







Michael Joseph Shreve

Michael Joseph Shreve, 74, of Burlington died Dec. 15, 2025, at his home.

He was born April 17, 1951, in Petersburg and was the son of the late Benjamin Ottis Shreve and Clement Kimble Shreve.

Mr. Shreve was a 1969 graduate of Franklin High School.

He loved cutting pulpwood and installed many standing seam metal roofs. He enjoyed working alone, but when he did work with someone else, it took twice as long to complete the job because he liked to talk.

He retired from Potomac Highlands Regional Jail.

He had a passion for animals, especially chickens, rabbits and cats. He enjoyed shearing sheep. He loved to sing and play his guitar and played in a band in many bars.

Surviving are a daughter, Katlyn Brown of Bunker Hill; a brother, Benjamin “Ben” Shreve, Jr. (Barbara) of Upper Tract; two sisters, Wanda Hedrick of Upper Tract and Joyce Calhoun (Bob) of Culpeper, Virginia; a sister-in-law, Veronica Shreve of Delaware; seven nephews, Bill, Matthew and Benji Hedrick, Jason, Robert and Christopher Calhoun and Jimmy Shreve; four nieces, Jennifer Wiemeyer, Melissa, Kimberly and Carrie Shreve; and a grandson who is due to arrive in April.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, James “Jim” Shreve; a brother-in-law, David Hedrick; and two nephews, Adam Calhoun and Charles Hedrick.

A celebration of life service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday at Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin with Rev. Rita Beeman officiating.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.kimblefuneralhome.com](http://www.kimblefuneralhome.com).

## Mass Mailing of LIEAP Applications Begins Jan. 5

The West Virginia Department of Human Services, Bureau for Family Assistance, has announced that it will begin an automatic mass mailing of Low Income Energy Assistance Program applications starting on Jan. 5, 2026.

This mailing marks the start of the LIEAP season and is designed to ensure timely access for West Virginia’s most vulnerable populations, including households that received regular LIEAP benefits during the previous season, older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Households that receive an application through automatic mailing will have until Jan. 30, 2026, or until funds are exhausted, to submit their applications. Applications may be returned by mail, dropped off at their local DoHS office, or online at [www.wvpath.org](http://www.wvpath.org).

Regular LIEAP opens to the general public on Feb. 2, 2026.

All applicants who use a Public Services Commission-regulated utility for their primary heating source must provide a current utility bill. Households that heat with bulk fuels are required to submit verification of their fuel supplier along with a receipt. The maximum LIEAP benefit is \$2,000 per household.

The maximum allowable gross income levels for LIEAP Fiscal Year 2026 are as follows (household size, gross monthly income limit): one, \$2,454; two, \$3,209; three, \$3,965; four, \$4,720; five, \$5,475; six, \$6,230; seven, \$6,372; eight, \$6,769; nine, \$7,456; 10, \$8,144; and for each additional person add \$688. Social security and veterans benefits excluded.

For further assistance or questions, please contact a local DoHS office, or call the Office of Constituent Services’ Client Services Unit at 1-800-642-8589 or email [osaclientservices@wv.gov](mailto:osaclientservices@wv.gov).

### Thank You

I want to thank everyone who helped me on September 3, 2025, when I fell off of a wagon while bailing hay. I had 11 broken ribs, a chip off of a vertebrae, bruised lung and went into cardiac arrest at UVA. Recovery has been slow, painful and on-going. I thank God I wasn't killed or paralyzed.

Special thanks to God, Mae my wife, Shawn Halterman, Alvy Humphreys, Terry Hedrick, Alan and Cindy Moyers, PCER, FVFD, doctors, nurses and whoever helped. Thanks also for the prayers, cards, calls, visits, or any act of kindness. They are appreciated very much.

It gives a person a wonderful feeling to live in a community that cares and will help when needed.

Again, THANKS everyone. Paul Mallow

### New Winter 2026 Schedule ONE SALE A MONTH

South Branch Valley Livestock Exchange  
Moorefield

January 10 • Noon

February 14 • Noon

March 14 • Noon

**All Livestock Previously Sold at  
Wednesday Auctions Will Be Welcome  
On Friday, Jan. 9, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. and  
Saturday, Jan. 10, 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.**

**\*Calves and Yearlings To Be State Graded  
Must Come on Friday ONLY\***

Info

Gary 540-622-4889 • Roger 304-257-3012

# Eye Reflects on Christmas 2024

Another year is almost behind us, and we will celebrate Christmas 2024 in another four days. Rose reflects on things that have happened this year. The year has not been an easy one for Rose and several of her family members. Rose’s daughter, Pam, went to her heavenly home suddenly and quite unexpectedly. Sister-in-law, Jo, was in the hospital several different times, and Bud is dealing with severe back pain. Old age is not being very kind to the family.

