

THE PENDLETON TIMES

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October 9, 2025



The Educators Rising club lays out the year's schedule for in-school projects in their meeting.

‘Educators Rising’ Provides an Effort to Ensure Local Students Become Tomorrow’s Teachers

By Stephen Smoot

As Pendleton County Schools continue a strong rebound from issues imposed by COVID, officials continue to identify the shortage of certified teachers as a key barrier to further improvements.

Over a century ago in remote areas, teachers often honed those skills before they graduated from the eighth grade. One or other limited room schoolhouses often relied on a single teacher to lead all education. That teacher would generally rely on older students to teach the younger children, which also reinforced both their knowledge and technique.

By the time those seeking to teach completed their final grade in school (normally eighth in those days) they were considered experienced enough to teach school in very remote and rural areas.

“Educators Rising” restores the essence of that dynamic in hands-on ways, starting their

teacher education before their teachers have finished teaching them. It works hand-in-hand with Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College’s “Grow Your Own” program that enables teacher education to start during a student’s high school years.

Aspiring teachers can reach their sophomore year before graduating from high school through attending and passing “dual credit” courses that provide simultaneous high school and college credit. Credits earned from EWVCTC will transfer to other state schools’ programs, too.

Upon graduation and attaining their 18th birthday, program participants may qualify to work as teacher aides. They can also take examinations to demonstrate skills mastery for work consideration.

Janice Heavner serves as the teacher-advisor and constant inspiration for the club. She shared that the goal lies in having the students be “able to walk into the college setting and say, ‘I’m

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North Fork to Washington, DC, and Back: Lambert’s Century of Memories

By Stephen Smoot

“Home” carries vastly different meanings to every person who considers the concept. For some, “home” is simply the place where that person happened to hang their hat that day.

For many in Pendleton

County, “home” represents the land hacked out of the wilderness by enterprising settlers, carefully tended over time and generations. Home and family merge and intertwine together as important threads of life and the foundation for community.

“This was my homeplace. I was born and raised here,” said Idelta Lambert of her residence near Circleville.

On this day, like so many others, the sun gently kissed the landscape with almost no cloud in the sky. Soft road noise came from the cars passing by, unaware that they passed a homeplace built by a loving father for his family. How could they see the unassuming farmhouse and know that Harman Sponaule took the timber off the land with his own two hands, prepared the wood board by board, then slowly and carefully built a home that still stands strong so many decades hence?

He built that home for his wife Etta and their multitude of children. In addition to Idelta, the two also bore between 1901 and Idelta’s arrival on Nov. 1, 1925, Beulah, Marvin, Raymond, Alpha, Myrtle, Kitty, Mary, Elsie, Ruby, Levene, Roscoe, and McClure Sponaule.

Lambert’s father was born in 1877 and mother only four years later. “They lived on the Hunting Ground back when they were younger,” Lambert shared. This mountain comes just shy of 4,000 feet, rising directly to the west of Cherry Grove.

Back then, Lambert said, he “went into the woods for work cutting new timber.” She recalled that “there were all kinds of people” coming into the mountains to work in the timber camps before World War I. One would



Idelta Lambert shared nearly 100 years’ worth of stories of her and her family’s life on the North Fork and elsewhere. She reaches the century mark next month.

find “company houses along the railroad track for people to live.”

“In Transforming the Appalachian Countryside,” West Virginia University Professor Emeritus Ron Lewis wrote about constant tensions in those violence plagued camps. Recruitment companies sent in laborers brought from the Deep South and southern and eastern Europe. A rough and ready culture combined with almost no law enforcement outside of guards hired by the company served as a recipe for constant violence.

In August of 1905, eight Italians died when a bomb exploded under their cabin in a work camp. A small riot occurred near Marlinton when a group of Italian workers apparently intentionally ran over a black laborer with a truck. Near Spruce in 1908, “nine Italian laborers who worked for the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company at Spruce stormed the company office, clubbed a clerk to death, and wounded a company official.”

Sponaule worked some near Gladly before quitting

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A Century Strong: Pendleton Community Bank Celebrates 100 Years of Service

By Stephen Smoot

On Main Street in Franklin rests the solid and sturdy façade of Pendleton Community Bank

A century and a few days ago, Farmers and Merchants Bank of Marlinton opened its doors to serve that timber town.

Now, headquartered in Franklin, that same deep-rooted institution serves eight communities in West Virginia (including its original Marlinton home base) and six in Virginia. Over time, as it has evolved and expanded, Pendleton Community Bank has always put a premium on its relationships with the local people and the surrounding area.

Marlinton’s boosters had convinced the Pocahontas County electorate to move the county seat from Huntersville in 1891 as rail and timber interests pushed aside the traditional agricultural economy. After the arrival of the first train on the Greenbrier Division of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, the town grew rapidly in terms of both business and population.

Railroads snaked through



The 100th anniversary celebration featured a day of free music, food, fun, fellowship, capped by a family-friendly film at Warner’s Drive-In.

the wilderness to haul out the prime timber from virgin forests, shipping the bounty to mills that would cut board or reduce the wood to paper. That which did not get cut into board by local saw mills went to the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company’s mill in Covington, Virginia.

Marlinton, which was a sleepy river town in 1891, by 1920 boasted 1,880 of the county’s 15,581 inhabitants. Into this boom town was born the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Marlinton, now known as Pendleton Com-

munity Bank.

For 12 years, the institution served Marlinton but the economy of the region followed that of the nation itself after the onset of the Great Depression in 1929.

One of those factors had nothing to do with the global economic crisis so much as reckless timber extraction. Since 1870, timber companies followed frontiersmen’s practice in creating farmland, but on a much wider scale. They simply clear cut the land from the most aged

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Perfection Personified Per BES



Brandywine Elementary School celebrated the first day of attendance spirit week with 100 percent perfect attendance for pre-kindergarten, first, and fifth grades.

Dialysis Center Confirmed to Locate in Moorefield Soon

By Stephen Smoot

Ever since DaVita moved operations to Keyser from Moorefield, patients with kidney problems requiring dialysis have seen additional hardships in trying to get to their appointments.

In the near future, that will change.

During the past year, three local officials have embarked on a mission to restore this vital service to Moorefield with the goal of restoring convenient service to Hardy, Pendleton, and Grant counties.

Bill Ours with the Hardy County Health Department, along with Greg Greenwalt and Hardy County Committee on Aging Executive Director Mike Crites led the effort. They worked on two tiers, dealing with the company itself and also mustering support from the surrounding area.

Several months ago, the trio made the rounds of local government bodies, meeting with the county commissions of Pendleton, Hardy, and Grant, as well as the Town of Moorefield and Town of Petersburg, requesting support to help secure the deal.

As Ours explained, the former center relocated two years ago. At that point, Phyllis Helmick, former Committee on Aging executive director, opened discussions with the largest corporation on the globe that specializes in kidney disease treatment facilities, Germany-based Fresenius.

Ours shared that the company recently agreed to sign a 10-year lease to operate their kidney dialysis center in Moorefield.

Many of the remaining challenges involve getting the building ready for the center, many of which are costly. Crites shared an

example, stating that the elevator in the building has two broken parts that require repair. Two minor parts, which just by themselves cost \$81.75, will be added to the cost of labor, which has been estimated at \$2,165. A crew must come from Pittsburg to conduct the job.

“A lot is good to go,” explained Ours, because a dialysis center had operated in the same space before. The differences in how each company approached its facility design, however, add to the renovation needs before operations can commence.

