

THE PENDLETON TIMES

Serving the Community since 1913

\$1.00
Volume 112, Number 40

Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia 26807

Thursday
October 2, 2025



Ladies of the South Mill Creek Church of the Brethren gather to make 426 pies to fulfill the taste buds of Treasure Mountain Festival attendees.

Sometimes the Treasure of TMF Comes from Fundraising and the Hard Work to Make it a Success

By Stephen Smoot

The lifeblood of any community lies in its traditional organizations of faith and volunteer service. Churches and clubs, such as Lions and the Ruritan, harness the spirit and energy of their members to help make their part of the world a better place, uplifting those who need

the most help.

Each church and service club relies not on millions from the government, but on the time, energy, and sweat of members and other volunteers. They also rely on a generous community to provide support in any way it can.

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CVB Executive Director Declares TMF ‘An All Out Success’

By Stephen Smoot

“The great turnout this year is a testament to the continued draw that it has for people from all over the country,” said Annie Humes of the impact of The Treasure Mountain Festival. Humes is the executive director of the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau and a TMF Association volunteer.

Humes shared her impressions of the 2025 event and also how it has developed in recent years. One of her measures of success is the number of people who anecdotally shared that they plan long trips around TMF. She explained, “When you talk about what counts as success for a tourism destination, one of the greatest achievements is when folks become loyal visitors who always choose to spend their

leisure time with you.”

Pendleton County’s CVB faces a 50-mile legal limit on tourism promotion, being unable to aim efforts directly at close-by communities. Humes shared that the CVB followed allowed paths to promotion, including purchasing a banner to hang near the CVB office, “featuring the festival in our monthly email newsletter that has almost a thousand subscribers,” and buying “radio spots which broadcast all the way into Pennsylvania.”

“Of course, we did all the social media reposting we could keep up with,” added Humes. She went on to discuss how to further integrate the CVB into TMF plans more effectively for 2026. “I’ve spent a lot of time observing the ways that other festivals around the region promote their activities,” stated Humes. She

has looked to those efforts to discern what will fit with TMF and also sought out statewide and other event calendars to spread information.

Another angle lies in building coordination between the different businesses that serve tourists in Pendleton County. She said, “My hope is that in the months leading up to the festival next year, we will be able to support folks throughout the county in making the most of the festival’s draw.”

Humes and the CVB also held its regular monthly meeting for September prior to TMF. One of the main orders of business, as the 2025 tourism season slowly fades, is planning the annual retreat.

Lindsay Kazarick, who heads the CVB board, stated that the goals for the retreat included working on accreditation requirements and materials, “do larger scale planning” as well as “spend a little bit of time together.”

She also asked board members and Humes to “think about the big picture of the tourism economy of our county.”

Board members heard an update on the planned welcome signs for Pendleton County, which will initially grace the two points where US Route 33 enters and exits the county. Humes called the design “well put together” and said, “you know you’re in Pendleton County.”

Signs will cost \$15,000 each and extend 10 feet in width from post to post. They will be positioned 10 feet from the ground to the bottom of the supporting t-post.

During the summer, the CVB ran a digital advertising campaign that the board learned was a great success. Humes shared that “over five million individual people saw our ad” and that 46,000 of those clicked on the site to navigate it and learn more. The trends of who clicked on the site and when, under analysis, revealed the likelihood that many had landed on the site while planning a weekend getaway.

Additionally in August alone “we had 302,000 Facebook views.” Humes called the ad’s outcomes “a massive, massive uptick.”

Courthouse Annex Continues to Progress



Crews continue to make good progress on completing the Pendleton County Courthouse annex. County administrator, Karen Pitsenbarger, has reported in each meeting since it started that there have only been minor issues and no significant delays. Photo courtesy of the Pendleton County Office of Emergency Management.

Forty Years After the Flood of 85, Frustrations And Dangers Rise Along the South Branch Riverbed as Regulations Prevent Action

By Stephen Smoot

Officials in Pendleton, Grant, and Hardy counties continue to voice concerns over developing pressure points along the South Branch River.

Three separate areas of concern have repeatedly come up in regional discussions and requests for assistance or regulatory relief.

Last month, the Pendleton County Commission spent just under \$500,000 to acquire the former Franklin Elementary School on a hillside above the downtown of the county seat. This came after years of warnings about the impact of a rising riverbed and reduced carrying capacity in the river for large amounts of water.

Currently a number of county and local offices of the state, including both law enforcement and emergency management, operate from the community building near the river. Heavy rains this summer caused the river to approach flood stage multiple times while drainage systems failed, leaving the nearby Pendleton County Senior and Family Services building literally bailing water for two hours to prevent that facility from flooding. Gillespie shared worries that floodwaters could in-



Fourteen separate fallen trees have formed dangerous hazards on the South Branch River in Smoke Hole Canyon. Photograph courtesy of Mike Alt.



This 2023 image shows the buildup of debris in the river, enhancing flood and other dangers. Photograph courtesy of Pendleton County Office of Emergency Management.

capacitate the community building in a disaster.

The newly purchased structure will place vital

facilities and personnel well above the river’s flood stage. The property could also potentially house in the future the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department and Pendleton County Rescue Squad’s Franklin unit.

A different type of danger from debris embedded in the river has developed in recent years in Smoke Hole Canyon.

Mike Alt has a unique perspective on Smoke Hole Tourism. When they come to enjoy the wild river and wilderness scenery, tourists inevitably stop at his Shreve’s Country Store.

If they find themselves in physical danger, they must engage one of his other going concerns. Alt also serves as training officer for Pendleton County Emergency Rescue.

“As a local sporting store that relies heavily on tourism, our customers that come here for a variety of water recreational enjoyment will be hindered by the impact of debris filled rivers,” he explained.

Alt has expressed concerns for years over steadily increasing numbers of trees

Homecoming Royalty Honored



Pendleton County’s homecoming king Braylin Hull and queen Breena Bowers were announced at half time during Friday night’s football game with Tygarts Valley.

Community CALENDAR

Wayside Youth To Host ‘Make Heaven Crowded’

Wayside Baptist Church Youth Group is sponsoring a community event, “Make Heaven Crowded,” from 3 - 7 p.m. Saturday at the Franklin Ruritan Building. There will be music, snacks and games.

Family Support Center Sponsors Activities

The Pendleton County Strive to Thrive Family Support Center on Main Street in Franklin is hosting the following events:

Oct. 7, 5 p.m. — Parents and teens are invited to an open conversation about vaping, drugs and alcohol with Amiee Cardot. Dinner will be provided; and

Oct. 8, 9:30 - 11 a.m. — Grounds for Discussion. Attendees are invited to bring the conversation topics and enjoy the fellowship and a cup of coffee with local parents, caregivers and grandparents.

For more information, call 304-538-7711.

Post 30 To Meet

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

Post 9666 To Meet

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

Library Friends To Meet Tuesday

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

All are welcome to attend.

All Night Prayer Event Scheduled

An All Night Prayer event will be held from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Friday and Saturday at the Pendleton Community Center in Franklin.

Everyone is invited to attend for 15 minutes or all night.

Community Chorus Rehearsals To Begin

Rehearsals for the Community Christmas Chorus will begin at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 9 at Main Street Methodist Church in Franklin. The concert will be presented Dec. 11 and 13.

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OBITUARIES



Betty Jane Garrett

Betty Jane Garrett, 88, of Franklin passed away Sept. 26, 2025, at the Pendleton Manor, in Franklin.

She was born on Nov. 29, 1936, in Van, the daughter of the late Roy Everett and Gertrude Naomi (Spratt) Smith.

Mrs. Garrett was a 1954 graduate of Van High School.

She was a member of Franklin Presbyterian Church, where she enjoyed being a part of the Women's Circle. She was a member of the American Legion, Order of Eastern Star #138, and a charter member of Women of the Moose.

She had a passion for life and loved spending time with her family and spoiling her children and grandchildren with good meals at Nana's house.

She retired from Pendleton County Schools, after working for 25 years as a secretary.

In her youth, she was a beautiful majorette. She loved to play softball on the Franklin Women's team as a pitcher. She was an avid baseball fan and attended the Washington Senator's games when she lived in Washington, D.C., and she always had a Cincinnati Reds game on the radio or TV.

She enjoyed being a part of the community by joining many organizations and volunteering her time. She loved the holidays, especially Christmas. Her house was decorated inside and out with lots of cookies, fudge and goodies in the kitchen to be eaten and to be given away. She loved to play dominoes and cards, and she especially loved to bowl and dance.

She and her husband, Jim, looked forward to their "snowbird years" in Sarasota, Florida. She and her treasured friend, Sarah Thomas, enjoyed many trips to the beach, along with constant companionship and sharing life together during the last 55 years.

She was married to Gene Boggs, the father of her children, who survives in Franklin.

On July 31, 1988, she married her husband of 30 years, Jim Garrett, who preceded her in death on June 29, 2018.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory three daughters, Patricia Alt (James) of Franklin, Samantha Boggs of Petersburg and Cheryl Garner (Clay) of Wilmington, North Carolina; a stepdaughter, Cathy Morrison (Roy) of Fairmont; four stepsons, Michael Garrett (Sue) and David Garrett (Melissa), all of Fairmont, James "Jimmie" Garrett (Mindy) of Paduka, Kentucky, and Jim Knight (Stephanie) of Stow, Ohio; three grandchildren, Brooke Garner, Kelsey Garner, and Mahala Alt; and a number of step-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Larry Calvin Smith and Fredrick Lee Smith.

Funeral services were held Tuesday in the chapel of the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin. Interment was at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Franklin.

Memorials may be made to Pendleton Manor or any Pendleton County Emergency Squad.

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



Sandra Estella Vandevander

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

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

While a student at Franklin Elementary, she received the West Virginia Golden Horseshoe award in 1963. She was a 1967 graduate of Franklin High School where she was salutatorian of her senior class. She was a 1971 graduate of Shepherd University where she graduated Summa Cum Laude as she obtained her elementary education degree.

Ms. Vandevander was a compassionate teacher and retired from Pendleton County Schools after teaching fourth grade at Franklin Elementary School from 1971-2007.

She was an active and dedicated member of Smith Creek Church of the Brethren, where she taught Bible School and enjoyed being a Sunday School teacher. She had served as a former superintendent and trustee. She took pride in serving as a camp counselor at the Brethren Woods Church Camp near Keezletown, Virginia. She loved her church family and was honored to volunteer for church functions.

Although she did not have children of her own, she was constantly involved through Sunday School, Bible School, Christmas pageants, and her students at the elementary school. She also supported many foundations to help children across the world. She gave extra care and attention to her two nieces, and later gave that same love to her great-nephew and great-niece.

She also loved traveling and learning, and the two were quite evident with all the adventures she had throughout her life, sometimes with a friend, sometimes with her family, and sometimes just on her own.

Her roots were on the family farm, and she was active in all phases from working with the farm animals to driving the tractors while making hay. She was a dedicated caretaker for the many pet lambs and orphan calves. She always had her pet cats and dogs around, and she was especially fond of her last cat, "Big Boy," and her last dog, Brandy. These two were her faithful companions during many walks on the farm.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory a brother, Lynn Vandevander (Carol) of Franklin; nieces, Amy Taylor (Devon) of Berkeley Springs and Holly Pickens (Andy) of Fairmont; a great-nephew, Ethan Taylor; and a great-niece, Sophia Taylor.