Ellen and Rose decided that maybe they better deliver Christmas gifts as there is still a lot to do and Christmas is four days away. The sisters set out once again to deliver gifts to their siblings.

This day is unlike the 2023 day that was warm and spring-like. There is snow on the ground, snow flurries and temperatures in the 20s. Rose doesn’t find much joy in the winter weather.

Rose got the ice off the windshield and put her gifts in the car. She didn’t know if it was wise to go but she drove to Ellen’s house. The sisters headed south on Doe Hill Road and saw that it appeared to be snowing rather hard up the road.

They traveled on, until they came to the lane leading up to Bud’s house. He was feeding the cattle on the hill as the sisters drove by. The flag was flapping wildly in the wind, and they knew as soon as the car doors were open, they would be hit with a blast of wind—sure enough!

Walking through the snow they made it up the steps to the front door. Rose opened the storm door while hanging on to the door and her gift and tried the latch on the inside

door and found it locked. The sisters knocked on the door and rang the doorbell but could not get Jo to respond.

After a few minutes with the wind and snow beating on them, they put the gifts inside the car that was sitting there. The sisters met Kate, Bud’s granddaughter, on the way out and told her where they had left the gifts. Katie said that her granny was probably sleeping.

On the way to Margaret’s, Ellen exclaimed, look at my hair! The wind had blown it until it was standing like a “rooster’s tail” on the back of her head.

The sisters found Margaret sitting in the kitchen. She welcomed them with her usual smile. The sisters visited for a while and then exchanged gifts.

Thomas and Jackie, the dog, came in from doing chores at the barn. Grandson Kyle, and a friend stopped to borrow the farm truck so they could drive to the top of the mountain where they hoped to kill a deer.

Rose and Ellen visited with Margaret and Thomas until almost lunchtime, and with gifts in hand, they headed home. The snow flurries had stopped but the wind was still quite strong. As she drove home, Rose was thinking about how many more years she and Ellen would be physically able to make this yearly trip or if the four siblings would all be living at the end of the coming year.

Each day that we are given on planet earth should be lived to the fullest and filled with thanks and praise to our loving God.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Violet R. Eye

## Pendleton County Commission Reviews Reports On Buildings, Makes Appointments to Boards

By Stephen Smoot

“We just thank you and praise you Lord,” prayed Roger Dahmer, Pendleton County commissioner, during the traditional invocation. He added a request to “be present with us and guide us.”

Karen Pitsenbarger, Pendleton County Administrator, opened the Pendleton County Commission meeting with a quote for services given for replacing the staircase at the back of the Pendleton County Health Department. She shared that the total cost, including labor and materials, would come to just shy of \$930.

Next, officials discussed the progress of the new Pendleton County General Services Building at the former Franklin Elementary School. Other counties, such as Harrison, have created such facilities as the roles of those governments have expanded and changed over time. Pendleton’s will house emergency management and related offices, the West Virginia University Extension Service, and other county offices currently using the community building, recently deemed too vulnerable to flooding.

Pitsenbarger stated that bids would open later that day for contractors who wished to take part in certain jobs at the building. Gillespie informed the commissioners that an outbuilding should soon be removed or demolished so that the power company can obtain “better access.” He said, “I think we’re about to where we have to do it.” The estimated cost of removal would come to approximately \$11,000.

Gillespie then gave some updates on work done so far, indicating that heating and air conditioning installation was “moving right along.” Currently, the county uses the old oil fueled boiler to keep temperatures on cold nights between 45 and 55 degrees. That maintains a climate best for preserving work and protecting water pipes. He stated that “other than guzzling fuel . . . we’re all right.”

He noted the presence of “southern engineering,” a colloquial term for innovative and creative installation and maintenance work that may not be always recommended as solutions, saying “we’re trying to figure it out.”

Office of Emergency Management plans to move in January to its new home.

After discussion of the general services building, Pitsenbarger turned commissioners attention to progress on the Pendleton County Courthouse Annex. “Everything is going well,” she noted, but stated that cold temperatures had put bricklaying on hold. They hope to get back to work later in the week with

temperatures rising into the 40s and 50s. She said that work would even take place on Saturday to ensure completion before the return of seasonal temperatures.