A more major project lies in installing an additional steel beam under the second floor where the center’s equipment will rest. This is required because of the different configurations of equipment that Fresenius will use. Gas lines will also require maintenance, among a number of other details.

As for the expected opening date, officials have not yet established one. Crites, however, stated that “they are moving fast.”

The need for these services has risen tremendously. Nationally, the percentage of Americans with diabetes tops 11 percent. West Virginia from 2019 to 2023 saw a death rate of more than 40 percent from the different conditions categorized under diabetes mellitus.

Diabetes and high blood pressure are the two leading causes of kidney disease.

Regionally, Pendleton County had a rate of 48 percent, Hampshire 39, Hardy 32, and Grant 30. The United States percentage was only 23 percent.

These numbers, Crites and Ours agree, underscore the need to have these services both available and convenient to patients.

Community Calendar

Quilters To Meet

The Sew and Sews Quilt Guild will gather at 6 p.m. Monday at Faith Lutheran Church in Franklin. Activity will be patchwork bingo. Anyone interested in quilting is invited to attend.

Exercise/Balance Class Scheduled

An exercise/balance class will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. starting Tuesday in the basement of Walnut Street Church in Franklin. Information on Health-n-Ministry will be coming soon. Questions, call 304-902-0744 after 5 p.m.

Community Fall Fest To Be Held In Brandwyne

A community fall fest, hosted by Brandywine Baptist Church, will begin at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Old Propst Church in Brandywine. There will be a hay ride, games, family portraits, pie eating contest, crafts, food, Bible story, and bon fire with smores. The church is located two miles past the intersection in Brandywine, turn right on Propstburg Road. Everyone is welcome.

OBITUARIES



Connie Mitchell-Joe

Connie Mitchell-Joe of Ripley went to her heavenly home on Oct. 2, 2025. She passed away at Camden Clark Hospital in Parkersburg.

She was born April 24, 1969, in Harrisonburg, Vir-

ginia, and was the daughter of Patricia Dahmer Mitchell and the late Harvey O. Mitchell.

Ms. Mitchell-Joe was a 1987 graduate of Ripley High School.

She went to West Virginia University Tech and received her nursing degree.

Also surviving are a brother Harvey O. Mitchell Jr. of Huntsville, Alabama; a nephew, Quinn Mitchell of Huntsville, Alabama; a niece, Amelia Mitchell of Huntsville, Alabama; and a number of cousins.

A private graveside service and internment will be held in Pendleton County.

Memorials may be made to Epworth United Methodist Church, 299 North Church Street, Ripley, WV 25271.



Tyler Fleming Folks-Nelson

Tyler Fleming Folks-Nelson, 29, of Franklin passed away Sept. 30, 2025, as the result of an automobile accident.

He was born Feb. 13, 1996, the only son of Kenny Nelson and Carla Folks of Franklin.

Mr. Folks-Nelson was a graduate of Franklin High School and New River Community and Technical College, where he earned his degree in welding technology.

An accomplished welder and pipefitter, he was well known for his strong work ethic and was clearly focused on his career. Additionally, within his industry, he was a member of U.A. Local 152 of Plumbers and Pipefitters in Morgantown.

Always a realist in his views, he will be remembered for his strict adherence to order and governance,

with little tolerance for rule-breakers. Also, he was an extremely patriotic man and enjoyed studies of American History, particularly the American Civil War. Additionally, he greatly admired the country's Founding Fathers and the Republic they established, and was quite willing to do his part to defend the principles of liberty and freedom.

Aside from work, he enjoyed being outdoors hunting or fishing, as well as time spent cooking, smoking meats, and dining on seafood of all kinds, especially, lobster!

Above all else, he will be remembered as a loving and responsible son, who was always kind to others, good-spirited, and giving.

In addition to his parents, surviving family members include his sister, Cassandra King and husband, Ryan of Bridgewater, Virginia; his nephews, Alec and Bodhi King; and niece, Bryn King.

A graveside service was conducted Oct. 2 at the Monterey Cemetery with Pastor Chip Hill officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Monterey Cemetery, c/o Nancy Sweitzer, 228 Triple Oak Lane, Hot Springs, VA 24445.

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



Pauline Esther (Huffman) Thompson

Pauline Esther (Huffman) Thompson, 83, of Hinton, Virginia, passed away on Oct. 1, 2025, at the Pendleton Manor in Franklin.

She was born on Oct. 26, 1941, in Onego, the daughter of the late Glenn and Texie (Vance) Huffman.

Mrs. Thompson was a graduate of Circleville High School and was a loving mother and homemaker.

Her pride and joy was her family and she loved spending time with them.

She was married to her husband of 64 years and the love of her life, Jerry Wayne Thompson, who preceded her in death on Aug. 25, 2025.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory two daughters, Karen Carter (Craig Thompson) of Hinton, Virginia, and Barbara Eavers (Bill) of Dayton, Virginia; a son, David Thompson (Cheryl) of Elkton, Virginia; grandchildren, Shayna Carter, Timothy Watson, Jordan Thompson; and four great-grandchildren, Jentrey, Pierce, Margaret and Benji.

She was also preceded in death by four brothers, Boyd, Ward, Ford and Park; and two sisters, Bonnie Jean and Helen.

A graveside service was held Friday at the Huffman Cemetery in Onego with Pastor Eric Heatwole officiating.

Memorials may be made to Clover Hill Fire Department or Rescue Squad.

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



Roxann Judy Hoover

Roxann Judy Hoover, 62, of Franklin departed this life on Oct. 6, 2025, at her home.

She was born on Nov. 4, 1962, in Canton, Ohio, the daughter of Rose Ella Burghy of Canton, Ohio, and the late Henry Edsel "Ed" Judy, who passed away on Oct. 17, 2001.

Mrs. Hoover was a 1981 graduate of Circleville High School and a member of Solomon Chapel Church.

She completed modeling school and loved crafting and decorating, especially at Christmas. She had worked for Pants Corral and Highs, and later retired from Franklin IGA.

On July 16, 1994, she married Kevan Ray Hoover, who survives.

In addition to her husband, she leaves behind to cherish her memory a daughter, Rayella Grace Hoover (Raymond Phares) of Circleville; a granddaughter, Britlee Basagic; a half sister, Ella of Canton, Ohio; and two half brothers, John Allen and Lenny of Canton, Ohio.

She was also preceded in death by a son, Julian Anthony Basagic; an infant daughter, Brittan; her great-aunt, Grace (Judy) Wimer, who raised her; and a brother, Anthony Lee Judy.

Funeral services were held Wednesday in the chapel of the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor Lance Porter officiating. Interment was in the Hoover Family Cemetery, overlooking the pond, in Franklin.

Memorials may be made to any Pendleton County Rescue Squad.

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

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Navel/Grapefruit Mix Box - \$31 (2/5 bu)

Clementines - \$26 (1/5 bu)

Anjou Pears - \$60 (4/5 bu), \$31 (20-22 pears)

Red Delicious Apples - \$60 (4/5 bu), \$31 (20 apples)

Trio Gift Box (Navels, Pears, Apples) - \$31

Citrus Mix Box (Navels, Grapefruit, Clementines) - \$31 (2/5 bu)

Farmers Vegetable Box - \$37 (25-26 pounds)

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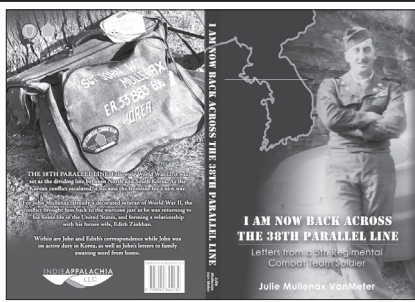
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Pendleton Community Bank

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to the newest of trees and planted nothing to help rejuvenate the forests.