Funeral services were held Friday at Smith Creek Church of the Brethren with Pastor Dan Ludwick and Pastor David Morris officiating. Interment was at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Franklin.

Memorials may be made to Smith Creek Church of the Brethren, c/o Nancy Scott, 182 Goshen View Lane, Franklin, WV 26807 or to Pendleton Manor, PO Box 700, Franklin, WV 26807.

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



Wilma (Hodge) Obaugh

Wilma (Hodge) Obaugh, age 97, of McDowell, Virginia, passed away Sept. 22, 2025, at her home surrounded by family.

Born July 31, 1928 in Highland County, Virginia, she was the daughter of the late George Henry and Camilla (Hupman) Hodge.

Raised by her father in Salem, Virginia, Mrs. Obaugh was a graduate of the former Andrew Lewis High School and would go on to attend Mary Baldwin College.

A woman of considerable faith, she was a member of the Stonewall Christian Fellowship, former member of the United Methodist Women, and the former McDowell United Methodist Church, where she was a Sunday school teacher for many years and faithfully served as pianist for 45 years.

She spent a good portion of her years as a homemaker, raising her children and helping her husband on the farm, as well as with his business affairs. In 1966, she would go on to assume a vast majority of the clerical and managerial responsibilities of Obaugh Funeral Home, and together with her husband, Bill, diligently worked to ensure the continuance of the funeral home. She retired as co-owner and manager of Obaugh Funeral Home in 1998, following 32 years of service to the community.

Always a lady, she was known for her integrity, resilience, and genuine sincerity. Even in her later years, with great ease, she maintained the poise and unassuming confidence of her youth. However, neither was she one to shy away from hard work. She prepared countless meals for her family, farmhands, and community members, and ensured that no one left hungry.

Additionally, she tended to their flock of sheep, assisted with the funeral home's ambulance service, and managed her household in the midst of the demanding hours of the funeral home business.

She loved traveling with her friend, Ruthie Condra, and taking family vacations with her children and grandchildren. She loved her independence and maintained her driver's license well into her 80s in spite of her lead foot, which she always denied. She enjoyed playing board games and card games with her grandchildren, or simply visiting with her family. Some of her granddaughters' most cherished memories include staying up until the wee hours

of the night talking with her until they would fall asleep in her "fancy canopy bed." An avid reader, she had impeccable grammar and was always quick to correct her grandchildren's speech.

Above all, she was a giver – she would give her love, her time, her prayers, and even her finances to anyone in need. No matter the occasion, she was faithful in sending heartfelt letters and cards to family, friends, and acquaintances. This was evidence of the fact that she simply cared about people. Her faith, her strength, her joy, and her generosity made her the role model who her family so lovingly adored and still aspire to become.

On Jan. 29, 1949, she married William G. "Bill" Obaugh, who preceded her in death on Jan. 1, 1996.

Surviving family members include her children, George William "G.W." Obaugh, Roy Brent Obaugh and Kyle Todd Obaugh and wife, Karla, all of McDowell, Virginia, and Donna Kay Ashby and husband, Forrest of Staunton, Virginia; grandchildren, Bryan Obaugh and wife, Megan of Monterey, Virginia, Ben Obaugh and wife, Jill of Moneta, Virginia, Bryce Obaugh and wife, Beth of St. Paris, Ohio, Beth Obaugh Linkenhoker and husband, David of Goodview, Virginia, Kelly Ashby Throckmorton and husband, Josh of Rockingham, Virginia, Jenna Ashby MacFarland and husband, Zack of Natural Bridge, Virginia, Kate Obaugh Sponaugle and husband, Matthew and Rhonda Obaugh, all of McDowell, Virginia, Kari Obaugh Lightner and husband, Chad of Head Waters, Virginia, and Emily Ashby Blose and husband, Trevor of Spokane Valley, Washington; great-grandchildren, Lane Obaugh, Jackson Obaugh, Blaine DeMarco, Noah Obaugh, Savannah Linkenhoker, Eva MacFarland, Alyssa Obaugh, Olivia Obaugh, Ariella Obaugh, Liam Obaugh, Nora Linkenhoker, Kylee Lightner, Lowell Obaugh, Annalise Obaugh, Forrest MacFarland, Laurel Obaugh, Kash Lightner, Malak Obaugh, Eleanor Sponaugle, Oliver Blose, Alexander Blose, Titus Obaugh, Lilit Obaugh, Mary Sponaugle, and Faith Throckmorton; and a special cousin, Holly Jordan.

She was also preceded in death by an infant great-grandson, Griffin Obaugh; lifelong best friend and college roommate, Ruth Condra; and special "brothers," Elmer and Donald Allanson.

A graveside funeral service was conducted Sunday at the Head Waters Cemetery with Pastor Chip Hill officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the McDowell Volunteer Fire Department, c/o Delbert Rexrode, 527 Windrush Lane, Doe Hill, VA 24433, or the Highland County Volunteer Rescue Squad, PO Box 268, Monterey, VA 24465.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.obaughfuneralhome.com.



Alva Junior Burgess

Alva Junior Burgess, 64 of Norwich, Connecticut, and formerly of Milam passed away on Aug. 31, 2025, surrounded by family and friends, after a courageous four-year battle with cancer.

He was born on Sept. 24, 1960, in Petersburg, a son of the late Alva Arthur Burgess and Pearl Jeanette (Nelson) Burgess.

Mr. Burgess was a 1979 graduate of Moorefield High School. He served in the United States Navy during the Libya Conflict.

He was an honorary member of the VFW Post 594 in Norwich, Connecticut.

He retired from Tri-L Services in 2023 after 34 years of service.

He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was known as a "Jack of all trades." His pastime was spending time with his family.

His wife of 42 years, Elizabeth A. (Berry) Burgess, survives.

Also surviving are a son, Timothy S. Burgess (Andrea) of Norwich, Connecticut; a daughter, Victoria E. Burgess (Thomas Peckham) of Griswold, Connecticut; a foster son, Joseph A. Dziadul (Elizabeth) of Baltic, Connecticut; seven grandchildren; two sisters, Juanita Scott of Brandywine and Wilda Libby (Larry) of Anchorage, Alaska; two brothers, Leon E. Burgess and Carl W. Burgess (Linda), all of Moorefield; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

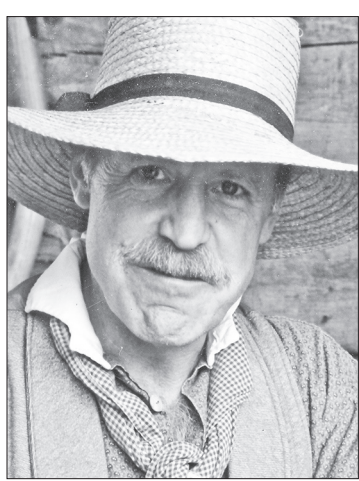
He was also preceded in death by four brothers, infant Ervin Burgess, Ivan Burgess, Eston Burgess, and K. Gene Burgess; and a sister, infant Ester Mae Burgess.

In honoring his wishes, he has been cremated.

A graveside service will be held at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 11 at the North Fork Memorial Cemetery in Riverton with the Rev. Harold Cullers.

Memorial donations may be made to the Burgess family c/o Schaeffer Funeral Home, 11 North Main Street, Petersburg, WV 26847 or Elizabeth A. Burgess, 160 Spruce Street, Norwich, CT 06360 to help defray funeral expenses.

Arrangements are by Schaeffer Funeral Home in Petersburg.



Stephen James Gallagher

Stephen James Gallagher, 71, of Doe Hill, Virginia, passed away quietly Sept. 21, 2025, at home with loved ones.

He was born March 19, 1954, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a son of the late Donald Alexander and Sarah (Grundy) Gallagher.

After graduating from Elmira College with a history degree, Mr. Gallagher traveled extensively, eventually meeting his first wife, Leigh Deering, in 1978. They welcomed three sons while living near Bellingham, Washington.

In 1996 the family moved to Sugar Grove. In 2003, he married his second wife, Karen Anderson, and they bought and restored a farmhouse in Doe Hill, Virginia, where they hosted music nights and community get-togethers.

In 2021, he met Penny Armstrong, and they tended her beautiful home and rescued animals. She and her family lovingly cared for him at the end of his life.

He worked as an interpreter at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, Virginia, until 2016, where he shared traditional music, crafts, and trades with visitors. Known for his deep knowledge informed by a lifetime of reading, he loved conversations with friends and strangers about the histories and mysteries of the world. He was an excellent self-taught musician and cook, passions he shared with all, and passed on to his sons.

Surviving are his partner, Penny Armstrong of Doe Hill, Virginia; three sons, James Patrick Gallagher and Rudy Deering Gallagher, both of Gualala, California, and Donald Alexander Gallagher and wife, Janesa of Kent, Washington; a brother, David Gallagher; and three grandchildren, Elizabeth, Allison, and Patrick Gallagher.

A graveside service was held Sept. 24 at Doe Hill Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Highland County Humane Society, PO Box 435, Monterey, VA 24465.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.obaughfuneralhome.com.

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October 3rd & 4th 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*

OBITUARIES



Michael Lynn Fleece

Michael Lynn Fleece, 64, of Franklin passed away on Sept. 22, 2025, at Sentara RMH in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

He was born on Dec. 12, 1960, in Berkeley Springs, the son of Neoma (Smoot) Fleece of Keyser and the late Willard Woodrow Fleece.

Mr. Fleece was a 1978 graduate of Hampshire High School and was a Christian by faith.

He had worked for Peer's Sanitation and was a certified electrician.

He enjoyed fishing and was a very talented craftsman, who loved making furniture.

On March 25, 1991, he married Linda Lou (Davis) Fleece, who survives.

In addition to his wife and mother, he leaves behind to cherish his memory four step-sons, Wesley Davis, Jay Roberts and Matt Roberts, all of Franklin, and Tim Roberts of Brandywine; a brother, Larry Fleece of Ft. Ashby; and a number of step-grandchildren.

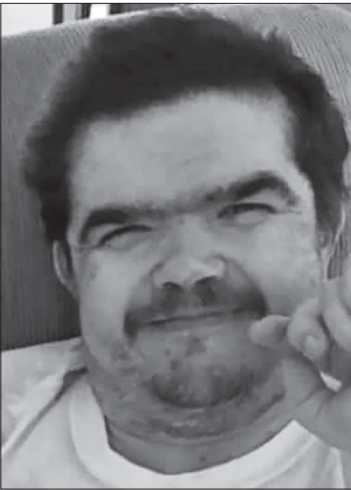
He was also preceded in death by a sister, Tammy.

In honoring his wishes, his body has been cremated.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin. A celebration of life will follow with Pastor James Payne officiating.

Memorials may be made to "the family," c/o Basagic Funeral Home, PO Box 215, Franklin, WV 26807.