Other work during the meeting included appointments to various advisory boards for Pendleton County and the region.

Kevin Raymond was appointed to a three-year term with the 911 Advisory Board.

Gary Swecker was appointed to the Farmland Protection Board for a four-year term

Janice Lantz was appointed to a five-year term with the county board of health. Carmen Rexrode was appointed to a one-year term with the same organization.

The Pendleton County Economic Development Authority (still in operation, but under the umbrella of Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority) received three-year term appointments of Joan Ashley, Jeremy Harper, Dayne Davis and Kyle Apple.

For the new planning commission approved by the Pendleton County Commission as part of a Mon Forest Towns and West Virginia University initiative, Luci Raines, Sam Yokum, Adam Hott, Kelly Marsh, Mike Weaver, and Dave Seymour each received two-year appointments.

Dahmer received appointment to the Workforce Development Board for one year.

Mike Alt, training officer for Pendleton County Emergency Rescue, shared third quarter receipts for EMS supplements and stipends. These came to just under \$40,000. In 2024, the State of West Virginia funded these, but the funds were not allocated in 2025. The Pendleton County Commission undertook to pay for the program in 2025. Alt expressed appreciation for the Commission’s support of EMS.

Annie Humes, Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau executive director, shared that the America 250 mural project deadline was extended to May 1 and thanked commissioners for establishing the planning commission.

### Show Kids You Care



“Celebrate  
their firsts and  
lasts, such as  
the first day  
of school.”

Brought to you by  
Pendleton County Partners in  
Prevention Team and  
Search Institute

### A Meeting of the Membership/Board of the Christian Assistance Network

Thursday, January 22 • 1:30 p.m.

C.A.N. Building, 331 Maple Ave., Franklin

C.A.N. membership consists of all C.A.N. board members, any minister in Pendleton County, C.A.N. volunteers and patrons and other interested parties.

Anyone with an interest in C.A.N. is welcome to come to this meeting and learn more about how we operate and become more involved.



**WEDNESDAY**

**January 7**  
**Regular Sale ~ 2 p.m.**

(take up begins at 6 a.m.)  
**HAULING IS AVAILABLE!**

Regular sales scheduled for first and third  
Wednesday each month.

Sale details/consignment highlights on Facebook.

Contact Barry Wilkins 540-607-6032



Rt. 220 / 1367 Jackson River Road • Monterey, VA

### Blessings and Thank You To the Following Ladies:

Marcia Warner, Sandy Bennett,  
Linda Rexrode, Nancy Gonshor, Judy Rader,  
Judy Grimm, Lorena Hoover, Barb Hamilton  
and Sue Ann Sites

Your delicious treats were so appreciated.

**The Walt Pitsenberger Family**

### Dashing Through the Snow to Deliver Our Best Wishes!

Over the hills and through the snow  
from our home to yours, we think you  
should know that we wish you and  
yours only the best: Goodwill, good  
fortune and everlasting happiness!

*Thank you for your support.*

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

From  
the Folks at

**EJ WHEELER HARDWARE**  
Main St., Franklin — 304-358-2303



# Christmas Coloring CONTEST WINNERS

Christmas coloring contest winners for this year have been chosen. All winners will receive cash, sponsored by The Pendleton Times.



In the first-, second- and third-grade category, Anne Kathryn Smith (second grade) was the winner. She is the daughter of Isaiah and Anna Smith of Keyser.



Winner of the prekindergarten and kindergarten category was Will Marsh (kindergarten), son of Kelly and Doug Marsh of Brandywine.

## Applications for Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Available

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for the FY2026 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The SCBG Program provides funding for projects that enhance the competitiveness of West Virginia’s specialty crop industry through marketing, education, and research initiatives. Specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops. In FY2025, the WVDA awarded more than \$302,000 in SCBG funding to projects across the state. “The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is an important investment in West Virginia agriculture,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent

Leonhardt. “These grants help growers, researchers, and organizations expand opportunities for specialty crops, strengthen local markets, and support innovation that keeps our agricultural economy growing.” Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply. Application materials, including instructions and required attachments, are available on the WVDA website at [www.wvda.com](https://www.wvda.com). Completed applications must be submitted to the WVDA no later than 4 p.m. on Jan. 30, 2026. For questions or additional information about the SCBG Program, contact the WVDA Business Development Division at 304-558-2210 or [grants@wvda.us](mailto:grants@wvda.us).