As the William McNeel contributed to the Pocahontas Times in 1978, then was reprinted in 2019. “Then, almost overnight, it was over. By the late 1920s virtually the entire county had been cut over. There was no more timber to be had. “The boom had run its course and the lumbermen went elsewhere to find a new source of timber.”

One of those areas lay directly to the north. While timber industry deforestation hit parts of Pendleton County, West Virginia History online’s archives contain a photograph taken between 1930 and 1940 showing “Harper House on Upper North Fork.” The foreground shows a period farm, but the mountainsides in the distance show ample reserves of timber. Small scale portable timber mills thrived in the area. Many farmers split time between their fields and timbering, using what they needed and selling the rest.

Timbering added to the traditional county economic bedrock of agriculture, both the raising of crops and of cattle. Into the 1930s, the modern highways hosted old fashioned cattle drives back and forth across the ridges and state lines. As the nation struggled economically, international trends hit the United States banking system. In the year 1930, many expected the economy to rebound from the shock of the crash of the New York Stock Exchange the previous year.

About two-thirds of American banks participated in the Federal Reserve Bank system that provided loans at the prime interest rate for banks having cash flow or other financial problems, but 8,000 did not.

Without those protections, if depositors got skittish and wished to remove their money entirely, the bank would fail because no such institutions keep 100 percent of their financial assets on hand in cash. Once the cash runs out in

what were called “runs on the bank” or a “bank panic,” the bank closes its doors and oftentimes in those days, it never reopened.

The bank panic of 1930 weakened Franklin’s three banks and one which hit in the subsequent year finished all off. This left the town and county without a financial institution convenient to the residents, causing an economic hardship to the community.

Many residents resorted to barter to obtain goods they needed. As Idelta Lambert of Circleville remembers, stores on the North Fork would accept eggs from residents in exchange for the same value in other groceries. The farm where Cool Hollow Maple now operates in Sugar Grove produced maple sugar for their own use and also trade until refined sugar started to appear in stores.

During the 1930s, Pocahontas County’s population dipped by about 2,000 while Pendleton lost less than 272. This relative stability plus the lack of any competition likely helped the Franklin contingent that successfully convinced the Farmers and Merchants Bank to open a new chapter of life as Pendleton County, later Community, Bank in Franklin.

PCB has served as a vital block in the county’s economic foundation ever since. Part of serving in that role has required the bank to both evolve and expand to meet challenges and take advantage of opportunities.

That means that as the bank stares confidently forward into the future, it never forgets its origins and traditions.

Jonah Spence, a Virginia branch executive for PCB, shared on a 2024 podcast that “agriculture is in our roots and remains a big part of what we do at PCB.” The institution’s website states “since 1925, PCB has been your agribusiness partner” and offers a suite of agriculture specific financial services and products. It also remains active in supporting agriculture organizations, for example purchasing at the Future Farmers of America eggs ham and bacon sales. Approximately 60 percent of the bank’s business is commercial with a substantial part of that in support and service of agriculture.

Over time, PCB has expanded west into Beckley and east into the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, giving it a broadly diverse range of customers. While many enjoy the convenience of modern online banking products and apps, a number of other customers either prefer face to face interaction or even live in areas where they cannot access the internet due to federal regulations governing their local area and no land-based access.

“If somebody needs to talk to you in person,” explained Spence, “you have got to be readily available” whether they come in person or need

assistance over the phone. He added that “I think that sets us apart as a community bank.”

“We take pride in the fact that if you call our office, you’re going to be able to speak to someone on the line. We want to make sure our customers are taken care of in the ways that they need to communicate,” he elaborated.

This approach dovetails with the personal philosophy of 22-year bank president Bill Loving. He explained in a 2022 interview that “our vision has not changed from its founding in 1925. We are still people-centered and community-driven, supporting the needs of the community any way we can.”

He went on to state that “after I joined the institution, we developed our mission statement that has not changed appreciably in 22 years.”

Loving’s role has helped to elevate the voice of Pendleton County to the national stage.

The bank continues to earn awards and accolades. Loving shared in the interview that PCB had earned an award in agricultural lending. Even more impressive, Independent Banker rated PCB 11th in the nation in its lender score for institutions with between \$300 million and \$1 billion in assets.

This category places PCB in the category of a community bank. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation says of these banks that they “focus on providing traditional banking services in their local communities. They obtain most of their core deposits locally and make many of their loans to local businesses.”

It adds that “they have specialized knowledge of their local community and their customers. Because of this expertise, community banks tend to base credit decisions on local knowledge and nonstandard data obtained through long-term relationships and are less likely to rely on the models-based underwriting used by larger banks.”

During the years, community banks face the structural problem of competing against larger institutions with more capital and brand recognition. They also have to endure regulations imposed at the federal level by those with limited knowledge for or appreciation of the role of community banks.

Loving has served in leadership roles with national community banking organizations. Through the years, he has worked with the offices of federal elected officials, such as Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito, and Alex Mooney, former congressman and member of the house banking committee, as well as Carol Miller and Riley Moore, current representatives.

In this fashion, the problems encountered in trying to provide proper service to a market like Pendleton County in a tighter regulatory environment got directly communicated to those who needed to hear that information.

With a proud past and confidence in the future, PCB celebrated its centenary in style Saturday. Kids could enjoy activities from bouncy houses for the little ones to axe throwing for the older. Two acts, Cameron Simmons and Spencer Wagner, provided four hours of entertaining tunes.

Other attractions included a drive-in car show and a free kids’ movie at the Warner’s Drive-In.

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Idelta 100 Years

Continued From Page 1

the timber camps due to the constant dangers. There, three Italians got into a gun, stone, and knife battle against native workers whom the foreign-born referred to in derogatory fashion as “snakes.”

“He worked there until he had enough money to buy a farm,” she said.

Sponaule understood that neither he nor his young family would prosper in such an unsettled environment, so he focused his time and work in the North Fork Valley. One of Lambert’s older sisters moved into one of the previously occupied houses as the Sponaugles worked to build a life in the Valley.

“We grew up here on the farm,” remembered Lambert, who went on to add that “he (her father) planted and plowed corn. We hoed the garden.” In the days before tractors, literal horse



The Harman and Etta Sponaule family is pictured. Idelta Lambert is the baby on a lady's lap in the front row.

power tilled the fields. Lambert said, “I had to ride the horse to keep the horse in between the rows.”

Forests full of food started to drop their bounty in fall. Before the blight, many harvested what dropped off of American chestnut trees. Lambert remembered, though, that “we used to pick walnuts in the fall. My dad would take a drag to get the shells off. My parents would crack them.”

Walnuts harvested and prepared for eating did not always go to the family. “You’d have to take them to Franklin,” she remembered, “to buy fabric to make us clothes.” Particularly between 1931 and 1937, cash trade dropped to nearly nothing in Pendleton County due to the closing of the county seat’s three banks.

Lambert also remembered accompanying her mother to the store to trade freshly laid and cleaned eggs for other grocery needs.

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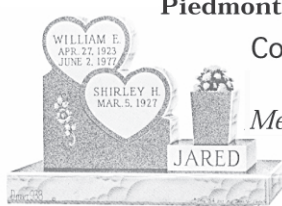
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Friday: Gateway Restaurant, Rt. 28 Riverton - 6:30 p.m.

