "B,"** together with any and all rights, rights-of-way, structures, minerals, easements, improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, located about 1000' east of Jordan Run Road (West Virginia Secondary Route 4), and about 5½ miles north of West Virginia Secondary Route 4 and 28, lying and being situate in Union District, Grant County, West Virginia, and being more particularly described by that certain Description of Survey and Plat of Survey of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Grant County, West Virginia in Deed Book 214, at Page 439, and 440, respectively.

**Tract 2:** All that certain tract or parcel of real estate containing **82.60 acres**, more or less, and designated as **Tract "1"** together with any and all rights, strictures, structures, minerals, easements, improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, located about 1700.00' east of Jordan Run Road (West Virginia Secondary Route 4), against the west side of New Creek Mountain and 7.8 miles south of West Virginia State Route 42, and being situate in Union District, Grant County, West Virginia, and being more particularly described by that certain Description of Survey and Plat of Survey of record in the Office of the

## Waterfall Trail Tops 125,000 Check-Ins

The West Virginia Department of Tourism has announced that the West Virginia Waterfall Trail has surpassed 125,000 check-ins. Since its launch in 2022, this statewide trail has received visitor check-ins from all 50 states and 48 countries. To date, more than 14,000 prizes have been awarded to participants for their waterfall explorations.

Created in celebration of Almost Heaven's natural beauty, the trail has expanded to include more than 40 falls throughout the Mountain State. From roadside wonders to rolling cascades reached after multi-mile treks, the trail features stops for travelers of all kinds. "I continue to be amazed by the

success of the West Virginia Waterfall Trail," said Chelsea Ruby, West Virginia Tourism secretary. "To have had travelers from all 50 states and 48 countries get off the beaten path and participate in this initiative is incredible. Exploring West Virginia's stunning landscapes is the perfect way to leave the screens behind and reconnect with the ones you love most."

As the first waterfall trail in the country, the West Virginia Waterfall Trail continues to receive national attention and has been recognized by top-tier publications such as Outside, National Geographic, and Southern Living. Cathedral Falls, Kanawha Falls and Blackwater Falls are some of the favorite falls.

Checking into the Waterfall Trail is a simple process made possible by Bandwango, a travel technology platform that makes checking in at each location quick and easy. To get started, visit WVtourism.com/waterfalls and register to have the West Virginia Waterfall Trail passport delivered straight to one's smartphone. Those who have already registered and want to restart their adventures can text "resend waterfall trail passport" to 1-888-921-5333 to be connected with a support agent.

The West Virginia Department of Tourism rewards waterfall chasers with exclusive gear along the way:

- Check in at three or more waterfalls and receive a custom sticker.
- Check in at 10 or more waterfalls and receive an aluminum water bottle.
- Check in at 20 or more waterfalls and receive a waterfall wanderer t-shirt.
- Check in at all locations and receive a limited edition letterpress print.

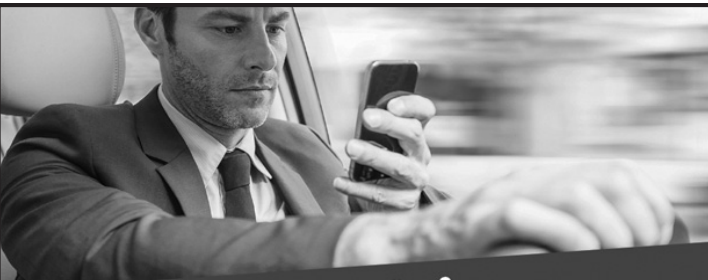
invited to contact Auctioneer, Bruce "Icky" Hyre Jr., (WV#494) (304) 257-3134, Special Commissioner, Duke A. McDaniel, (304) 257-4377, or Special Commissioner, Nathan H. Walters, (304) 530-6618 to view and/or inspect the real estate and to make any inquiries related thereto. Please also visit auctionzip.com for additional information and pictures depicting the real estate offered for sale.