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



Eric Brandon Shockey

Eric Brandon Shockey, 54, of Brandywine passed away Sept. 20, 2025, at his home, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on July 12, 1971, in Petersburg, the son of Boyd Lee Shockey (Joyce) and Bonnie Marie (Evans) Shockey, all of Brandywine.

Mr. Shockey was a graduate of Franklin High School.

He had a passion for sports, including football and baseball. He especially loved watching the Orioles and the Raiders. He was very organized and displayed his organizational skills with his collection of DVDs.

He brought so much love and joy to his family, and he has left an etching in each of their hearts.

In addition to his parents, he leaves behind to cherish his memory two sisters, Shannon Adkins (Rick) of Sugar Grove and Kelly Shockey of Brandywine; a brother, Cody Shockey (Lindsay) of Hedgessville; nieces, Kayla Allen, Katelyn Shockey, Kyra Walls, Sadie Truman, Ella Truman and Alani Shockey; nephews, Jarrod Walls, and Jackson Shockey; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins, including Melinda Shockey, Sherry Martinez, and Jay Krewson.

In honoring his wishes, his body has been cremated.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday in the chapel of the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor Jarrod Walls, his nephew, officiating.

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



William Orlando Bergdoll Sr.

William Orlando Bergdoll Sr., 86, of Bridgewater, Virginia, passed away on Sept. 25, 2025.

He was born on Feb. 5, 1939, and was a son of the late Kennie and Delsie (Skiles) Bergdoll.

Mr. Bergdoll was united in marriage to Janet (Wine) Bergdoll, who survives.

Also surviving are sons, William Bergdoll, Jr., of Bridgewater, Virginia, and Robert (Joanna) Bergdoll of Mount Sidney, Virginia; grandchildren, Jesse (Cole) Moore, Morgan Meadows, Lindsay Bergdoll, Rachel Bergdoll and Isaiah Bergdoll; and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by daughter, Rebecca Bergdoll Moore; and three sisters, Hilda Bergdoll, Wynona Sandridge and Nyoka Sandridge.

A service celebrating his life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Path Church, 1911 West Market Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia, with Pastor Dan Garber officiating. Burial is private.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at johnsonfs.com.

Arrangements are entrusted to Johnson Funeral and Cremation Service in Bridge-water, Virginia.



Walter D. Helmick

Walter D. Helmick, 81, of Minnehaha Springs passed away on Sept. 6, 2025.

A public visitation with family and friends will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at the West Virginia Cultural Center, State Capitol Complex, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East in Charleston.

A memorial service to honor his life will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4 at First Presbyterian Church, 16 Leon Sullivan Way in Charleston with the Rev. Dr. William C. Myers officiating.

The family requests those who wish to honor his life, please make a donation to one's favorite charity.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.kimblefuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are entrusted to the Kimble Funeral Home in Marlinton.



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The Pendleton Times

New River

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Saturday: Elkins, intersection 33E - 250/219,
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FALL FAMILY FUN IN
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Furnace Mountain Band

Arts, Crafts, & Seasonal Food

Annual Sweater & Used Book Sales

Sounding Knob Fire Tower

Saturday Oktoberfest

Sunday Square Dance & So Much More!

HIGHLANDCOUNTY.ORG

Note Of Thanks

A special thanks to

Burke & Herbert Bank and

Faith Lutheran Church

for their generous donations

to C.A.N.

C.A.N. Volunteers

Germany Valley Limestone Rd., Riverton

Seafood Buffet

Friday, October 3 • 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 \$40⁰⁰

Sunday Buffet

Happy Jewish New Year

October 5 • Noon - 3 p.m.

Jewish Holiday Brisket, Chicken Marbella,
Roasted Salmon w/Herb Salsa, Israeli Salad,
Carrot Souffle, Roasted Brussels Sprouts,
Tzimmes (Root Veggies w/Dried Fruit),
Jeweled Rice, Potato Lakes w/Applesauce,
Rolls/Butter and Assorted Desserts \$30⁰⁰

RESTAURANT HOURS:

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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

Lifestyle Changes the Useful Values of Living Rooms

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

The living room was a space for family events. At one time, this area was used in the family responsibility to carry out major duties for survival, such as caring for the sick and dying, and birthing. Hospitals were far away with passable roads existing when the weather was cooperating. Only a generation ago, most families had only one car.

The living room had no central heat so it was heated with fireplaces and later stoves that were placed in certain parts of the house. One stove served the kitchen where cooking took place, with a second stove heating the living room, making it the warmest room in the house. The fire in this area was maintained 24 hours a day.

Someone was always at home to tend to this fire in the living room. Taking a ride on a Sunday, or going to church meant that someone had to stay at home to make sure the fire would not go out. That someone would say, "I can't leave the house by itself, because the fire might go out." Even on the hottest day of the year, the stove was kept hot. Usually, a kettle of water would be kept on the stove in order for moisture to permeate the air.

So, what is a living room? It most certainly was a central location for the family life cycle — birth, healing, and death, access to family caregivers, and visits from friends and neighbors. This was a wonderful place for neighbors to come visit and chat awhile.

Some of life's little instructions to make one's day better include the following:

1. Don't take things that are not ones.
2. Clean up one's own mess.
3. Don't hurt people.
4. Share everything.
5. Be aware of wonder.

October! One has no idea where the time has gone. Yesterday was July, today is October. Things



Mervin Mitchell (Oct. 15, 1898 – Oct. 8, 1972) was the son of Emanuel and Jemima Francis Simmons Mitchell. He was a World War II veteran in the United States Army. He was the husband of Berlie Mae Dove (Feb. 24, 1905 - May 8, 1988), the daughter of William Franklin (Dec. 21, 1861 – Jan. 27, 1949) and Jemima Jane Rexrode Dove (April 13, 1865 - Feb. 11, 1951). Both Mervin and Berlie are buried in the Pine Hill Cemetery at Brandywine.

have been as peaceful as water in a spoon around this community. What little rain that fell during the weekend, gurgling down the downspouts, was joyfully received. Pastures are now taking on a new green look. The air has been devoid of humidity, and instead filled with "snap and crackle."

Quotes for the week are as follows:
"Hate, it has caused a lot of problems in the world, but has not solved one yet." — Maya Angelou

"And all at once, summer collapsed into fall." — Oscar Wilde

"Of course I talk to myself. I like a good speaker, and I appreciate an intelligent audience." — Dorothy Parker

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of another." — Charles Dickens

"Never let success go to your head; never let failure get your heart." — Beyonce

The porch is the best place to hear the "Talk of the Grove."

Nathan Puffenbarger spent the weekend with Nancy and Robert Hodges of Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Clickety-clacks for the chin wagggers are as follows:

- Sniffing rosemary boosts memory by 75 percent.
- The Appalachian Trail crosses 14 states,
- A group of flamingos are known as a "flamboyance."
- O negative is the universal donor blood type.
- Tokyo, Japan, is the world's most populated city.

Concerns are for Mike Adams, Charles Anderson, Alfred Armstrong, 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, the Marie Eye family, 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, the Ben Homan family, 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, 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, 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, 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, Vesta Ruckman, 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 Stubeer, Steve Stump, Carolyn Thomas, Riley Thompson, Linda and Larry Vandevander, the Sandra Vandevander family, Amy Vaus, Estelle and Don Wagner, Mary Louise Waldschlager, Mike Waybright, Rene White, Sherry Wilfong, Judy Williams, Patty Willis and Ann and Ed Wimer.

PSD NOTICE

The Pendleton County PSD CCR report has been modified. This report will not be mailed. A copy will be made available for review or your use upon request at the PSD office during regular business hours.

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Neva Rexrode

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.

MENU

Pendleton Senior & Family Services

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3
Country Fried Steak
Mashed Potatoes
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Strawberry Cheesecake
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6
Tuna & Noodles
Cabbage
Vegetable Blend
Grapes
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7
Pepperoni & Cheese
Pizza Sub
Corn, Applesauce
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8
Pancakes w/Gravy
Sausage, Potatoes
Juice
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9
EVENING MEAL@5PM
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Peas/Carrots
Salad w/Tomatoes
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October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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Pendleton County Rocks Tygarts Valley as Wildcats Eye Big Clash Friday

By Stephen Smoot

The run of good Friday night weather and fantastic performances continued for Pendleton County this past week. With an electrified Jimi Hendrix style rendition of the Star Spangled Banner getting players and fans both prepared, the home standing Wildcats roared into action.

Tygarts Valley had a larger squad, both in terms of the size and also the number of players, than in previous years. This shows program progress, but Pendleton County has pounded opponents of all shapes and sizes so far this season.

Travis Owens took the opening kickoff from the 10 up to the 35-yard line. The first play went for zero yards. The second play went for zero yards.

But the third play saw Colton Roberson lofting a pass deep downfield. Britton Lough ran underneath on a post pattern, hauled it in, and scored the opening touchdown with 50 seconds passed in the first quarter. It was Lough's lone reception on the day while Roberson posted nearly one fourth of his 198 yards total for the game. He went 10 for 16 overall with four touchdowns.

Owens stepped in for the unavailable Kam Redman. He booted the extra point through, then kicked the ball off to the Bulldogs.

Tygarts Valley had some success at first trying the corners. So far in the season, speedy and quick teams have found creases as they ran closer to the sidelines. With a little less than 10 minutes left in the first, the Bulldogs picked up a first down on third and four, but saw a net gain of a few feet in the next three plays and punted.

Tygarts Valley's punter has an extraordinarily high punt whose elevation makes returns nearly impossible. Their initial kick rolled to the Wildcat 13. After a run to the 25, Roberson on first down slid left, reversed field, rolled right, and dropped a pass into the hands of Corbin Dove, who was deep in their opponents' territory.

The Bulldogs hounded Dove out of bounds at the 27. Braylon Willis took the ball right, bouncing like a pinball between defenders as he pushed to the Bulldog 11. The offense tried to work the ball into the endzone with Willis, who got the ball to the five. On fourth down, Roberson played pitch and catch with a wide open Owens. The kick after was no good, but the score extended to 13-0.

The Wildcats kicked off again. The Bulldogs' strategic goal was simple. Use the clock as another defender. On each offensive play, they waited until the final seconds of the play clock to hike the ball, then looked for ways to run against the strong Pendleton County front. They aimed to shorten the game, reduce Wildcat scores, and hope for a chance to compete.

Pendleton County got the ball back with 4:16 left in the first. With Redman out, Zac Smith, head coach, went with a tandem of backs. The elusive Willis handled duties earlier; now Will Smith stepped in the backfield.

Smith took the first two handoffs, going for two on first down, then 10 more on second. Willis could sprint around or make moves to get past defenders. Smith squared his shoulders, hit the crease at a full run, and dared any Bulldog to attack. For the night, Smith picked up 44 yards on five carries.



The sideline cheers as Cayson Armstrong puts an exclamation point on the big homecoming win.

The two runs set up the Wildcats with a first down at their own 39. They continued marching downfield. On second and six, Smith got from the Tygarts Valley 36 down to the 22. On the next play, Roberson launched a timing pattern type of pass for Owens, who scored the second of his two touchdowns on the night. The kick was no good and the score thereafter was set at 19-0.