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across from KFC - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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Stocking for winter meant taking the “bumpy ride” out Circleville Pike towards Franklin. There households in outlying areas brought wagons into town to purchase months of winter stores before the forbidding season of bitter cold and deep snow settled in.

Even before the Great Depression, many who lived in those days grew up with very little. Most raised with limited wants, but unlimited gratitude for what the Lord provided. Christmas did not bring truckloads of presents forgotten soon after opening, but did provide treasures of its own in that time.

“You didn’t have much,” remembered Lambert. Like every Sunday, “On Christmas you went to church and always got a little something.” She smiled and said, “One time I got a doll baby. I was so proud and so happy.”

The family had farming operations in different locations. Lambert stated that “my dad had a farm up on Hunting Ground. In the spring, he drove goats, cows, calves, and sheep to the old saw mill on Hunting Ground Road. He’d take them up to his farm, then out for the summer.

Until about World War II, even as modern paved highways connected the region, area cattlemen took their herds on drives. Some went south into grazing lands in Pocahontas County. Sponaule would drive his back and forth from fields in the milder climate of Virginia.

During one extended absence, tragedy struck.

When Lambert was seven years old, “one year he (her dad) was gone with the cattle.” The family then lived in a hand constructed log cabin with wooden shingles forming a roof. She remembered “a spark from the kitchen stove caught the house on fire and burned it.”

Back then in the area, families constructed their own houses and homeowners insurance likely covered not one single dwelling on the North Fork. The family had to pile into a smaller structure on the property while the master of the house labored to build a new home. Between timbering, farming, cattle driving, and raising children, it took the family until 1939 to have their new domicile ready for living.

Part Two will come next week.

Cunningham Place

GREENHOUSE

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PENDLETON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

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Friday, OCTOBER 17TH @ PCMHS CAFETERIA

Dine In or Carry Out • 4-7 p.m.

Pork Tenderloin • Mashed Potatoes • Gravy • Green Beans • Rolls • Desserts

Tickets can be purchased through a PCHS Class of 2028

Member/Sophomore or by contacting a class sponsor —

Mrs. Bennett (cddbenne@k12.wv.us),

Mrs. Day (madison.day@k12.wv.us),

Ms. Dunn (kaitlynn.dunn@k12.wv.us) or Mr. Vincell (vincell@k12.wv.us).

CLASS OF 2028

Class of 2028 is raising funds to assist with class events — Prom & Graduation

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Nine percent of all cases of breast cancer in the United States are reported in women younger than 45 years of age. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the United States.

Men can get breast cancer too. In 2025, it’s estimated that 2,800 men in the United States will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer.

*No patient denied services because of inability to pay!



PENDLETON Community Care, Inc.

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Harman (304)227-4134

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CW's CORN MAZE

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10-acre Maze • Barrel Train • Corn Box
Petting Zoo • Kids' Games • Pedal Trike • The Gilder
• Concessions (larger food menu) • Covered Pavilion
Pumpkins & Mums For Sale

Flashlight Maze Oct. 11 • 7-9 p.m.

Haunted Maze Oct. 25 • 8-10 p.m.



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304-456-4652 (home) 304-456-4651 (weekend @ maze)

Take Route 84 into West Virginia. At Frost, Turn slight right

onto WV-92. Go 10 miles and turn left onto Cass Rd/Rt.66.

Go 1/4 mile to the first corn field on the left.

Flu & COVID-19 Walk-In Vaccination Clinic

Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Location: Pendleton Community Care, Franklin

Time: 5pm - 8:30pm

Pre-Register at

<https://phreesia.me/PCCDriveThruClinic>



Celebrating the Wildcat Seniors



During Pendleton County High School volleyball senior night, each class from the team shared thoughts in front of the assembled game crowd on what that group of players meant to them. The freshmen girls said, “Thank you all for taking us in and being our support group,” as well as “you don’t understand what you mean to us” and “go on and do great things! Love, your babies!” Sophomores told the seniors that “you truly made my love for volleyball grow” and that their favorite memories include gossip time in the locker room. They shared that the seniors were “amazing athletes and a true inspiration to us.” Junior class players said, “You guys never fail to lift us up and keep us going . . . you’ll always have a special place in our hearts.”

Wildcats Shine on Senior Night During Big Week

By Stephen Smoot

On a night in which Pendleton County celebrated its seniors, the entire team put together a powerful performance against the visiting team from Tucker County, sweeping them in three sets.

The team has worked to reload this year after reaching states in the past three, building consistency and integrating freshman talent among the seasoned veterans.

Tucker County opened the first set with a serve that landed in the net, giving Pendleton County the first point. The second came when Breena Bowers corralled a hit, setting up Carolyn Varner who lifted the ball in the air for Tia Heavner to complete the play.

Varner set up Heavner shortly thereafter for another strike to the middle to put the score at 3-1. Pendleton County took advantage of a somewhat passive approach by the Mountain Lions in set one. They tried to rely on playing defense and benefiting from Wildcat errors more than attacking the net, forcing the action, and making plays.

Meanwhile, the Wildcat front line played with both confidence and consistency in the opening set. Chesnee Colaw teamed up with Callie Judy to set up spikes first from Colbie Wimer, then Brynlynn Waggy to give Pendleton County their seventh and eighth points.

Waggy took over service with her team leading 9-4 and did not relinquish it until the team had opened up a 16-4 advantage, which included three aces. Alyssa Bennett took over the serve not long after and saw her attempt carom off a defender’s fists out of bounds. Set one ended 25-6.

Tucker County changed tactics for set two, playing with more aggression and forcing the action. They opened up a four to two lead early, but a Judy set for a Waggy spike tied it up shortly thereafter. A Judy ace and a Wimer spike off a Bowers set pushed the lead out to 7-4.

Playing with more aggression kept the Mountain Lions in the game. The Wildcats would open up leads of 10-6, 12-7, and even 15-8, but Tucker County kept clawing their way back to narrow margins. A six to two run brought them to within 17-14, but then the Wildcats shut the door.

Phoebe Pownell fired an ace to put the lead for her team at 19-14, then Pendleton County scored on a Waggy spike. Later Clara Raines took the serve and her ace gave her team a 23-15 advantage. On the next play, Raines took the shot from the opposition, sent it to Pownell, who lofted the ball high in the air. Bennett, almost ballet-like, glided in for a soft tap and a score. The Wildcats took set two 25-15.

In the third set a Tucker County team playing for pride gave their best effort and earned their best outcome of the night, but that was



Breena Bowers gracefully prepares to deliver a serve during the Wildcats’ senior night win.

not apparent at the start. Pendleton County rattled off a 10 to four run to open the game in commanding style, but then saw Tucker County enjoy a 10 to six run to pull within two at 16-14.

The Mountain Lions then fired a serve out of the back to gift Pendleton County a point and Bennett followed with an ace and four points of breathing room. Tucker County pulled within one at 20-19 and sought to steal the set.

Pendleton County righted the ship. Colaw got the ball to Varner, who gave a perfect set for a Wimer spike and a 21-19 slender reed of a lead. Wimer then took a Judy set for a precise tap to the middle.

The set ended on a spike by Waggy set up by Raines and Judy.

Pendleton County later in the week demonstrated their improvement on Thursday by avenging a loss from earlier in the season against Moorefield. They blanked the Yellow Jackets two sets to zero, but fell to Class AAA Hampshire County later during the same event.

Set scores in the Moorefield match were 25-14 and 25-20.

The Wildcats face the Mountain Lions again tonight at Tucker County. On Monday, Pendleton travels to Highland County, Virginia, and then hosts East Hardy on Tuesday. They go to Paw Paw on Oct. 16.