## Students Studying American History May Apply for DAR Scholarship

Undergraduate and graduate students studying American history can apply for a \$25,000 scholarship from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) by Jan. 31, 2026. The DAR America 250! Scholarship will provide a one-time \$25,000 award to 10 students in 2026 and is offered to mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of independence. “We are so thrilled to expand the America 250! Scholarship in its final year of being awarded in order to be able to offer 10 \$25,000 scholarships to students,” said Ginnie Sebastian Storage, DAR president general. “We see no better way to celebrate America’s 250th anniversary than with these transformative and life-changing scholarships investing in the development of the next generation of American historians who will study our past and help us understand new aspects of the great American story.” The DAR gives more than 30 scholarships annually awarding close to a total of \$250,000 a year to students across the country, but the organization has never provided a singular scholarship of this size. The significant amount of the America 250! Scholarship and that it will be awarded to 10 separate students is a testament of the importance of Ameri-

can history education that DAR places emphasis on and in honor of the special celebrations taking place throughout 2026 in honor of the 250th anniversary of the nation. Applicants should apply through the DAR online scholarship portal, DAR Academic Works at <https://dar.academicworks.com/>. Students currently majoring in American history in an accredited university or college undergraduate or graduate program in the year 2026 are eligible to apply. Recipients must be United States citizens, prove a minimum 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale or equivalent, and prepare a one-page online essay either on the founding of our nation or on the applicant’s personal volunteer achievements for community and country. Students are urged to apply well ahead of the Jan. 31, 2026 deadline, as the scholarship application requires transcripts and letters of recommendation that must be submitted by others. Applicants will find that the scholarship portal will offer other DAR scholarships they may qualify for as well. Questions can be addressed to [america250scholarship@nsdar.org](mailto:america250scholarship@nsdar.org). Applications may be submitted at <https://dar.academicworks.com/>.

Wishing to all of our family and friends, a blessed Merry Christmas and peace throughout the year.

From our Family at  
**Basagic Funeral Homes and Crematory**

## Healthy Saturday

### January 3

6:00 am – 9:00 am

**WVU Medicine**  
GRANT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION

- Limited to **200** people.
- Appointment Only** ~ Please contact Julie Kesner at 304-257-5806 by January 1, 2026, to register.
- No walk-ins.
- Masks are optional.

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

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

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

## ‘Tis the Season to Hear Clearly

### Call (304) 935-5830 Today!

**JASON KAPOSY, BC-HIS**  
Owner, Board Certified  
Hearing Instrument Specialist

**STACIA DEMOSS, AU.D., CCC-A**  
Doctor of Audiology

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Locations in: Keyser • Moorefield  
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[www.heritagehearingwv.com](http://www.heritagehearingwv.com)



10 Years Ago  
 Week of December 24, 2015

Pendleton Home Health  
 Named Top 100

Pendleton Home Health Services, a division of Pendleton Manor and the Good Samaritan Society, has been named one of the top 100 home health agencies in the US by Home Care Elite. Now in its tenth year, Home Care Elite identifies the top 25 percent of agencies and highlights the top 100 and the top 500 agencies overall. Honorees are ranked by an analysis of publicly available performance measures in quality outcomes, best practice implementation, patient experience, quality improvement and consistency and financial performance.

West Virginia Poison  
 Center Offers Toy Safety  
 Recommendations

During the holiday season, toy safety is always a concern. While most people focus on the age recommendations for toys and the potential for choking hazards, it is important to consider the poisoning risk of toys being purchased. The West Virginia Poison Center recommends these tips for children's gifts.
 

1. Check the list. Even with safety measures in place, some toys are recalled. Before purchasing a toy, check to see if it is on a recall list.
2. If necessary, know the toy ingredients. Some toys, such as chemistry kits or art supplies, may contain an ingredient list. This list is extremely important if a child would become poisoned by the toy. For arts and crafts products, look for the ACMI seal to ensure they meet US safety standards.
3. Liquids may be a concern. If a toy contains liquid, check the toy to ensure the liquid is not leaking, or isn't likely to begin leaking. The liquid in some toys is unknown and may be a danger if the toy breaks.
4. Don't forget about lead. Even with safety measures that lessen the chance of lead poisoning, antique toys and collectibles (especially toys with chipping or worn paint), lead bullets and lead sinkers for fishing may still put a child at risk for lead exposure.
5. Beware of batteries. Disc batteries, also called "button" or "coin" batteries, can cause severe injury or death if swallowed. Ensure children's toys have a secured compartment for batteries (such as a compartment that requires a screw driver to open).
6. Dangers of magnets. Some children's toys and desk toys may be made up of or contain small, high-powered magnets. These objects can also cause severe injury or death if swallowed. If there are young children in the home, do not purchase magnetic toys or desk top novelties made out of magnets.
7. Accidents happen. Even when safety precautions are

followed, accidents happen. Keep the West Virginia Poison Center number (1-800-222-1222) near in case it is needed.