Early in the second quarter, Tygarts Valley briefly celebrated a punt return for a touchdown, but saw it negated by a flag for illegal block. On third and 11, they attempted a pass from a trick play, but Dove got his hands on it instead and gave his squad the ball back at midfield.

Tygarts Valley hit a receiver late on first down, giving Pendleton County the 35-yard line and a first down. Roberson took the ball himself out of the backfield and followed his blockers to the right sideline, then the "Coal Train" chugged into the endzone for another Wildcat touchdown. This time, the Wildcats went not for an extra point, but into a spread formation. Roberson tossed the ball to Chase Owens for the two-point conversion and a 27-0 advantage.

At this point, the Bulldogs run of luck turned from bad to just plain rotten. After a strong first down run, Tygarts Valley fumbled on second down with Roberson recovering. With the ball back in his hands, Roberson wasted no time getting the ball into the hands of Chase Owens on a downfield strike. The Bulldogs pushed him out at their 18.

Willis followed with an eight-yard sweep to the 10. Then Roberson tossed the ball to Chase Owens again for another touchdown. This time for the extra point try, the offense took the field in a tight T formation, handing the ball to Chase Owens to run it in and extend the lead to 35-0 . . . with 6:13 remaining in the first half.

Tygarts Valley got the ball back on their own 39. They tried a double pitch play on second and 13 that went for a single yard, then threw an interception six yards downfield. The Bulldog defense held this time, forcing a punt from near midfield. They, however, muffed the punt and allowed the alert David Noble to recover at the Bulldog 21.

The now demoralized Bulldogs had to watch Smith once again rumble through the middle of their defense for yet

another touchdown at the 2:47 point. Roberson topped it off with a two-point conversion run.

Tygarts Valley received the kickoff, but a penalty pushed them back to their own five. A Bulldog fumble gave the Wildcats the ball back with 2:22 left in the first half.

Tygarts Valley had tried to use trick plays to gain any traction through the course of the second quarter, but here, coach Smith dialed up one of his own. On second and goal, Roberson threw left but short to Dove, who deftly shoved the ball back to a streaking Bryce Basagic on the rare hook and lateral play.

Basagic barreled eight yards for a touchdown. With the two-point conversion, the halftime score was 51-0.

To limit blowouts after recent seasons that saw some quad A teams scoring relentlessly on opponents, the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission approved rule changes to limit the possibility of such outcomes. Quarters shorten to 10 minutes and the clock runs at all times, except during injuries, when a scoring discrepancy gets to a certain point.

The Wildcats called off their dogs in the second half and inserted their future stars. Tygarts Valley opened up a sustained drive to start the third quarter, going 10 plays and covering 31 yards. On third and 13, they gained 10 yards with Cameron Wyatt's tackle preventing the first down. On the next play, the Bulldogs turned the ball over on downs.

Wyatt returned to the focus of the action on the second play of the drive when relief quarterback Mason Miller hit him in stride streaking down the sidelines. Tygarts Valley shoved him out just inside the 20-yard line in one of the final plays of the third stanza.

A few plays later, Cayson Armstrong showed his speed on a sweep left, dodging defenders until he crossed the line and gave his team the final score of the day. After the two-point conversion, the Wildcats led 59-0.

The game ended on a 25-yard gain by Willis, who earned 75 yards on eight attempts.

Pendleton County's defensive line has punched and counterpunched with some of the strongest lines in the area, but dominated in this matchup. Ty Heavner picked up six tackles, Spencer Hartman five, Noah Lockard four, and Sam Eason three. Ronnie Thompson from his linebacker position also garnered six stops and Chase Owens five, but the defensive line accounting for nearly 20 tackles shows dominance up front.

Keyser continues to climb, having beaten all opponents since week one handily and undefeated Petersburg rose to fifth in the Metro News rankings, with WVSSAC coming out after press deadline. Traveling Friday, the Wildcats (ranked fourth by Metro News) take on Tucker County (ranked third by MN.)

Coach Smith has talked all season about how his squad remembers the 2024 playoff game dominated by the Mountain Lions and have used that as motivation ever since.

Although Pendleton County has been tested all year long save one game by tough teams, Tucker County is the team to beat in Class A in eastern West Virginia... until someone beats them.



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Pendleton County Golfers Aim for Consistency As Season Comes to a Close

By Stephen Smoot

Golf in many ways serves as an individual sport, but with each competitor pursuing in some ways team goals. For Mike Eye, Pendleton County head coach, his goal for each member of his team lies in one defining attribute.

He explained that “golf is a game of misses,” then shared that reducing those misses means “hitting high percentage shots.” Too many golfers want the instant gratification of the big, impossible shot, but don’t understand that Reggie Jackson hit 563 home runs, but is also the all time leader in striking out with just under 2,600.

“That’s the key, consistency,” said Eye, who then added “I preach that to my guys.” With postseason play coming soon, “we need consistency now more than ever.”

With that established as the goal, it should not surprise that the most consistent golfer has also led the team in scoring all season. Dylan Eye, of whom his coach and father said, “has been swinging a club since he was two years old, took a step forward in his mental game.”

Coach Eye stated that “this year what stands out for him, I’ve seen him really mature into what I’d consider to be a smart golfer.” Smart golf, the coach explains, involves approaching a course with a strategic mindset rather than reacting to conditions as they are met. A strategy of combining a realistic estimation of personal skill with the highest percentage of shots possible with that skillset is smart golf. Of course those physical and mental skills also improve with play and open up more opportunities. Coach Eye related that he has seen strong improvement on both counts from all of his players.

Landon Davis has consistently brought in strong scores and generally places second on the squad in tournaments. Though a freshman, Davis competed with the middle school team in previous years and developed strong fundamentals before moving up to varsity.

Davis, like many of his teammates, “had a rough start,” but

for the same reasons. Davis plays baseball and both sports require the player to swing very precisely, but in different ways. “It takes time to get the baseball swing out of them,” noted Eye.

Once Davis got his muscle memory set to golf, however, “he’s caught fire midway through the season.” Coach Eye described him as having “a lot of potential. He’s done really well.”

Next, coach Eye discussed his power hitting seniors, Barrett Cook and Logan Fisher. Cook “has been playing golf for his fourth year” but like Davis, “it was a struggle to get him into golf mode.”

Cook’s senior leadership extends to helping teammates get organized and prepared. “All the kids call Barrett ‘Mother Goose’” because of his efforts.

“Logan is in his second year of golf,” said Coach Eye. “He’s athletic, got a lot of power.” Both Cook and Fisher sometimes need to develop more savvy and channel that strength and power more effectively, their coach observed.

“Power is not always the play,” he said.

Lucas DiFalco has also made strong strides, despite experiencing “ups and downs” this season. He took last season off and has been working this year to strengthen his skillset, but “he’s right on the verge of being in that four spot.”

Hayden Kimble also rose from middle school last year to varsity in 2025. Eye shared that Kimble shows his dedication to developing his game by “putting in a lot of work every single day.” This includes playing rounds outside of practice and matches with former coach and golf enthusiast Charles Burgoyne.

“When I see that, it’s easy for me to tell . . . they’re putting in the work and it shows,” Eye said.

The top six golfers on the year will represent the Pendleton County squad at regionals, held in Canaan Valley next week. They will compete in a regular season event on the same course to prepare for postseason play.

Coach Eye has also been impressed by the golfers who have

less experience, but show the dedication and commitment to hard work, developing their talents.

He said of Kolby Kimble, a freshman, that he has “one of the best short games I’ve seen from a first-year golfer.” He joined late but “shows a lot of potential” and is “another guy with a lot of power.”

“I’ve watched Jax consistently improve over the past two years,” said Eye of sophomore Jax Bennett. “He is motivated and stays positive and energetic regardless of the circumstances.” Eye marked him as “one to watch for over the next couple of seasons.”

“Another freshman that is really showing potential for ball striking” is Blaine Cook. Eye also noted the potential for smart golf from a competitor who “quietly plots his way around the course” and “has a smooth swing that will work in his favor as he matures as a golfer.”

Junior Alex Adams has only a year of competition under his belt, but “has also consistently improved week to week, all while excelling academically and working a part-time job.” Eye described him as “a true sportsman that represents his team very well” due to his unflinching positive and encouraging attitude toward teammates and opponents alike.

Freshman Colton Jackson “has gone from barely being able to hit a golf ball a year ago to hitting 200-yard-plus drives” as he has worked to improve his game over two seasons.

The combination of hard work and natural talent, as well as the obvious love of the game shown by the players, gives Eye strong optimism as the program continues to grow. This season Pendleton County was the best Class A squad in the Potomac Valley Conference, with an Eye (or two) to having a strong regional performance and, hopefully, representation at Wheeling for states.

Eye also expressed appreciation to Fisher Mountain for their continual and consistent support of Pendleton County Middle/High School golf. He shared that the success of the golf program would not have been possible without their embrace of the team.

Wildcats Trump Warriors in Second Contest of the Season

By Stephen Smoot

At the close of the first month of their inaugural season, the Pocahontas County Warrior volleyball squad clearly has made tremendous strides and improvement. Their first opponent of 2025, however, Pendleton County, has done the same in their reloading season.

While the Warriors have struggled, they showed that the team is having fun with the climb. They featured a fun and unique way to greet each other during team introductions and their fans were occasionally quite loud and supportive.

The game took place in Franklin because Pocahontas County has no home court on which to play, making their season a long Magical Mystery Tour of all opponents’ venues without relief.

They opened the first set and the game with the serve, but Laney Bowers set up Carolyn Varner nicely for a quick tap to the middle and the first score for the Wildcats. Chesnee Colaw took over the serve, firing a low trajectory shot across the net. The Warriors sent it back, only to endure a powerful spike from Colbie Wimer.

Pendleton County took a 4-1 lead quickly, but some inconsistency kept them from racing too far ahead in the opening set. Pocahontas County closed the score to 6-4, but then watched the Wildcats score the next 10 in a row, including four consecutive aces served up by Clara Raines and aggressive play at the net.

Alyssa Bennett made her presence felt at the end of set number one. A spike to the back line put her team up 17-7. Shortly thereafter, she helped to close the set with two straight aces that led to a 24-7 lead. On the final play of the set, Bennett set up Varner for a subtle tap that won it for the home team.



Carolyn Varner elevates to direct a shot back at the Pocahontas County defense. Photo courtesy of Light in Motion.

Bennett opened service in set two with an ace as the Wildcats quickly built a 6-2 lead. Breena Bowers, whose hard work and hustle helped to set up others all night, provided two aces in the early run. One glanced right off the fists of a defender and caromed directly out of bounds. Shortly after, Breena Bowers fielded a hit, setting up Varner, who got the ball to Brynlynn Waggy for one of her vicious spikes.

Waggy also demonstrated strong serving skills. Gracefully leaping in the air from a stride, she seemed to serve down at the opposition with high velocity, low trajectory attacks from the left corner.

In the middle of the second set, Waggy assumed the serve with an 11-5 advantage. Four of her seven serves could not be returned; some struck the floor without a defender touch at all. She also helped her own cause by fielding a hit, setting up Phoebe Pownell who provided a soft pass to Bennett for another big spike.

Not long after, Tia Heavner joined the spike parade, firing it across for a 19-6 score.