**Duke A. McDaniel, Esq. Special Commissioner**  
304 Virginia Avenue  
Petersburg, WV 26847  
(304) 257-4377

**Nathan H. Walters, Esq. Special Commissioner**  
Walters, Heishman, & Vance PLLC  
PO Box 119  
Moorefield, WV 26836  
(304) 530-6618

9-11-3c

**Legal Advertisements**  
Continued on Page 10

**Distracted driving is a major threat on the roadways.**

Anything that takes drivers' attention away from the road can be considered a distraction and that includes phones, food, passengers and even vehicle features like a GPS system. However, distracted driving is preventable.


The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says nine people in the United States are killed every day in crashes that involve a distracted driver.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says distracted driving claimed the lives of 3,308 people in 2022. In addition, data from Transport Canada's National Collision Database indicates distracted driving contributed to an estimated 22.5 percent of fatal collisions and 25.5 percent of serious injury collisions in 2021. These distracted driving numbers reflect a growing trend of distracted driving-related incidents.

## Fall Is Here Word Search

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| K | Z | U | D | B | C | W | I | M | K | P | U | O | O | T | H | V | Y | E | L | ACORNS     |
| T | Z | W | G | O | U | R | D | S | E | G | A | I | L | O | F | B | L | D | R | APPLE      |
| C | H | L | R | B | O | M | W | S | R | D | A | G | E | N | G | H | Y | N | A | AUTUMN     |
| H | O | E | A | A | E | F | P | U | E | Y | R | Y | E | Z | A | M | E | P | K | BONFIRE    |
| N | O | R | A | U | T | U | M | N | B | W | T | A | N | P | Z | O | Y | L | E | CHILLY     |
| W | T | A | N | C | I | N | N | A | M | O | N | H | H | B | R | Z | P | L | N | CIDER      |
| K | W | D | G | U | N | U | O | G | E | E | E | A | H | C | R | I | S | P | L | CINNAMON   |
| K | R | Y | V | W | C | W | P | W | T | B | L | Y | Y | T | R | L | A | A | N | CORNUCOPIA |
| M | P | T | P | O | G | O | P | S | P | A | N | D | F | D | T | O | V | I | T | CRISP      |
| W | E | V | K | R | C | N | P | T | E | M | R | E | T | O | S | I | N | C | F | FESTIVAL   |
| C | R | W | L | C | C | T | M | I | S | K | H | T | M | N | T | A | H | F | U | FOLIAGE    |
| W | I | M | U | E | I | Z | S | L | A | S | C | U | R | S | N | I | D | W | M | GOURDS     |
| Z | F | V | V | R | D | E | T | M | W | E | H | O | E | E | L | G | A | I | A | HARVEST    |
| H | N | T | H | A | E | G | M | E | U | Y | C | F | Z | L | L | C | I | A | P | LEAVES     |
| L | O | E | U | C | R | N | A | B | D | A | H | B | Y | A | M | P | F | U | P | MAPLE      |
| R | B | E | E | S | O | T | K | P | F | F | U | D | S | I | K | E | A | R | L | MAZE       |
| L | L | E | A | V | E | S | O | F | K | D | B | H | E | I | K | W | E | M | E | ORCHARD    |
| P | P | S | V | R | N | I | K | P | M | U | P | C | A | E | R | V | O | K | K | PUMPKIN    |
| M | E | C | I | P | S | F | A | W | F | L | H | T | S | D | C | D | Z | S | F | RAKE       |
| O | S | U | N | S | E | T | S | P | R | B | Y | U | T | S | E | V | R | A | H | SCARECROW  |

SEPTEMBER  
SPICE  
SUNSET  
SWEATER

**Did You Know?**

**Fun Facts About September**

Out of all 12 months of the year, September is spelled with the most letters. It contains nine letters, and it happens to be the ninth month of the year. No other months have the same amount of letters as their number in the calendar year.

There are more pop and classic songs with "September" in the title than any other month.

This September "Harvest Moon" is the fullest moon of the year. In fact, in Old England, it was called "Haervest-monath", meaning Harvest Month.