SUGAR GROVE  
 'Shooting in the New  
 Year' Was Past Tradition

Although the custom of "Shooting in the New Year" is only a memory, there are still some in this neck of the woods who recall and can describe their experiences about this activity. This custom was a way to show that the community was in accord, and that everyone was concerned about their neighbor. In those days, people didn't send Christmas cards or New Year's cards, so visiting or delivering the message in person was a way to give out greetings. As the greeting cards became popular the older traditions gradually faded out of practice.

The leader or captain of a shooting group would always call out the name of the head of the household. Once the greeting was spoken in "Dutch," the group would begin to shoot their guns. They would then be invited in to the house and served refreshments.
 There were hazards of shooting. As one late Pendletonian said, "It was dangerous, so it was. They just kept pouring powder in the gun, and then they stuffed in paper and just kept stomping them with a foot full of powder. They just wanted to see who could shoot the hardest! My brother's gun bursted and a piece hit him in the head and he was hurt bad."

30 Years Ago  
 Week of December 21, 1995

West Virginia Farm  
 Bureau Task Force  
 Taking Aim at Coyotes

During the last five years, coyotes have increased their appetite for West Virginia livestock. The sheep industry has been hit so hard that the number of sheep in the state has declined by 44 percent. A conservative estimate from a survey conducted by the USDA and the WVU Cooperative Extension Service says that from July 1994 to July 1995, coyotes were responsible for 3,700 sheep kills, six percent of the state's total flock, resulting in over \$500,000 in losses.
 In response to outcries of frustration by farmers affected by coyote predation, the West Virginia Farm Bureau along with assistance from other organizations, created a task force to find solutions to combat this problem.
 Representatives of these various groups acknowledged that trapping, which has been successful in counties with the largest predation problems, was the best choice to deal with coyotes on a short-term basis.
 The long-range plan was agreed upon after much

discussion. It will involve an "integrated approach" consisting of trapping, snaring, chemical applications and training farmers to use them. An extended contract for the trapper, from the short-term plan, and the possible addition of another will also be included.

50 Years Ago  
 Week of December 25, 1975

DAHMER

There once lived on Dickenson Mountain a man who received the title of Reverend by preaching the word of God, not for a living, but to spread the word of God to sinners like you and me.
 The man in this subject is Rev. Henry Dickenson who married Mary Propst, daughter of John Propst. Rev. Dickenson's best known trade was blacksmithing, which some of his handmade articles have been handed down to the present generation. He is said to have taken the iron ore rocks near his home and smelted them on his blacksmith forge and made a horseshoe.
 What is so unusual about Rev. Henry Dickenson is after he attained the age of 60 he performed 236 marriages.
 After a wedding ceremony the groom often handed the minister some money. What did Rev. Henry Dickenson do with the money? He would give it to the bride.

70 Years Ago  
 Week of December 22, 1955

Stickley's Barbershop  
 Is Moved  
 To New Location

The Stickley barbershop which has been located in the Warner Theatre building next to the Franklin Cut-Rate store for a number of years moved to a new location on Monday.
 The barbershop is now located in the office space formerly occupied by the Moyers Gas Company in the Theatre building next to the Star Restaurant. The office space will be divided and the barbershop and the gas company will each share part of the space.

*You are the Jury*  
 The Case of the  
 Frightened Apple Tree  
 By Morris Braun

Henry Latham moved onto his farm as a young husband. Clearing 15 acres, he and his wife were tempted when the sawmill in town offered to remove and pay for all the logs it could clear on Henry's 2000 acres of woodland, mostly in pine and oak. After Henry and his Anna hesitated a bit, the Corwin Company upped his offer. The Lathams signed a contract permitting the sawmill to cut and move all timber for sawlogs for the next 20 years, if the trees were more than 12 inches