On one remarkable play, Varner tapped the ball into the net, then dove to the floor to pop it back across. Though the Warriors spiked the ball, the diving effort reflected how hard the Wildcats attacked plays. Sometimes overexuberance would lead to miscommunications and Wildcats colliding. At one point later in the game, Madison Day, head coach, shouted a request to stop “playing bumper cars,” imploring them, saying “you’ve got to talk!”

Still, the Wildcats closed out the set with a 25-9 win.

In set three, Pendleton County saw a bit different Pocahontas County squad. Through much of the first two sets, most Warrior points came off Wildcat miscues. By the third, Pocahontas County showed patient and disciplined play that saw them at times push the issue and earn points from their own work.

The Warriors excited their fans by putting up an early 3-1 lead in set number three. Breena Bowers made quick work of it with five straight aces, leading to a 7-3 advantage for the home team. Pocahontas County closed to 7-5, but the Wildcats had control from then on.

Teamwork continued to push Pendleton County. In the middle of the set, Colaw fielded a shot and got the ball to Callie Judy. Judy, as she did all night, popped up an accurate set for Wimer to drive across for a spike and a 10-4 lead. Shortly after, Judy set up a Waggy spike for a 12-6 advantage.

Freshman Kinsley Price, another presence on the front line, picked up a score by tapping a shot from the Warriors right back to the middle, building the lead to 17-7. She replayed the same move two serves later for the same result, after two of her teammates dove on the floor to keep the play alive for her.

The set ended when Bennett took the serve. Laney Bowers put the ball across for the 24th point and Bennett closed it down with an ace.

The Wildcats host Petersburg on Tuesday and travel to Tucker County on Oct. 9.

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TMF Fundraiser

Continued From Page 1

During Treasure Mountain Festival, fortunately, supporting their efforts requires little more than a few dollars and an appetite! Some of the fundraisers could combine for one great meal.

One could pick up the first two courses of their meal from the Sugar Grove Lions Club. Brandon Mitchell explained that their 20 members, with additional help from the Franklin Lions Club and the community, served up the West Virginia traditional dish of soup beans with ham and cornbread.

“The whole community of Sugar Grove came to help out,” said Mitchell. That involved preparation work for cooking, setting up the booth, and a number of other jobs. Those who could not take part with the more physical labor worked at the important task of pulling pebbles from the huge stock of dried beans prior to cooking.”

Many others contributed by baking pans of cornbread in their own kitchens for sale by the Lions. The Lions worked in three hour shifts through the festival to keep volunteer energy high.

Mitchell shared that the Lions always sold traditional West Virginia foods. Before soup beans, their volunteers baked hundreds of kettle cooked chicken pot pies but, as Mitchell said, “That generation moved on.”

For the main course of one’s TMF fundraiser meal, one could next stroll over to the South Fork Ruritan Club’s offerings of sandwiches, nachos, and apple butter.

The Ruritan Club focuses on “Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service” and all three attributes were on display at TMF.

Marshall Harper shared that the South Fork Ruritan had operated its booth for many years, explaining that “we’ve been doing this here ever since the bowling alley was built.” He also expressed sincere appreciation for all those who helped the Ruritans for TMF.

These included Mike Weaver, Richard and Jennifer Baker, Jeff and Beth Nelson, Angie Rexrode, Jeff Teagarden, Jeffrey (son of the aforementioned Jeff Nelson) and Jonathan Nelson. Harper gave special thanks to Jane Conrad whose work supporting the club has been vital for many years.

Finally, what dessert tastes better than a fresh baked country

pie?

South Mill Creek Church of the Brethren, whose own Anna Lee Alt served as TMF parade grand marshal, rolled out the sweet smell (and taste) of fundraising by baking 426 pies — apple, blueberry, blackberry, cherry, peach, raisin, and a traditional favorite, strawberry rhubarb.

As they posted mouthwatering photographs of endless rows of pies, they said, “Help us help others.”

Their Facebook page promised “They will go fast on this beautiful Treasure Mountain Weekend” and did not lie. South Mill Creek Church of the Brethren sold out at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday and declared it was the earliest they ever had.

Fundraising goes to support important projects and programs. The Lions Club has a nationwide mission to help the cause of sightlessness, helping those facing economic challenges to get eye exams and glasses. Funds also support improvements at Sugar Grove Park and other programs. One long term project involves paving the venue’s basketball courts, with an estimated \$27,000 price tag.

Some of the programs supported by the Lions Club include providing scholarships to local college-bound seniors every year, maintaining their Oak Flat facility for community events such as the annual poultry association dinner, roadside trash pickups, constructing amenities for homeowners who have lost mobility, and a number of other projects.

Fundraisers also show how much a community can care when tragedy hits a friend of it. Country music star Spencer Hatcher, who along with the Ol’ Son Gang” has been a regular fan favorite in Pendleton County, lost his mother during a brutally violent home invasion in August. The family started the Holly Hatcher Education Foundation in her honor and memory, with the concept of raising funds to help stock classrooms with needed supplies.

Hatcher’s supporters in Pendleton County stepped up to help. Elizabeth Scott shared that “with the awesomeness of our community far and wide, we were able to raise \$2,606” for the foundation during TMF. “We are so blessed,” shared Scott on social media.

On his Facebook page, Hatcher gave a “special thank you” to Scott “for the special bracelets she made for Treasure Mountain Festival,” that were sold to raise money for the Foundation. He added to all who helped raise money in three concert stops, “I love all of y’all. God Bless America.”

Forty Years Later

Continued From Page 1

that fall into the river and become embedded. Recently he flew a drone over this section of the South Branch River to determine the extent of the problem.

This creates dangers on both a micro and macro level. Trees in the fast paced, narrow, and winding Smoke Hole Canyon pose a “micro” threat to each individual rafter, tubist, or kayaker that chooses to traverse the river, especially on the lengthy 16 mile stretch downstream of Big Bend Campground.

Danger from the trees can come quickly on those unprepared to meet it on the river. “A 12-year-old had a near death experience from this exact same issue,” Alt said. Then he asked, “Is that not a reason enough to address these issues?”

The “macro” effect is even more ominous. Alt shares that “the debris currently is concerning due to the fact of how large it is.” He went on to add that flood levels rise more rapidly in the canyon and that other debris could catch onto the trees and produce a damming effect and “divert water onto the single lane road into Big Bend

Campground,” likely washing it out.

“If this was to occur, who knows the lives in danger with no road access to the campground,” shared Alt. Additionally the narrowness of the canyon gives those staying in the homes along the river few avenues of escape should a flood close to the level of 1985 recur.

A damming effect would also have unpredictable consequences for those living downstream in Grant County. Grant and Hardy counties, however, have focused their South Branch worries on the threat to the US 220 bridge crossing the South Branch at Petersburg Gap, about halfway between the two regional centers of trade and government.

Grant County Commission president, Kevin Haggerty, shared that regional elected officials had a direct discussion with Governor Patrick Morrisey at Welton Park, just upstream of the bridge. “While Governor Morrisey was in the region for the Tri-County Fair,” stated Haggerty, “the Grant County Commission had an opportunity to talk with him about the debris that is building up near the Gap bridge.”

That debris during four decades has formed unstable islands upstream of the multi-million dollar bridge that serves a heavy daily traffic of commuters, residents, and

visitors with millions of dollars of commerce on the line. “The commission exposed the hazards posed and the possible devastation that could occur if the problem went unaddressed,” Haggerty said.

He added that “Governor Morrisey was very receptive and expressed interest in finding a solution.”

“The threat as we see it is real,” shared Dave Workman, Hardy County commissioner, who went on to note that “we continue to have discussions with DNR (Division of Natural Resources), DOH (Division of Highways), and PVCD (Potomac Valley Conservation District) regarding the river.”

“Unfortunately without money, it is hard to gain any traction,” said Workman. He also explained that beyond the bridge “we see several other potential areas that need attention to prevent soil loss, land and property damage, road and bridge damage.” The Trough area of the river extending downstream into Hampshire County has the potential to develop similar issues as Smoke Hole and face similar consequences in a major flood.

Workman echoed the frustration of other officials when he said, “Seems we will have to wait for an emergency situation before things get done.”

Gerald Sites with the Potomac Valley Conservation District has also tried to bring pressure at every level for many years to get relief. He has shared that he could find contractors to do the Petersburg Gap work at low cost to the taxpayer as well.

Workman cited the need for money to address the problem. It is difficult to determine just how much cost would have to go into navigating the Byzantine maze of federal regulations to even put together a permit application that had a possibility of acceptance. That likely goes well beyond the resources of all three affected counties combined.

Over time, the federal government assumed more and more authority over waterways in the United States. The most important step came in the legal expansion of the scope of the Interstate Commerce Clause contained in the original United States Constitution.

During the Civil Rights era, the federal government won in court the ability to expand the ICC to include anything even remotely related to commerce crossing state lines. This enabled the federal government to attack racial discrimination in employment and contracting. Courts did not restrict the expanded interpretation to just civil rights, however. This led to the unparalleled expansion of federal government power ever since.

Only through the expansion of the ICC can the federal government enforce laws related to the environment, drug enforcement, and other issues previously seen as sovereign powers of the states alone.

This begins with what the United States Environmental Protection Agency is permitted to define as “Waters of the United States.” For years, Presidents Barrack Obama and Joe Biden pushed an interpretation that would include not only rivers, streams, and creeks, but also an expansive definition of “wetlands” that would include almost any other area containing water at any time.

In a 2023 case, the United States Supreme Court ruled that WOTUS could only include bodies of water in permanent connection to each other on the surface of the land. According to the Federal Register, this means “the [Clean Water Act]’s use of ‘waters’ encompasses ‘only those relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water ‘forming geographic[al] features’ that are described in ordinary parlance as ‘streams, oceans, rivers, and lakes.’”

This, of course, includes the three major rivers of the South Branch of the Potomac watershed.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act governs the process needed to dredge materials from riverbeds. It requires specific permitting that follows the following guidelines. As the EPA website states, “the basic premise of the program is that no discharge of dredged or fill material may be permitted if: (1) a practicable alternative exists that is less damaging to the aquatic environment or (2) the nation’s waters would be significantly degraded.”

The page goes on to state that “in other words, when you apply for a permit, you must first show that steps have been taken to avoid impacts to wetlands, streams and other aquatic resources; that potential impacts have been minimized; and that compensation will be provided for all remaining unavoidable impacts.”

This is what any entity, be it a private sector operator, municipality, county, State of West Virginia, Potomac Valley Conservation District, or anyone else must tackle before conducting work that could release materials into the stream.

Harrison County, for example, is working with Thrasher to conduct work on a property recently acquired by their county commission. The site will be evaluated to determine what would meet the Supreme Court definition of Waters of the United States. To obtain their permit, they must present their case to the Army Corps of Engineers that the water that collects on the land from time to time is not permanently connected to other waterways. It will take many months to work through the process before they can improve the land.

Rivers in the Potomac Highlands do meet that interpretation, so those applying for permits will have to undergo the full process.

One of the most complex aspects to the process comes in the form of mitigation, which usually means compensating for the damage done during the process of removing debris. In April of 2008 came “more comprehensive standards for compensatory mitigation” from the Army Corps of Engineers. It covers 113 pages and contains an extraordinarily complex series of specific directions.