The Wildcat defense gets a solid stop at the line of scrimmage.

Tough September Schedule Catches Up with Wildcats In Loss to Mountain Lions

By Stephen Smoot

Pendleton County saw a two week reprieve from its first half of the season murderers row with a homecoming win over Tygarts Valley and a week off, but returned to the grind on the road at Tucker County.

The Wildcats handled a Class AAA Keyser team in week one that has caught fire and dominated opponents since, then handled a tough East Hardy squad that could battle its way into the playoffs after a challenging first few weeks.

It was the Mountain Lions, however, that Pendleton County spent several months waiting to play after a difficult end to their play-off run last year.

Travis Owens returned the opening kickoff to his team’s 31. On second down and long, quarterback Colton Roberson ran straight ahead and gashed the defense for 13. On the next play, a 17-yard pass found Britton Lough at the home team’s 38.

Not long after on second and 10, Roberson rolled out, fired a quick pass to Chase Owens on the left sideline. He sprinted ahead for the Pendleton County score at the 9:30 mark in the first quarter. Tucker County blocked the point after try and the score was 6-0.

The Mountain Lions moved the ball about 20 yards from their own 38, but stalled out at the Wildcat 42. Their punter deftly dropped a high arcing punt at the Wildcat 11 and they opened their second drive from there.

On second and nine from their own 12, a deep pass attempt to Travis Owens found him battling the defender covering him one on one. While the pass fell incomplete, the penalty flag was tossed and Pendleton County picked up the first down at their own 27.

Several plays later at the 3:33 point in the first, Tucker County forced the Wildcats to face a third and three at the Mountain Lion 41. Will Smith took the handoff. He sprinted ahead, stiff armed a could be tackler, and drove down to the 33 for a first down. Three plays later, a

great defensive play broke up a pass on third and nine, but Roberson connected with Lough on fourth down. Lough grabbed the ball at the 20 and took it the rest of the way for the second Wildcat touchdown of the quarter.

A quick toss to Chase Owens extended the lead to 14-0 on a two-point conversion.

If Pendleton County fans felt that this looked suspiciously easy thus far, they had every reason to. Tucker County had dominated most of the teams on their schedule, save Class AA powerhouse Frankfort. Pendleton County had too little time to savor the 14-point lead, because one of Tucker County’s mighty mite speedsters cut into it with an 80-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

The Wildcat offense roared right back, however. Starting at the 20, Roberson bowled over tacklers to get the ball out to the 27. On the next play, he put the ball up quickly to appear to pass, then tucked it and ran it ahead to the Tucker 39.

Early in the game, Tucker County played a passive defense that gave significant time for Roberson to find receivers or locate creases through which to run. Even on a play where a bobbled snap seemed to throw off the timing, Roberson bulled ahead from the Tucker 33 to the 23.

With 8:43 left in the first half, Roberson dropped the ball into Chase Owens’ hands. He quickly tried a spin move, but touched dirt right before the goal line. A one-yard Roberson plunge put the Wildcats up 20-6.

Tucker County then changed up its strategy, putting more pressure on Roberson while on defense. They also started running plays that used the speed and aggressiveness of the Wildcat defense against it.

One play used with deadly efficiency was the screen pass. Offensive linemen allow their defensive counterparts to freely chase the quarterback. A running back slides into the area vacated by the defensive line. To play it correctly, a defense has to “feel” that the offensive line is not engag-

ing and not sprint toward the passer.

Pendleton County does not include screen passes in its offensive repertoire, nor has it faced any run against it all year. This made the second quarter a learning situation for the defense. Tucker County also used misdirection to set up deep post patterns for completions.

The second quarter featured a series of misadventures for the visiting side and Tucker County entered the halftime break with a 28-20 advantage.

Tucker County kept the Wildcats pinned deep in their own territory for much of the third quarter while adding a touchdown of their own for a 34-20 lead.

Yet the Wildcats did keep moving the ball. At the 3:13 point in the third, Roberson pitched the ball to Travis Owens deep in the backfield. He slid out a few steps, then launched a pass deep to his brother, Chase, near midfield. The Wildcats got as close as the Mountain Lion 25, but a huge loss pushed them back to the 47. Even then, Roberson nearly completed a pass to the endzone that could have halved the lead.

Later in the fourth, Roberson and the offense moved the ball from their own 16 to the Tucker County 13, then a hard luck interception killed that effort.

As time wound down and during a period in which the ball could have been kneeled to run out the clock, Tucker County took out insurance against a possible three touchdown comeback in the final two minutes and scored their closing touchdown of the night for a final tally of 42-20.

Tucker County walked away with a triumph, but Pendleton County took away the kinds of lessons that feel painful at the time, but could pay dividends down the line.

The Wildcats travel Friday to Bath County, Virginia.

Educators Rising

Continued From Page 1

ready to go.”

As member Vivian Pownell shared, “Educators Rising is a club for future teachers. It promotes kids getting out there and getting teaching experience.”

To younger people who think they may want a teaching career, Pownell replied “I’d say definitely consider it.” She encouraged them to also seek out volunteer opportunities where they could gain experience, relating that “I helped with a program called Energy Express.” That program was run by West Virginia University Extension Service through Franklin Elementary School.

Some joined the club to gain general skills or give teaching a “try.” Heavner shared, “I’ve had kids who have been in my class because of a friend, who now say ‘I want to be a teacher’” and gave the example of Katelyn Hedrick, who graduated from Pendleton County Middle/High School last year. She switched her intended major from the medical field to early childhood education as a result of her experience there.

Club participants will get their education immersion at Franklin Elementary School, starting out helping the classroom teacher, then gradually taking on a more significant role.

While Pownell is entering her senior year as a season program veteran, Hannah Schell just started her first year and enjoys “learning about the children.” She originally wanted to serve as a pediatric care nurse, but has gained skills and knowledge which could serve her well as either a teacher or a nurse working with children.

Schell said, “I have not gotten to work with the kids yet” but will gain her first experience this week. “I’m excited,” she shared,

adding that she is “interested to experience and learn how teachers interact and learn with students.”

The club instills more than simply teacher education training because students chart the course of the organization in its several projects. Last week, Susan Vincell, club president, led the group as it determined who would take leadership roles on each monthly set of special projects for PCMHs. She also led a discussion on their ongoing projects, such as social and other media communications.

Larissa Greathouse supports the organization as vice president while Taylor Roberson is secretary and Callie Dunn, treasurer.

As Vincell called out each project, members quickly and eagerly volunteered to help. Some volunteered to do more than one month. Then the leadership team and volunteers each evaluated the general needs of each project for the sake of advance preparation.

Particular attention was given to February because, as Vincell noted, “This is one of our biggest fundraisers. We need all of us to help with this.”

Heavner added that in a month the group will attend a fall leadership conference in Charleston.

Other members of the club shared their motivation for taking part and volunteering with the club. Sam Eason stated that “my dad’s a teacher,” which helped to inspire him. He added that he knew “about Educators Rising from things they’d do throughout the school” and wanted to be a part of it.

Vincell added to that, saying that she wanted “to make an impact on kids” by “providing them with a space to express themselves and feel safe.”

The program, explained Vincell, allows those involved to “interact with the kids, experience what being a teacher is like, and get to learn from the kids.”

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By Stephen Smoot

Statewide, the Balanced Scorecard measures used by the West Virginia State Department of Education show overall improvement between the 2023-2024 school year and that for 2024-2025.