thick around.
 As the Corwin Company cleared the timber, Henry planted his apple orchard. In 15 years, the Lathams were harvesting their fruit, and the Corwin Company had cleared all the pine and oak. Back to the orchard went the Corwin Company; their men started to saw down one of Henry's apple trees. Henry asked what it was all about; and the Corwin's superintendent patiently explained that his company had the right to cut all the timber suitable for sawings, and that applewood had become in high demand as sawlogs. Henry sued to stop them.
 "When I signed the contract," argued Henry, "my intention was to have the Corwin Company clear all the pine and oak, which at that time was the only wood used in this area as sawlogs, besides hickory, poplar and ash. When I planted my fruit trees, I intended that they produce fruit, not be used as sawlogs. And besides, the apple trees were not on the property at that time."
 "It could be," said the lawyer for the Corwin Company, "that Latham did not mean the apple trees, but if that were so, he should have said so in the contract. Since the contract was signed, new oak and pine have also grown on the property, and applewood has become in good demand as sawlogs. After all, he did agree to allow us to cut all timber suitable for sawlogs; and for our market, applewood is very good for sawlogs. We are entitled to cut them down."
 If you were on the jury, would you permit Corwin Company to cut down Henry's apple trees?
 The Corwin Company could not cut down the apple trees. In discussing the decision, the court said that the custom at the time of the signing of the contract, in that area was the true test. The local use for sawlogs at that time, were woods such as pine, oak, hickory, poplar and ash. There was no question, the judge emphasized that sawlogs were not cut from apple trees, when the contract was signed.
 (Based on a 1914 case)

105 Years Ago  
 Week of December 17, 1920

FIVE HUNDRED RED  
 CROSS MEMBERS

The above number has been set as our goal for the year 1921. We are short something more than fifty, but if each friend of the Red Cross will secure one member between now and the end of the year, we will exceed the five hundred.
 Let those who have worked see a few friends and send in as many members as possible. Those who have done nothing and have suffered their sections of the county to be unrepresented, we feel will embrace this opportunity and get a few members at once.
 If no one solicited, you send your membership direct as several are doing. Probably fifty names have been sent in this way since the drive closed, which is only another evidence that the county was not properly solicited. At this season when we are giving gifts to our friends, don't forget your greatest friend, the Red Cross.

105 Years Ago  
 Week of December 17, 1920

STARTLING FACTS  
 ABOUT  
 PENDLETON COUNTY

The late Census shows the Following Facts for Pendleton.
 Population 9652.
 One person in every 666 dies of tuberculosis.
 14 persons die in Pendleton County every year of consumption. There are 10 living cases for every one that dies.
 140 living cases of consumption in Pendleton County.
 9 men rejected in the draft for this reason.
 2 soldiers returned from camp for same reason.

A human life is valued at \$7500.00. \$105,000.00 is lost by death from tuberculosis, without counting the poverty and suffering caused by it.
 With out altitude and pure air, there should not be a case of tuberculosis in the county. Let us stamp it out, banish the poverty and end the suffering.
 To do this, buy Christmas Seals and provide the money to fight tuberculosis. 65 per cent of it remains in our own county.

SHORT NOTES

The operator of the Independent Telephone Company has notified the manager that unless wood is furnished to her the central office here will be closed after Saturday. Hence, if you get no response after that time, you will know the central is frozen up and the Company gone into winter quarters. Our service has never been what we would like it, but it was far better before the present company took hold of it and completely ran it in the ground. We have had no communication with the outside world for months. Would it not justify our business people to get together and build a first-class line? There is no business need in the county more calling.
 We are having an epidemic of small pox and mumps in our vicinity. Dr. Simmons have been very busy.
 Floyd Shrader is going into the sled business, call and see.
 Fleisher School is progressing nicely under the skilled management of Nannie Mullenax.
 Willie Fleisher is going to Staunton to see if he can find a field of "daisies" that hasn't been caught by the frost.

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Smith Creek/  
 Friends Run  
 by Dave Ellis