Intentionally or not, the extensive regulatory requirements on mitigation alone create an almost impassable barrier for local governments or regional organizations such as the Potomac Valley Conservation District or Region 8 Economic Planning and Development to overcome. Only years of costly, difficult, and laborious paperwork or an Act of Congress would provide relief.

According to the EPA, one cannot obtain a waiver for requirements of Section 404 of the CWA and removing debris directly from the river does not fall under the exempted activities.

Alt, however, proposes that the federal government take a more proactive stance, saying, “We need to work with a plan similar to the 1980s where the Army Corps of Engineers would dredge the river basins and banks to reduce all these types of issues.”

The one entity in the United States with the legal ability to ignore any environmental law or regulation is, after all, the federal government itself.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS Continued from Page 9						
DELINQUENT LAND TO BE SOLD FALL PUBLICATION LIST			0000003276	DEPUE JOHN GLEN, 30.2 ACRES RUDDLE.....	0000006415	COLLINS JUSTIN, 219.74 ACS CAVE MTN 1/20 INT.....
<p>Notice is hereby given that the following described tracts or lots of land or undivided interests herein in the County of Pendleton which are delinquent for the nonpayment taxes for the year of 2024 will be offered for sale by the undersigned sheriff at public auction at a later date. You have until October 31, 2025 to pay your delinquent taxes or it will be sold to the state.</p> <p>Each unredeemed tract or lot, or each unredeemed part thereof of undivided interest therein, will be sold by public auction to the highest bidder for cash in an amount which shall not be less than the taxes, and charges which shall be due thereon to the date of sale, as set forth in the following table.</p> <p>Please call the Sheriff's office at 304-358-2214 before paying your 2024 Delinquent taxes which are coming up for land sale. The amount printed as total due for 2024 taxes includes some fees to be added ONLY if the land is sold.</p>			0000003277	DEPUE JOHN GLEN, 14.88 ACS RUDDLE.....	0000006689	HAWKINS FRANCES L, 2.02 ACS STONY RUN.....
			0000003493	HAHN JERRY M, .17 ACS US 33.....	0000007555	SCHOFF MATTHEW M, .85 ACS S BRANCH.....
			0000003596	HARTIGAN DONALD W & CYNTHIA, 3.29 ACS LOT#24 TREASURE MTN ESTATES.....	0000007556	SCHOFF MATTHEW MICHAEL, 151.23 ACRES MIDDLE MT.....
			0000003649	HARVEY BONZELL JR, .41 AC JACK MT.....	0000007614	SHREVE MICHAEL J, .53 AC NORTH MILL CREEK.....
			0000003668	HEDRICK MARY JANE-LE, 5.26 ACS MARY JANE HEDRICK LE SOUTH BRANCH.....	0000007702	STERQUEL JOSEPH, 219.74 ACS CAVE MTN 3/40 INT.....
			0000003809	HUFFMAN CARMA & JAMES E, .309 AC SMITH CREEK.....	0000007707	STUMP RAYMOND &, 3.2 AC SMOKE HOLE.....
			0000003862	JACHIMOWICZ ADAM,.....	0000007708	STUMP WARNIE & ETHEL, W S BRANCH 22.02 AC.....
			0000003912	LOT#17 BUFFALO MTN VISTAS.....	0000007709	STUMP WARNIE & ETHEL, N MILL CREEK 4.16 ACS.....
			0000003929	JUDY DANNY LEE, 4.29 AC U S 33 NEW SURVEY.....	0000007710	STUMP WARNIE & ETHEL, 35.25 ACS N MILL CREEK.....
			0000003930	JUDY KENNETH P, 3.97 ACS SOUTH BRANCH.....	0000007719	THOMAS JAMES L &, 29.67 AC S BRANCH.....
0000004006	JUDY KENNETH P, SOUTH BRANCH 23 ACS CONSOLIDATION.....	0000007736	THOMSON A RODERICK, 3.49 ACS LOT #25 SMOKE HOLE LEGENDS.....			
0000004117	KIMBLE LABREESKA K, 14.17 ACS SMITH CREEK.....	0000007801	VANMETER JOHN, 9.41 AC MALLOW RUN.....			
0000000050	BAILEY DON & JEAN, BRANDYWINE .25 AC.....	0000004118	LOCKARD EDWARD & KATHY, 0.32 ACS LOT #4 PAINTERS VIEW SUB.....	DISTRICT-06-SUGAR GROVE		
0000000152	CASI EL CIELO LLC, 4.8 AC SOUTH FORK.....	0000004119	LOCKARD KATHLEEN, 25 AC TROUT RUN.....	0000008331	CARR EMORY W AND SHELVE R, LOT 14K S FORK 10.64 ACRES.....	
0000000222	DALTON SHANE W &, 4.28 ACS LOT#12 POTOMAC OVERLOOK SUB.....	0000004120	LOCKARD KATHLEEN, 1 AC TROUT RUN.....	0000008357	CONLEY FERANIE, 6.84 ACS SOUTH FORK.....	
0000000238	DAVIS JERRY JR, 4.32 ACS ROUGH RUN.....	0000004140	LOCKARD KATHLEEN, 64.408 ACS TROUT RUN.....	0000008420	DOVE QUENTIN & BRITTANY A, 4.41 ACS S FORK MTN.....	
0000000239	DAVIS JERRY JR, 4 AC ROUGH RUN.....	0000004145	LOVELL PAMELA, 49.16 ACS LOT#10 DAHMER.....	0000008438	ECKARD CORY & WHITNEY, .94 AC BRUSHY FORK.....	
0000000389	GARBER WAYNE E, .45 ACS ROUGH RUN.....	0000004146	M & B FARMS LLC, .44 ACS P/O LOTS 9-10 FRIENDS HILLS SUB.....	0000008445	ELSWICK PATRICIA ANN, SHAW RIDGE .92 AC.....	
0000000429	GROVE ROBERT L II, 1.12 ACS' SWEEDLIN VALLEY.....	0000004147	M & B FARMS LLC, .17 AC FRIENDS HILL.....	0000008519	GLOWNIAK RICHARD E & ADRIENNE, 1.20 ACS SHAW'S RIDGE.....	
0000000581	HOWARD CARROLL D &, 3 AC SOUTH FORK MT.....	0000004148	M & B FARMS LLC, 0.40 ACS FRIENDS HILL.....	0000008523	GOOD BUY REAL ESTATE LLC, .12 ACS LOT#12B SOUTH FORK CROSSING.....	
0000000711	LGI LAND WV LLC, 1.02 ACS LOT#38 FISHER MTN.....	0000004191	M & B FARMS LLC, .214 AC FRIENDS HILL SUB DIV.....	0000008638	HOWDYSHILL MICHAEL W, .118 ACRE FLEISHERS RUN.....	
0000000721	LOCKNER DEREK LEE, 0.75 ACS HAWES RUN.....	0000004247	MARTIN CARLA, 49.16 ACS LOT#10 DAHMER.....	0000008639	HOWDYSHILL MICHAEL W, .24 AC FLEISHERS RUN.....	
0000000724	LOCKNER RICHARD F, GARAGE ONLY.....	0000004265	MERRITT JOHN A, 3.08 AC LOT C-5 ENTRY MT.....	0000008640	HOWDYSHILL MICHAEL W, .093 AC FLEISHERS RUN.....	
0000000740	LUGENT LISA, 2 ACS SOUTH FORK.....	0000004280	MILTON ANDREA & LOT #17 .25 ACS SOUTH BRANCH.....	0000008641	HOWDYSHILL MICHAEL W, .044 AC FLEISHERS RUN.....	
0000000741	LYSTER GEOFFREY D, 5.91 ACS POTOMAC OVERLOOK SUB.....	0000004319	MITCHELL MARY-LE, 40.17 ACS ENTRY MT.....	0000008671	HUNTER MARVIN M & SHIRLET, SHAW'S RIDGE 16 ACRES.....	
0000000887	NIX WILLIAM J &, .72 ACS FISHER MTN SEC 2 PHASE 1.....	0000004438	MORELAND CALVIN &, 7.84 AC FRIENDS RUN.....	0000008849	MCDONALD STEVEN L & SUSAN L, 6.59 ACS LOT#21 BLACKTHORN MTN ESTATES.....	
0000000890	OAKES MARK H & APRIL, 1.46 ACS SOUTH FORK MT.....	0000004439	NIBBLINS DIANNE HAROLD, .75 AC ENTRY MT.....	0000008918	MOATS ANNA, MOATS DRAFT 31 ACS.....	
0000001147	SCHELL TERRY RAY, 1.02 ACS PROPST GAP.....	0000004488	NIBBLINS HAROLD & DIANE, .64 AC ENTRY MTN.....	0000008974	MOATS PAMELA & THOMAS & JEFF, MOATS DRAFT 18.44 ACS EACH HAVE UND 1/10TH INT.....	
0000001349	TROMBLEY JOHN C, 1.0066 ACS LOT#3 PHASE 1 GOLF ESTATES SUB.....	0000004495	PERRY JIMMY R, 2.31 ACS PAINTERS POINT.....	0000009138	PITSENBARGER ROBIN, S FORK 23.17 AC.....	
0000001453	WRIGHT TERESA N &, .67 ACRE BRANDYWINE.....	0000004522	PILGRIM DARRELYN, BUCK RIDGES LOT #6 5.00 ACRES 3RD ADDITION.....	0000009181	PROPST ONA BRYAN, 91.70 ACRES BLACK THORN.....	
DISTRICT-02-CIRCLEVILLE			0000004545	PRICELESS PROPERTIES LLC, .256 ACS US 220.....	0000009214	PUFFENBARGER MARTHA A, KISER GAP .565 ACRE.....
0000001837	DEHAVEN CARRIE, 2.50 ACRES ELK MT.....	0000004676	PROPST NATHAN W, SOUTH BRANCH 7.94 ACRES.....	0000009371	SHANHOLTZ RODMAN & 139.89 ACRES OF 140.89 RODMAN'S HOUSE.....	
0000001838	DEHAVEN CARRIE & ADAM, 2.50 ACRES ELK MT.....	0000004851	RION JAMES F & HUFFMAN C, NEAR FRANKLIN .277 ACRE.....	0000009372	SHANHOLTZ RODMAN &, 1 ACRE OF 140.89 RENTAL HOUSE.....	
0000001878	FLEMION BRIAN R & DONALD P, .875 AC NORTH FORK.....	0000004852	SIMMONS JONATHON L, 1 AC PROPST GAP.....	0000009504	TIBERIUS ENTERPRISES, S FORK 121 ACES.....	
0000001970	HEDRICK ROBERT & ASHLEY, 0.72 ACS NORTH FORK.....	0000004982	SIMMONS JONATHON L, 47 AC SOUTH BRANCH.....	0000009516	TURNER LISA & BOBBY, 1.43 ACS SO FORK.....	
0000002091	LAMBORNE MICHAEL & SHIRLEY, 119.39 ACRES NORTH FORK HILLS.....	0000004983	SMITH RODNEY, 0.82 AC CEDAR KNOW.....	0000009549	WASHINGTON MYRTLE J &, 2 ACS SOUTH FORK.....	
0000002092	LAMBORNE MICHAEL & SHIRLEY ANN 36.22 AC NORTH FORK HILLS.....	0000004990	SMITH RODNEY, 0.93 AC CEDAR KNOB.....	DISTRICT-07-UNION		
0000002150	MAUZY JOHN H & JOHN W &, 2 ACS BIG MTN.....	0000005026	SNEAD KEHRIS ANNE, 0.79 ACS DRY RUN.....	0000009751	ALLEGHENY WOOD PRODUCTS INC, .12 ACRE TRACT# C N FORK.....	
0000002179	MORRIS EVERETTE F JR, .66 AC ELK MT LOT #6 & 8.....	0000005045	SPONAUGLE PATSY B, 49.16 ACS LOT#10 DAHMER.....	0000009752	ALLEGHENY WOOD PRODUCTS INC, .098 ACRE TRACT# A N FORK.....	
0000002228	NOLAN TIMOTHY B, 2.6 AC TIMBER RIDGE.....	0000005049	STULL LUKE A, .443 AC BLACK THORN.....	0000009753	ALLEGHENY WOOD PRODUCTS INC, .436 ACRES TRACT# B N FORK.....	
0000002314	RAINES PHYLLIS S, 1 AC CIRCLEVILLE 330X132.....	0000005215	STURGILL ROSE A, 1.112 ACRES SMITH CREEK.....	0000009754	ALLEGHENY WOOD PRODUCTS INC, .35 AC NORTH FORK.....	
0000002434	STARK LAUREN MICHELLE, 10 ACS HORSE MT.....	0000005216	TIDD PATTY, 0.83 ACS SO BRANCH.....	0000009755	ALLEGHENY WOODS PRODUCTS INC, 12.18 ACS NORTH FORK.....	
0000002454	TAYLOR WILLIAM MADISON, NORTH FORK 4.72 AC.....	0000005342	WAGGY LUCILLE, WYATTS RUN 76.5 ACS INCLUSIVE SURVEY.....	0000009873	BLAND EMMA MAE-LE, RIVERTON 3 AC.....	
0000002495	TINGLER RICKY, 21.07 ACS ELK MT.....	0000005376	WAGGY LUCILLE, 544.67 ACS REEDS CREEK.....	0000009960	BURNER JOHN WM ET ALS, 57 ACS N F HILLS.....	
0000002498	TINGLER TIMMY & MELINDA, 2.62 ACS ELK MT.....	0000005403	WAGGY LUCILLE T, 129.90 ACS SOUTH BRANCH.....	0000100540	LANDIS KAREN, .81 ACRE NORTH FORK.....	
0000002504	UPP JACQUELINE W REVOCABLE 183.57 ACS TRACT #1 NORTH FORK.....	0000005414	WHITMORE MICHAEL II & RENE, 2 ACS REEDS CREEK.....	0000100625	MICK BRENDA SUE &, 1 AC NORTH FORK.....	
0000002505	UPP JACQUELINE WILKINS TRUSTEE NORTH FORK 9.25 AC.....	0000005418	WIMER JOY L, 5 AC HIGH VALLEY SUB DIV.....	0000100626	MICK BRENDA SUE &, .50AC NORTH FORK.....	
0000002526	VANDEVANDER MICHELLE R &, 1.20 ACS NORTH FORK HILLS.....	0000005419	WOODWARD ERNEST C JR, 10 ACS TRACT #1 TREASURE MT.....	0000100627	MICK BRENDA SUE &, .25AC NORTH FORK.....	
0000002546	VINT RONALD JAMES & NORMA JEAN, 1.28 ACS TIMBER RIDGE.....	DISTRICT-04-FRANKLIN CORPORATION			0000100697	O'CONNER VIOLET, 22 ACS GERMANY VALLEY 1/5 INT (GAS & OIL RIGHTS ONLY).....
0000002594	WARNER DARYL, 0.78 AC NORTH FORK.....	0000005767	WRIGHT SALLY & DAVID, .79 AC PARCEL C THORN CREEK.....	0000100698	O'CONNER VIOLET, 11.53 ACS GERMANY VALLEY (GAS & OIL RIGHTS ONLY)1/5 INT.....	
0000002613	WARNER JESSE T &, 1.57 AC NORTH FORK.....	0000005795	WRIGHT TERESA, 5.39 ACS ENTRY MOUNTAIN.....	0000101072	PEARCE GARLENE, 2.126 ACS SMITH MTN ROAD.....	
DISTRICT-03-FRANKLIN			0000005819	WRIGHT TERESA N, 3.08 AC LOT #C-2 ENTRY MT.....	0000101072	PROPST JEFFREY, .64 ACRES ONEGO.....
0000002826	ALLEGHENY WOOD PRODUCTS 2687 ACS JACK MTN MINERALS ONLY EXCLUDING COAL.....	0000005820	JOHNSON DESIREE J, LOT 6TH ST 30 X 140 .096 ACRE.....	000010782	RAINES TODD (LARRY TODD), 2.54 ACS NORTH FORK.....	
0000002837	ANDERSON JOHN D JR & DIANNE, M 1.383 AC SOUTH BRANCH.....	0000005821	KIRK RONALD K JR, .263 ACS N US 220.....	000010961	THOMPSON DAISY, BRUSHY RUN 25.25 ACS 1/20 UND INT-TRUMMIE THOMPSON.....	
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0000002954	BLED SOE KELSEY, .09 ACRE UNIT#1 RIVERBEND GARDENS.....	0000005831	M & B FARMS LLC, 0.11 ACS FRIENDS HILL.....	Any of the aforesaid tracts or lots, or part thereof or any individual interest therein, may be redeemed by the payment to the undersigned sheriff before sale, of the total amount of taxes, interest and charges due thereon up to the date of redemption.		
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0000003275	DEPUE JOHN GLEN, .45 AC RUDDLE.....	0000006362	CALHOUN LYNWOOD LUCY, .36 ACRE BRUSHY RUN.....			
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10X20