According to the WVDE, “each public school and district receives a scorecard that measures progress across multiple indicators, including academic achievement, academic progress and student success indicators, such as chronic absenteeism and post-secondary outcomes.

It goes on to state that “the Balanced Scorecard provides annual updates to families, communities and stakeholders on district and school performance.”

Nicole Hevener, Pendleton County Schools superintendent, stated in the second meeting in September that “I feel like we’re holding steady. Overall, we’re doing very well.”

In overall statistics Pendleton County was one of the few counties in West Virginia,

Hardy County being another, where the student population expanded. It rose from 846 in 2023-24 to 850 in 2024-25 and is expected to increase slightly more in the present school year. Attendance ticked up from 93 percent to 93.65 percent, reflecting the strong work of staff and Communities in Schools.

The Balanced Scorecard rates all the schools in different age and grade categories together and also breaks down information on individual schools.

Also, it is color-coded and offers a spectrum to show progress within a category. Red means does not meet standard, yellow partially meets standard, blue meets standard and green exceeds the expectations of the state. Furthermore, the more the color bar covers a field, the closer the system is to achieving the next tier.

Pendleton County’s elementary schools showed some slight declines. In academic progress, English and language arts held steady, meeting state standards. Math dropped slightly in academic progress and

both subjects declined a small amount in academic achievement.

Individually, Brandywine Elementary School meets or exceeds state standards in every field, with attendance moving from meets to exceeds state standards.

Franklin Elementary School maintained its performance from one year to the next, partially meeting standards in English and language arts and mathematics in academic achievement. FES met standards in English academic progress, attendance, and behavior.

North Fork Elementary School enjoyed the highest possible score on student behavior, filling the field of “exceeds standard.” It faced challenges, however, in slight declines in academic performances in every field.

One special issue faced by NFES lies in its smaller student population. Changes

in results from a small number of students have a bigger proportional impact on overall school results.

“There’s definitely work to do at the middle and high school levels,” noted Hevener. Pendleton County Middle/High School held steady in every category from 2023-24 to 2024-25. The graduation rate exceeded standards, but mathematics fell just short of partially meeting standards. English and language arts did partially meet state expectations.

Hevener emphasized of the students at PCM/HS that “we must be making sure that we have buy-in, that they are ready to be engaged.”

The superintendent also shared that in her estimation, Pendleton County students have unrealized potential to perform better and that “the staff is dedicated to our students and to helping them grow.”

EPA Regulatory Requirements

In overall statistics Pendleton County was one of the few counties in West Virginia,

Pendleton County's elementary schools showed some slight declines. In academic progress, English and language arts held steady, meeting state standards. Math dropped slightly in academic progress and

One special issue faced by NFES lies in its smaller student population. Changes

The superintendent also shared that in her estimation, Pendleton County students have unrealized potential to perform better and that “the staff is dedicated to our students and to helping them grow.”

Musical entertainment in Monterey is available for the entire family. The Highland County Arts Council presents the Furnace

Many adventures await with a visit. The full schedule, details, and addresses of all the festival happenings can be found at www.highlandcounty.org/hands-harvest-festival. Maps with daily schedules will be available at the Highland County Courthouse Lawn and the Highland County Visitor Center, both in Monterey, Virginia, and local stores throughout the county during the event.

The Hands and Harvest Festival is brought to one by the Highland County Chamber of Commerce.

A West Virginia Public Service Commission release from last week noted that the

Most often declines in service quality take the form of longer repair times when lines fail or “brownouts” during periods of high usage, such as the hottest days of summer.

Legal Advertisements Continued from Page 8

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

| PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Functions/Programs | Program Revenues | | | | Net (Expense) Revenues and Changes in Net Position | | | |
| | Expenses | Charges for Services | Operating Grants and Contributions | Capital Grants and Contributions | Primary Governmental Activities | Component Units | | |
| | | | | | | Farmland Protection | Board of Parks | Board of Health |
| Primary government: | | | | | | | | |
| Governmental activities: | | | | | | | | |
| General government | \$ 3,104,775 | \$ -- | \$ 741,648 | \$ 74,920 | \$ (2,288,207) | | | |
| Public Safety | 2,348,385 | 798,400 | 10,218 | 382,261 | (1,157,506) | | | |
| Health and sanitation | 315,784 | -- | -- | -- | (315,784) | | | |
| Culture and recreation | 97,846 | -- | -- | -- | (97,846) | | | |
| Social services | 5,000 | -- | -- | -- | (5,000) | | | |
| Interest on long-term debt | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | | | |
| Total governmental activities | 5,871,790 | 798,400 | 751,866 | 457,181 | (3,864,343) | | | |
| Total primary government | \$ 5,871,790 | \$ 798,400 | \$ 751,866 | \$ 457,181 | (3,864,343) | | | |
| Component units: | | | | | | | | |
| Farmland Protection | 25,223 | -- | -- | -- | -- \$ (25,223) | -- | \$ -- | -- |
| Board of Parks | 84,856 | 723 | 6,950 | -- | -- | -- | (77,183) | -- |
| Board of Health | 343,574 | -- | 278,866 | -- | -- | -- | -- | (64,708) |
| Total component units | \$ 453,653 | \$ 723 | \$ 285,816 | \$ -- | -- (25,223) | (77,183) | | (64,708) |
| General revenues: | | | | | | | | |
| Ad valorem property taxes | | | | | 3,012,536 | -- | -- | -- |
| Alcoholic beverages tax | | | | | 3,181 | -- | -- | -- |
| Hotel occupancy tax | | | | | 144,298 | -- | -- | -- |
| Gas and oil severance tax | | | | | 20,856 | -- | -- | -- |
| Other taxes | | | | | 124,206 | 64,607 | -- | -- |
| Licenses and permits | | | | | 5,485 | -- | -- | -- |
| Refunds/Reimbursements | | | | | 486,744 | -- | -- | -- |
| Interest | | | | | 185,237 | 16,970 | -- | 313 |
| Intergovernmental | | | | | -- | -- | 33,971 | -- |
| Fines & Forfeitures | | | | | 38,902 | -- | -- | -- |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | -- | -- | 15,200 | -- |
| Total general revenues & transfers | | | | | 4,021,445 | 81,577 | 49,171 | 313 |
| Change in net position | | | | | 157,102 | 56,354 | (28,012) | (64,395) |
| Net position - beginning | | | | | 9,146,004 | 963,255 | 169,500 | 283,666 |
| Net position - ending | | | | | \$ 9,303,106 | \$1,019,609 | \$ 141,488 | \$ 219,271 |