"Merry Christmas and A Very Happy New Year to each of you. This is the last newsletter in 2025. Catch you in 2026."
 Hello winter, goody-bye fall. Now each day everyone will be getting back more daylight.
 Starting Jan. 1, 2026, the burning law goes back to 24 hours. Do it safely and make sure it's a good day to burn.
 Smith Creek and Friends Run Churches of the Brethren: shut-ins — Bucky Moyers, Pam Riner, Anna Tesi, Larry Moyers, Sandy Washburn, Mary Alice Simmons, Anna Lee Mitchell, Carol Propst and Romona Luckel; prayer list — Richard Campbell, Joshua Shirk, Ava George, Kenny Williams, Debbie Horst, Neal Eye, Ruth Bauer, Rick Waggy, Gloria Moats, Ruthalene Judy, David Berg, Tim and Dee McCormick, Jessie Simmons, Minny Rhoads, Larry Rexrode, Troy Bennett, Jim Fawley, Tom and Judy Borr-ror, Danny Nelson, David M. Parkinson, Cleo Simmons, Tom Butterworth, Sherry Hedrick, Bobby Parsons, Robert Bennett, Rick Phares, Chuck Hiett, Virgil "Bub" Yokum, Hannah Hedrick, Barbara Judy Harman, Betty Smith, John Moyers, Norma Auville, Shana Johnson, Woody Hoover, Sherry Chambers, Ginger Kimble, Kaylee Bennett, Bruce Lambert, Paul Mallow, Kristin Bodkin, Bonnie Mitchell, Holly Beachler, Donald Burns, Wayne Simmons, Phil Downs, Glenn Sites, Genevieve Bible, Jennifer Scott, Earl Smith, Brian Calhoun and Bobby Bodkin.
 Prayer thought: "Dear Jesus, you're the greatest gift of all. Everything I am, and everything I have, I give thanks to You, the love from my heart."
 High and low temperatures and precipitation for Dec. 15 through Dec. 21 were as follows: Dec. 15 - 29°, 5° (35°, 31°, .46°), Dec. 16 - 48°, 19° (49°, 38°, .02°), Dec. 17 - 53°, 39° (57°, 33°, .01°), Dec. 18 - 51°, 32°, .15° (52°, 27°, .01°), Dec. 19 - 48°, 31°, .34° (40°, 30°), Dec. 20 - 47°, 22° (39°, 29°) and Dec. 21 - 46°, 23° (29°, 19°, .25° snow).

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# WVDA Veterans Pitch Competition Now Accepting Applications

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for the 2026 Veterans & Heroes to Agriculture Agribusiness Pitch Competition, an annual event designed to support veterans and other emergency responders pursuing agricultural careers and small-business ventures in the Mountain State. The competition provides qualified applicants an opportunity to present their ideas for innovative, agriculture-focused projects and compete for funding to help launch or expand their operations.

Applicants will pitch their business concept to a panel of judges representing agriculture, business development, and veteran services. Finalists will compete for cash awards intended to support business planning, equipment purchases, product development, and other business needs.

“Agriculture provides a meaningful pathway for many veterans returning to civilian life,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “This competition highlights the strength, resourcefulness, and leadership our veterans bring to West Virginia farms and agribusinesses. We are proud to support their success.”

Participants may submit concepts ranging from traditional farming and forestry to value-added food products, agritourism, technology, and other agriculture-related enterprises. The WVDA also provides technical assistance and business resources to help applicants refine their proposals.

Applications are due by Jan. 16, 2026. Finalists will present their pitches during the Pitch Competition to be held March 7 at Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley, WV.

Eligibility Requirements: 1) Must be law enforcement, firefighter, emergency medical service, first responder, veteran, active-duty military, and/or their spouses and family, and must be a West Virginia resident; and 2) Proposed project must have an agriculture or food-based component.

## PCB Named Best Bank in WV for Fourth Consecutive Year

Pendleton Community Bank has been named the State-wide Gold winner in the Bank category in WV Living magazine’s 2025 Best of West Virginia Awards, which recognize reader favorite places to eat, shop, stay, and play across the Mountain State. PCB was also named the bronze award recipient for Best Corporate Citizen.

Each year, WV Living invites readers to nominate and vote for the businesses, people, and places that make West Virginia a great place to live and visit, with 85 categories represented in 2025. All category winners are determined by reader votes, with special Community Champion honorees selected by the WV Living team.

“These winners are more than businesses—they’re the heartbeat of our communities,” says Nikki Bowman Mills, founder and editor of WV Living magazine. “Every vote cast in this competition is a celebration of local pride. When West Virginians rally around their favorite shops, restaurants, makers, and destinations, we strengthen our economy, uplift our neighbors, and tell a powerful story about who we are.”

Interested individuals can access the application and additional details at <https://agriculture.wv.gov/ag-business/veterans-and-heroes-to-agriculture/> or by contacting the WVDA Veterans and Heroes to Agriculture program at 304-558-2210.

PCB earned its gold recognition in the category of bank, reflecting strong support from customers, neighbors, and visitors who cast votes throughout the nomination and final rounds.

William A. Loving, CEO, stated, “PCB has served communities in West Virginia since 1925, and it is an honor to be named ‘best bank,’ particularly during our 100th year of business. We have banked generations of West Virginians since our founding, and we owe this recognition to our loyal customers who continue to support our mission. I am also extremely proud of our team members who deliver superior customer service. Their generosity and heart for service are why we were also recognized in the category of corporate citizen. PCB has been the recipient of various awards throughout 2025, and it would not be possible without our family of bankers and customers.”