October Is National Pizza Month



The concept of pizza, as a flatbread with toppings, has ancient origins, with early forms enjoyed by Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. Today's modern pizza originated in the late 18th century in Naples, Italy, as a dish sold by street vendors. In 2001, a pizza was delivered to the International Space Station via a resupply rocket, making it the first pizza to be eaten in space. The the largest pizza ever made measured over 13,580 square feet. Extremely popular in the U.S., 93 percent of Americans eat pizza at least once a month for approximately 23 pounds of pizza per person annually.

FOR SALE

SEASONED OR green firewood, Toyota stacked bed level, \$100. May charge \$20 more for gas. 304-703-0248.

10-2-2p

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.penco-outdoors.com, www.facebook.com/penco-outdoors. 10-12-tfn

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

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* 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

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

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: THE CHANGE OF NAME OF Jaxson Berkley Willis to Jaxson Berkley Bowers

FAMILY COURT CASE NO.: 25-P-8

NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF CHANGE OF NAME:

Notice is hereby given that on the 28th day of October, 2025, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as this matter may be heard, Jaxson B. Willis will apply by Petition to the Family Court of Pendleton County, WV, at the Courthouse therefore in the City of Franklin, WV for the entry of an Order by said Court changing the name from Jaxson B. Willis to Jaxson B. Bowers. Any person who has an objection to the change of said name for any reason may appear at the time and place set forth above and shall be heard in opposition to such change.

Given under my hand this 25th day of September, 2025.

Jaxson B. Willis
PETITIONER
P.O. Box 125
Franklin, WV 26807

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 25-0698-E-P

MONONGAHELA POWER COMPANY and THE POTOMAC EDISON COMPANY

Application for Review, Reconciliation and Establishment of new ELG Surcharge Rates Proposed to be Effective January 1, 2026.

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

On August 1, 2025, Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company (collectively, Companies) filed an application for review and approval of new Effluent Limitation Guideline (ELG) Surcharge reconciliation and true-up to establish a surcharge rate for the Companies effective January 1, 2026. The review period for this proceeding is July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

United States Postal Service
Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

1. Publication Title — Mountain Media LLC/Pendleton Times (The)

2. Publication Number — 425-240.

3. Filing Date — 09/26/2025.

4. Issue Frequency —

The total proposed ELG rates represent an approximate 0.3 percent increase in total rates. The impact to a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month is a \$0.39 increase in the monthly bill raising it from \$137.43 to \$137.82.

The Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing at 9:30 a.m. on November 18, 2025, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, Public Service Commission, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. Interested persons should monitor the Commission's web docket and website because the evidentiary hearing may be cancelled for good cause.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene by October 15, 2025. Failure to intervene timely can affect your right to participate in the proceeding. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention. Anyone desiring to file public comment regarding the proposed new rates may file such comment at any time during this case. Petitions to intervene and public comments should include the case name and number and be addressed to: The Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323. Public comments may also be filed online at <http://www.psc.state.wv.us/scripts/onlinecomments/default.cfm> by clicking the "Formal Case" link.

MONONGAHELA POWER COMPANY and THE POTOMAC EDISON COMPANY

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the following estates is pending in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, 100 S. Main Street, P. O. Box 1167, Franklin, West Virginia 26807. The names of the personal representatives are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All persons on whom this notice is served who have objections that challenge the validity of the will, the qualifications of the personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of this Commission are required to file their objections with this Commission WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF THE NOTICE, whichever is later.

All creditors of the decedent(s) and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate(s) must file their claims with this Commission WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is October 2, 2025. Deadline for claims is December 1, 2025.

Robert M. Weese-Bennett Estate - Shirley Sherman, Executrix; Karlheinz P. Esser Estate - Jennifer L. Esser, Executrix; Marie M. Eye Estate - Sarah Cobb, Executrix; Carla Combs Estate - Dennis Reilly, Executor.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on September 29, 2025.

Elise M. White, Clerk of the Pendleton County Commission

10-2-2c

1. Publication Title — Mountain Media LLC/Pendleton Times (The)

2. Publication Number — 425-240.

3. Filing Date — 09/26/2025.

4. Issue Frequency —

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 25-0688-G-390P

MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY
Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program Filing for 2026

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

On July 31, 2025, Mountaineer Gas Company (Mountaineer) filed its annual Application for approval of an Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program for 2026 (2026 IREP) with revised IREP rates for 2026, pursuant to W.Va. Code § 24-2-1k, which authorizes the Public Service Commission of West Virginia to approve cost recovery of projects to replace, upgrade and expand natural gas utility infrastructure that are deemed to be just and reasonable and in the public interest.

In its Application, Mountaineer forecasts capital investment for calendar year 2026 of \$77,000,000 as part of its multi-year plan. The 2026 IREP covers several categories of plant asset replacements and improvements, including mains, service lines, measurement and regulator stations, and house regulators. These plant investments are proposed to be made in Mountaineer service territories throughout the State. These investments are identified in the Application, which is on file and available for public inspection at the Commission's offices at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia and which may be viewed on the Commission's website, www.psc.state.wv.us.