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

| PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| | General | Coal Severance Tax | 911 | American Rescue Plan Act | Other Nonmajor Governmental Funds | Total Governmental Funds |
| REVENUES | | | | | | |
| Taxes: | | | | | | |
| Ad valorem property taxes | \$ 2,875,185 | \$ -- | \$ -- | \$ -- | \$ 129,168 | \$ 3,004,353 |
| Alcoholic beverages tax | 3,181 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 3,181 |
| Hotel occupancy tax | 144,298 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 144,298 |
| Gas and oil severance tax | 20,856 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 20,856 |
| Coal severance tax | -- | 18,365 | -- | -- | -- | 18,365 |
| Other taxes | 80,393 | -- | -- | -- | 25,448 | 105,841 |
| Licenses and permits | 520 | -- | -- | -- | 4,965 | 5,485 |
| Intergovernmental: | | | | | | |
| Federal | 98,769 | -- | -- | 74,920 | -- | 173,689 |
| State | 128,936 | -- | 382,261 | -- | 51,538 | 562,735 |
| Charges for services | 75,721 | -- | 683,318 | -- | 39,362 | 798,401 |
| Fines and forfeits | 5,160 | -- | -- | -- | 33,743 | 38,903 |
| Interest and investment earnings | 164,600 | -- | 18,891 | -- | 1,745 | 185,236 |
| Refunds/Reimbursements | 400,298 | -- | 6,838 | -- | -- | 407,136 |
| Payments in lieu of taxes | 472,622 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 472,622 |
| Miscellaneous | 74,759 | -- | 3,159 | -- | 1,691 | 79,609 |
| Total revenues | 4,545,297 | 18,365 | 1,094,467 | 74,920 | 287,660 | 6,020,709 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | | | |
| Current: | | | | | | |
| General government | 3,227,038 | 20,582 | -- | -- | 85,441 | 3,333,061 |
| Public safety | 1,807,307 | -- | 567,024 | 74,920 | 179,106 | 2,691,357 |
| Health and sanitation | 320,949 | -- | -- | -- | 1,548 | 322,497 |
| Culture and recreation | 128,196 | -- | -- | -- | 18,011 | 146,207 |
| Social services | 5,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 5,000 |
| Total expenditures | 5,551,490 | 20,582 | 567,024 | 74,920 | 284,106 | 6,498,122 |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures | (1,006,193) | (2,216) | 527,443 | -- | 3,554 | (477,413) |
| OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) | | | | | | |
| Transfers in | 1,904,053 | -- | -- | -- | 23,240 | 1,927,293 |
| Transfers (out) | (1,023,240) | -- | (698,408) | -- | (205,645) | (1,927,293) |
| Total other financing sources (uses) | 880,813 | -- | (698,408) | -- | (182,405) | (0) |
| Net change in fund balances | (125,380) | (2,216) | (170,966) | -- | (178,851) | (477,413) |
| Fund balances - beginning | 5,807,555 | 11,762 | 637,200 | -- | 777,358 | 7,233,876 |
| Fund balances - ending | \$ 5,682,176 | \$ 9,546 | \$ 466,234 | \$ -- | \$ 598,507 | \$ 6,756,463 |
| The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement. | | | | | | |

| PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS June 30, 2025 | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| | General | Coal Severance Tax | 911 | American Rescue Plan Act | Other Nonmajor Governmental Funds | Total Governmental Funds |
| ASSETS & DEFERRED OUTFLOWS | | | | | | |
| Current: | | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 6,227,567 | \$ 4,408 | \$ 581,573 | \$ 433,984 | \$ 600,198 | \$ 7,847,730 |
| Receivables: | | | | | | |
| Taxes | 75,401 | 5,546 | -- | -- | -- | 80,947 |
| Due from: | | | | | | |
| Other funds | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Other governments | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Total assets & deferred outflows of resources | \$ 6,302,968 | \$ 9,954 | \$ 581,573 | \$ 433,984 | \$ 600,198 | \$ 7,928,677 |
| LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS & FUND BALANCES | | | | | | |
| Current Liabilities: | | | | | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 531,963 | \$ 408 | \$ 4,732 | \$ 20,197 | \$ 1,690 | \$ 558,990 |
| Payroll Taxes Payable | 37,181 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 37,181 |
| OPEB Payable | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Total Current Liabilities | 569,144 | 408 | 4,732 | 20,197 | 1,690 | 596,171 |
| Deferred Inflow - Property Taxes | 51,649 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 51,649 |
| Unearned revenue | -- | -- | 110,607 | 413,787 | -- | 524,394 |
| Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources | 620,792 | 408 | 115,339 | 433,984 | 1,690 | 1,172,214 |
| Fund balances: | | | | | | |
| Restricted | 254,755 | 9,546 | 466,234 | -- | 598,507 | 1,329,042 |
| Committed | 1,721,639 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1,721,639 |
| Assigned | 3,705,782 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 3,705,782 |
| Unassigned | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Total fund balances | 5,682,176 | 9,546 | 466,234 | -- | 598,507 | 6,756,463 |
| Total liabilities, deferred inflows and fund balances | \$ 6,302,968 | \$ 9,954 | \$ 581,573 | \$ 433,984 | \$ 600,198 | \$ 7,928,677 |
| The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement. | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| PENDLETON COUNTY COMMISSION VENDOR LIST FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025 | Inc..... 20.15 | Armstrong, Kinsley..... 400.00 | Avenu Insights & Analytic..... 10,782.06 | Bodine, Andrea..... 250.00 | Electronics.... 10,813.78 | DC Company 1,632.00 |
| VENDOR NAME | Air Quality Systems, Inc..... 76,777.60 | Ascend Elevator ... 215.00 | Basagic, Morgan... 448.00 | Borror, Freda..... 327.16 | Coast to Coast Solutions 1,447.34 | Computers.... 11,540.00 |
| EXPENDITURES | Allegheny Design Services 1,250.00 | Assessor's Valuation Fund 154.98 | Bennett, David 265.00 | Boss Buildings... 8,002.68 | Complied Technologies. 13,632.24 | Ed Wheeler Hardware 1,169.81 |
| VENDOR NAME..... EXPENDITURES | Allied Universal..... 1,513.60 | Assoc. of WV Assessors..... 100.00 | Bennett, Nancy.... 250.00 | Bowers 400.00 | Conrad, Carol A... 250.00 | Election Systems & Software 34,143.01 |
| | Allstate Tower Co..... 73,402.00 | A & S Enterprises, LLC..... 700.00 | Biby, Michael Wayne..... 300.00 | Bowers, Matt..... 400.00 | County Commissioners of WV..... 3,275.00 | Elyard, Charlie..... 45.00 |
| | Alt, Brooke D..... 4,304.08 | AT&T..... 917.72 | Big Country Amusements, Inc..... 1,989.00 | Bowers, Nancy..... 285.00 | County Employees Gross Salaries ... 2,174,089.40 | ERFRN - PC 2,500.00 |
| | Alt, Bruce D..... 2,800.00 | AT&T..... 917.72 | Bland, Julie 105.29 | Byers, Kennedy ... 303.84 | CovertTrack Group, Inc..... 600.00 | ESRI, Inc. 2,330.00 |
| | Alt, Sue 265.00 | Mobility 8,267.08 | Blauch Brothers, Inc..... 1,380.00 | Caliber Public Safety 29,982.98 | County Commissioners of WV..... 3,275.00 | Evick, Nancy..... 200.00 |
| | Arbaugh, Kevin 105.00 | Atlas Geographic Data, Inc..... 4,800.00 | Blue360 Media 248.74 | Casto & Harris.. 3,627.37 | County Employees Gross Salaries ... 2,174,089.40 | Extinguisher Sales & Service..... 113.75 |
| | Armstrong, Bobbie..... 29.48 | Auto Trim 2,995.00 | | CenturyLink..... 556.68 | Dahmer, Roger 144.00 | Faithful Friends Animal Clinic..... 1,000.17 |
| | 74 Walnut LLC..... 11,018.89 | | | Circleville VFD.. 2,900.00 | Davis, Anita D..... 304.12 | |
| | 911 Interpreters | | | Clear Communications & | | |

| PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| | Budgeted Amounts | | Actual Modified Accrual Basis | Adjustments Budget Basis | Actual Amounts Budget Basis | Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative) |
| | Original | Final | | | | |
| REVENUES | | | | | | |
| Taxes: | | | | | | |
| Ad valorem property taxes | \$ 2,780,486 | \$2,800,511 | \$2,875,185 | \$ 4,315 | \$ 2,879,500 | \$ 78,989 |
| Alcoholic beverages tax | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,181 | -- | 3,181 | 181 |
| Hotel occupancy tax | 125,000 | 145,000 | 144,298 | -- | 144,298 | (702) |
| Gas and oil severance tax | 30,000 | 30,000 | 20,856 | -- | 20,856 | (9,144) |
| Other taxes | 75,000 | 75,000 | 80,393 | -- | 80,393 | 5,393 |
| Licenses and permits | 500 | 500 | 520 | -- | 520 | 20 |
| Intergovernmental: | | | | | | |
| Federal | 25,000 | 98,769 | 98,769 | | 98,769 | -- |
| State | 10,000 | 128,936 | 128,936 | -- | 128,936 | -- |
| Charges for services | 73,600 | 73,750 | 75,721 | -- | 75,721 | 1,971 |
| Fines and forfeits | 7,000 | 7,000 | 5,160 | -- | 5,160 | (1,840) |
| Interest and investment earnings | 100,000 | 100,000 | 164,600 | (58,793) | 105,807 | 5,807 |
| Refunds/Reimbursements | 455,206 | 466,161 | 406,007 | -- | 406,007 | (60,154) |
| Payments in lieu of taxes | 350,000 | 377,822 | 472,622 | -- | 472,622 | 94,800 |
| Miscellaneous | 71,500 | 85,126 | 74,759 | (6) | 74,753 | (10,373) |
| Total revenues | 4,106,292 | 4,391,575 | 4,551,006 | (54,484) | 4,496,522 | 104,947 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | | | |
| Current: | | | | | | |
| General government | 3,592,349 | 3,937,384 | 2,519,269 | (17,172) | 2,502,097 | 1,435,287 |
| Public safety | 2,099,038 | 2,229,952 | 1,870,307 | (7,644) | 1,862,643 | 367,309 |
| Health and sanitation | 329,725 | 332,153 | 320,949 | (2,235) | 318,714 | 13,439 |
| Culture and recreation | 122,551 | 132,551 | 128,196 | 938 | 129,134 | 3,417 |
| Social services | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | -- | 5,000 | -- |
| Capital Projects | 2,536,808 | 3,037,665 | 1,000,000 | -- | 1,000,000 | 2,037,665 |
| Total expenditures | 8,685,471 | 9,674,705 | 5,843,721 | (26,133) | 5,817,588 | 3,857,117 |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures | (4,579,179) | (5,283,130) | (1,292,715) | (28,351) | (1,321,066) | 3,962,064 |
| OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) | | | | | | |
| Transfers in | 879,179 | 1,021,349 | 898,344 | | 898,344 | (123,005) |
| Transfers (out) | -- | -- | (23,240) | | (23,240) | (23,240) |
| Capital leases | -- | -- | -- | | -- | -- |
| Total other financing sources (uses) | 879,179 | 1,021,349 | 875,105 | -- | 875,105 | (146,244) |
| Net change in fund balance | (3,700,000) | (4,261,781) | (417,611) | (28,351) | (445,962) | 3,815,819 |
| Fund balances - beginning | 3,700,000 | 4,261,781 | 5,807,555 | (1,545,775) | 4,261,780 | (1) |
| Fund balances - ending | \$ -- | \$ -- | \$5,389,944 | \$(1,574,126) | \$ 3,815,818 | \$ 3,815,818 |
| The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement. | | | | | | |

| PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - COAL SEVERANCE TAX FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | Budgeted Amounts | | Actual Modified Accrual Basis | Adjustments Budget Basis | Actual Amts Budget Basis | Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative) |
| | Original | Final | | | | |
| REVENUES | | | | | | |
| Taxes: | | | | | | |
| Coal severance tax | \$ 23,000 | \$ 23,000 | \$ 18,365 | \$ 851 | \$ 19,216 | \$ (3,784) |
| Total revenues | 23,000 | 23,000 | 18,365 | 851 | 19,216 | (3,784) |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | | | |
| Current: | | | | | | |
| General government | 29,000 | 29,515 | 20,582 | 742 | 21,324 | 8,191 |
| Total expenditures | 29,000 | 29,515 | 20,582 | 742 | 21,324 | 8,191 |
| Net change in fund balance | (6,000) | (6,515) | (2,216) | 109 | (2,107) | 4,408 |
| Fund balances - beginning | 6,000 | 6,515 | 11,762 | (5,247) | 6,515 | -- |
| Fund balances - ending | \$ -- | \$ -- | \$ 9,546 | \$(5,138) | \$ 4,408 | \$ 4,408 |
| The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement. | | | | | | |

| PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA STATEMENT OF NET POSITION JUNE 30, 2025 | | | | FOP Seneca Trail | |
|---|--|--|--|------------------|--|
|---|--|--|--|------------------|--|

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- Greens: Deep forest green and olive green are still present, offering a contrast to the warmer hues.
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10-2-2p

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF Pendleton COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE MATTER OF: A.D.J. and W.A.J.

Civil Action No. 25-Fig-2

THE OBJECT OF THIS SUIT IS: PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN

To the above named Respondent:

It appearing by affidavit in this action that Daniel Lee Johnson is a non-resident of the State of West Virginia, it is hereby ordered that he serve upon Sharon E. Redman, whose address is: 4487 Sandy Ridge Rd., Sugar Grove, WV 26815, an Answer, including any related counterclaim or defense you may have to the Petition for Appointment of Guardian filed in this action, on or before Nov. 2, 2025. If you fail to do so, thereafter judgment, upon proper hearing and trial, may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court on this 3rd day of October, 2025.

Shalee D. Wilburn
CLERK OF COURT
10-9-2c

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF Pendleton COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE MATTER OF: S. L. and J. L.

Civil Action No. 25-Fig-3

THE OBJECT OF THIS SUIT IS: PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN

To the above named Respondent:

It appearing by affidavit in this action that Jeffrey LaBrie and Jennifer Hyatt are non-residents of the State of West Virginia, it is hereby ordered that they serve upon Lauren Kilmer, whose address is: 160 Upper Timber Ridge Rd., Circleville, WV 26804, an Answer, including any related counterclaim or defense you may have to the Petition for Appointment of Guardian filed in this action, on or before Nov. 2, 2025. If you fail to do so, thereafter judgment, upon proper hearing and trial, may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her

office.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court on this 3rd day of October, 2025.

Shalee D. Wilburn
CLERK OF COURT
10-9-2c

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 25-0700-E-P

MONONGAHELA POWER COMPANY and THE POTOMAC EDISON COMPANY

Application for Review, Reconciliation and Establishment of Establishment of new Renewable Electricity 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 a Renewable Electricity Surcharge reconciliation and true-up to establish revised surcharge rates for the Companies proposed to be effective on January 1, 2026. The review period is July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, and the new rate period is calendar year 2026. The Companies proposed a \$204,460 increase in the solar surcharge rate effective on January 1, 2026. The requested increase was calculated by taking the expenses and return for the review period compared to the surcharge revenues, and calculating an under recovery of \$663,321 as of June 30, 2025. The forecast for 2026 of expenses, return, and revenues are a projected \$458,861 over-recovery.

The proposed solar surcharge rate would increase a monthly bill for an average residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours by \$0.03 from \$137.43 to \$137.46, or 0.02 percent.

The Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing on November 18, 2025, scheduled to begin immediately after the evidentiary hearing in Case No. 25-0698-E-P, 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

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 Court-house 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

10-2-2c

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.

Roberta 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





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