Mountaineer proposes to increase IREP revenues by approximately \$5,239,000 for IREP investments made from 2023 to 2026 through an increased IREP rate component to be effective on January 1, 2026, within the fixed or volumetric base rate component of its rates, depending on the applicable rate schedule under which service is rendered. Mountaineer projects that if the program and IREP rate increase are approved as requested, the average monthly bill for its various classes of customers will be changed on January 1, 2026 as shown below:

Mountaineer Gas Company - Proposed		
Type of Customer	\$	%
Residential	\$ 1.55	1.93%
Commercial	\$ 4.12	1.39%
Large Commercial (*)	\$ 218.55	0.43%
Large Commercial — I (*)	\$ 276.83	0.17%
Industrial (*)	\$ 297.22	0.26%
Wholesale	\$ 44.28	0.64%

(*) Percentage increases for Large Commercial and Industrial customers assume transport customers purchase their natural gas at the same price as the Company's Purchased Gas Adjustment rate.

The increases shown above are compared to the rates currently in place and are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Each class may receive an increase greater or less than stated here. Individual customers may receive an increase that is greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increase or decrease) by the Commission in its review of the filing. Any change in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Commission.

The Commission set a procedural schedule, including a hearing date on the Application that will begin at 9:30 a.m. on November 14, 2025, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room at the Commission's offices at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. If no opposition to the Application is received by the Commission within one week of the hearing date, the hearing may be waived, and the Commission may issue a final order within 150 days of the Application filing date.

Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene within 10 days following the date of this publication unless otherwise modified by Commission order. All requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the request to intervene and comply with the rules on intervention set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Commission will receive written public comments. All written comments and requests to intervene should state the case name and number and be addressed to the Commission Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323. Public comments may also be filed online at <http://www.psc.state.wv.us/scripts/onlinecomments/default.cfm> by clicking the "Formal Case" link.

MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY	
Weekly.	2,790 2,700
5. Number of Issues Published Annually — 51.	
6. Annual Subscription Price — \$37.00.	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication, Contact Person and Telephone — PO Box 906, Franklin, Pendleton, West Virginia 26807-0906; Pam Hartman; 304-358-2304.	
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher — PO Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901-0429.	
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor - Publisher — Michael Showell, PO Box 429, Lewisburg WV 24901-0429; Editor — Michael Showell, PO Box 429, Lewisburg WV 24901-0429; Managing Editor — NA.	
10. Owner — Michael Showell, PO Box 429, Lewisburg WV 24901-0429.	
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities — None.	
13. Publication Title — Mountain Media LLC/The Pendleton Times.	
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data — 09/25/2025.	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	
Average No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a.Total Number of Copies	

Hunting Outlook and Mast Survey Released

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has announced that hunters preparing for fall seasons may now consult the 2025 Hunting Outlook and Mast Survey, which details the abundance of wild fruits and nuts produced by 18 species of trees and shrubs and forecasts game harvests for the coming year.

According to the survey, the mast index is 2 percent above the statewide long-term average and 16 percent above 2024.

“Hard mast production, especially acorns from white oak and chestnut oak, is up this year and expected to be abundant and widespread across the state,” said Avery Kornis, mast survey project leader for the WVDNR's Wildlife Resources Section. “However, soft mast production was variable and many species showed decreases across most or all of the surveyed ecoregions.”

When mast is abundant, big game tend to move less and remain more dispersed, making them harder for hunters to locate. Reduced soft mast can cause wildlife to move more in search of food, creating localized opportunities in later months for hunters who do advance scouting.

Because mast production influences wildlife behavior, harvests for white-tailed deer and raccoon are predicted to be lower in 2025. According to the survey, the overall black bear harvest is predicted to be higher. Hunters should see similar harvests for wild turkey, wild boar, gray and fox squirrel and ruffed grouse in 2025 compared to 2024.

“Every hunting season in West Virginia comes with unique opportunities and challenges, so I encourage folks to use this report to their advantage, plan accordingly and enjoy a great hunting season this fall,” said Brett McMillion, WVDNR director.

The survey, which is conducted by active and retired staff from the WVDNR's Wildlife Resources Section and West Virginia Division of Forestry, may be downloaded at WVdnr.gov/mast-survey.

All hunters 15 and older are required to have a valid West Virginia hunting license and valid form of identification while hunting, which can be purchased at license agents across the state or online at WVhunt.com.

Copies Included on PS Form 3541	2,658	2,649
13	c. Total Print Distribution	
13	+ Paid Electronic Copies	
2. Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	2,700	2,693
12	d. Percentage Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies	
12	98.00%	98.00%
3. Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS	0	0
0	17. Publication of Statement of Ownership — Will be printed in the 10/02/2025 issue of this publication.	
4. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail	17	19
17	18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager or Owner and Date — Michael Showell, Publisher/Owner, 09/26/2025.	
e.Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	42	44
42	I certify that all information on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including penalties).	
f. Total Distribution	2,479	2,449
g. Copies not Distributed	311	251
h. Total	2,790	2,700
i. Percent Paid	98.31%	98.20%
98.31%	98.20%	
16. Electronic copy Circulation - Yes	0	0
a. Paid Electronic Copies	221	244
221	b. Total Paid Copies + Paid Electronic Copies	
244		1p

Legal Advertisements Continued on Page 8



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<p>HIGH VALLEY, log home built 2000, 10 acres, stunning view from front porch, heat pump, fire place, propane, spring and well water, gazebo w/built-in fire pit, finished garage, storage building. SALE PRICE \$389,000.</p>			
<p>EAST DRY RUN ROAD - 49.16 acres, old farm house, good condition log outbuilding, spring and stream, dozens of walnut trees, .3 mile paved road frontage. \$289,000 REDUCED \$275,000.</p>			
<p>BLACK THORN MOUNTAIN ESTATES, 6.18 acres, Lot #22, top of mountain, great views, a HOA applies, west of Doe Hill Road. \$74,000. \$64,000. REDUCED \$50,000.</p>			
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SGR393A 14.5 Acres w/2 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin with very efficient use of space. Located on Dry Run Rd. 1900 gallon Cistern. Wood & Electric Heat. **NEW LISTING \$249,000.00.**

SGR391A 7.94 Acres w/Riverfront Cabin along US Rt 220 South, just outside of Franklin. Two Bed, 1 Bath, new build 2024. Great location for Airbnb or personal weekend getaway. Plenty of room for recreation along river. **NEW LISTING \$395,000.00.**

SGR389A 20.67 Acres w/2020 w/2 Bed, 2 bath double-wide on Blackberry Ln., Bethel District. **\$249,000.00.**

SGR388A 2.65 Ac. w/2 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin located in Sugar Grove District. New vinyl plank flooring. Newly screened in front & back porches. Newly painted inside and out. Cross river to Cabin. Well & Septic. **\$199,000.00.**

SGR385A 5.12 Acres w/well maintained 2 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin w/loft located on Lower Kile Knob Rd. Franklin District. Some Restrictions. **\$269,000.00.**

SGR384A 60 Annie Lane, Circleville, 1.15 acres, 3 bed/2 bath, spacious modular, flat yard, county living. **\$250,000.00.**

SGR383A 5 Acres w/2 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin, Kile Knob. Highly sought after tremendous Westerly facing mountain view! Full Solar Electric System installed in 2023. Wood & Propane heat. Satellite internet avail or phone hot spot. Generator Shed and Run-In Shed. Some Restrictions. Franklin District. All wheel drive vehicle recommended. **~~\$299,000.00~~ REDUCED \$249,000.00.**

SGR382A 45 Ac. w/1 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin, Solar powered, no restrictions, Cistern & Septic, Shooting Range. Excellent Hunting. Franklin District. **\$399,000.00.**

SGR380A 5.62 Acres, Lot #3, Sharp Ridge, Electric nearby, Easy Access, Some Restrictions, Franklin District. **\$49,500.00.**

SGR379A 5994 Mount Freedom Drive, Cherry Grove 14.70 acres, 2 bed/1 bath house; one room w/loft cabin, several other buildings and outbuildings, adjoins National Forest, very unique property. **~~\$279,000.00~~ REDUCED \$264,000.00.**

SGR378A 0.31 acres w/3 bed/2 bath & 2 bed/1 bath Duplex, Full basement, 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 Ridges Development, Franklin District. **NEW LISTING \$349,900.00.**

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

SGR373A 5 Acres w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Cabin, Kile Knob. 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. Franklin District. All wheel or 4 wheel access. Seasonal. **NEW LISTING \$299,000.00.**

SGR371A 0.04 Acres w/3 Bed, 2 Bath 1600 sq. ft. Home located in Franklin Township. New 2024 Double Pane Windows, Mini Splits, Woodstove & half basement. Large deck on back w/Nice Mtn. View. Lot #4, Franklin Corp. **~~\$150,000.00~~ REDUCED \$139,000.00.**

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

SGR369A 15.17 Acres w/1 Bed, 1 Bath cabin, Electric & Propane Heat, Cistern, Septic (unapproved). Located in North Fork Flats. Perfect for hunters, fisherman or outdoor enthusiasts. **~~\$189,000.00~~ REDUCED \$179,000.00.**

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

SGR363A 3 Bed, 1 Bath Home located in Franklin Corp., Heat Pump, Propane Wall Unit, Electric Baseboard and Central AC, Town Water & Sewer, Double Pane Windows, Deck, One Car Garage & Storage Shed. **~~\$169,000.00~~ REDUCED \$159,000.00.**

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.**

SGR343A 5 Acre lot w/Log Siding Cabin, Buck Ridges Development. Great View. 2 Bed, 2.5 Baths. Walkout Basement with newly remodeled bath. New carpeting in Basement. Expansive covered deck provides even more outdoor living space to enjoy. Wood floors upstairs. Spring Water. **~~\$283,000.00~~ REDUCED \$279,000.00.**

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

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

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

SGR302A "The Hollow" Restaurant, fully furnished, at the corner of US Rt 220/US Rt 33W, Franklin. Property adjoins neighboring motel. **~~\$425,000.00~~ \$320,000.00 REDUCED \$299,000.00 REDUCED \$229,000.00.**

SGR056 Highland County property. Pasture, several year-round Springs, Hunting, High Speed Internet, Electric, 1.3 miles of public Road Frontage. Awesome view of Blue Grass Valley. **\$2,973,000.00.**

SGR441 Residential lots, public water, protective covenants and restrictions. Oak Flat Estates near Brandywine on Rte 333 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.**

On Aug. 30, Franklin High School class of 1953 held its 72nd class reunion at Brandywine Baptist Church. A great country meal was prepared by the ladies of the church, and the ladies presented each classmate with a gift. Six classmates and their guests attended. The classmates attending were, from left, AnnaLee Thorn Alt, AdaBelle Hedrick Huffman, Patsy Vandevander Ruble, Grace Harman Hammer, Glenn Dahmer and Edwin Wimer, Jr.

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A black and white line drawing of a person wearing a cap and work clothes, kneeling and working on a wooden surface, likely a roof or deck. The person is using a tool, possibly a shovel or pry bar, to work on the wood.

CW's CORN MAZE

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Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. & Sunday Noon - 6 p.m.
\$ 11 PER PERSON; AGE 2 AND YOUNGER FREE
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Go 1/4 mile to the first corn field on the left.



CW's
Corn Maze

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