Best of West Virginia winners, including statewide gold, silver, and bronze honorees and regional winners, are featured in the winter 2025 issue of WV Living and online at [wvliving.com](http://wvliving.com).

## Pendleton County Board of Education Starts Process To Incorporate ‘Parents’ Bill of Rights’ Into Policy

By Stephen Smoot

In the final meeting of the 2025 calendar year, the Pendleton County Board of Education held an information packed session in a little over an hour’s time. J. D. Wilkins, board president, opened with the customary invocation, praying, “We ask that You would bless us, not just tonight, but through the Christmas season and into the New Year.”

Toward the opening of the meeting, J. P. Mowery, treasurer, delivered the treasury and financial reports. Part of the presentation concerning the 1,400 floor and other school funding remarks will be covered in other articles.

He opened with the information that the “large cash fund balance” reported in the previous meeting that topped \$4 million for the first time in Pendleton County Schools history had declined somewhat. That came through the natural processes of paying bills as local tax receipts diminished.

As of the time of the meeting, Mowery reported a total balance of all accounts at \$3,741, 459.63, sharing also that the number was approximately \$150,000 ahead of the cash position at the same time in 2024, reflecting that “cash flow is still positive.”

Board members then heard an update on an upcoming acquisition of a school bus. The purchase will come in the form of a four-year lease that will, as Mowery stated “give us increased bus replacement funding next year” due to the boost in value of the fleet.

After the 1,400 floor presentation, board members considered a

substantial list of policy revisions on first reading. Many of these reflect changes in state law or policy. For example, one policy change will incorporate statutory requirements from last year’s Senate Bill 199 that established new policies on school discipline.

Related to this, another state law related policy defines the term “gang” in the context of schooling and discipline. A number of other policies were named and are available on the Pendleton County Schools website for public review.

Another important policy revision that was officially read includes the West Virginia Parents’ Bill of Rights, included in state code by last session’s House Bill 2070. In its opening, the text states that “the Legislature finds that it is a fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing, education, care, and medical care of their minor children.” It defines the term “parent” for this purpose as a natural or adoptive parent or legal guardian.

Rights named in the bill cover a wide range of potential issues. Schools may not withhold information about a minor child from their parent, as described in this act.

The act extends beyond the school system’s relationship with children and parents and extends to all areas of state government. It reads that “the state, any of its political subdivisions, any other governmental entity, or any other institution may not infringe on the fundamental rights of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of his or her minor child without demonstrating that such action is reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest and that such action is narrowly tailored and is not otherwise

served by a less restrictive means.”

Other rights recognized include the right to direct education, the right to conduct moral and religious upbringing, the right to pursue multiple forms of education “as authorized by law,” the right to access records, and more.

Toward the end of the meeting, Carrie Nesselrodt delivered a strong attendance report reflecting the period between the beginning of November and the beginning of December.

The top class in the county was Brandywine Elementary School with a “just phenomenal” 97.22 percent rate. Also, BES narrowly beat out Franklin Elementary School for the unofficial schoolwide attendance crown with both around 95 percent. North Fork Elementary School came in just under at 94.75 percent.

Nesselrodt singled out the eighth grade at Pendleton County Middle/High School for its 85.81 percent rate. Countywide attendance came to 94.4 percent. She did warn that “we’re usually pretty well here” in November and December, but after the new year, usually “sickness goes around.” Nesselrodt added that solid numbers leading to that point help mitigate some of the declines that occur later.

Her report also demonstrated that each school and the county as a whole saw improvements over this point in 2024 in both attendance and chronic absence statistics.

Nesselrodt concluded, “We’re really seeing the work that our schools are doing so kids are in the building... we can’t teach them if they are not there.”

## State School Funding Formula and Policy

*Continued From Page 1*

but actually reflects painstaking efforts by state officials and the West Virginia Legislature over the years to balance needs and resources at every level, provide enough to ensure proper function, and support the special needs of sparsely populated county systems.

In the past decade, the State Legislature has shown itself responsive to calls for more flexibility and support, particularly with legislation passed in 2019. It was strongly supported by Governor Jim Justice, himself a former educator alongside his primary role as business owner.

Seven aspects of school system costs, which Mowery’s presentation refers to as “steps,” come together to illustrate how conditions in each county school system dictate its funding. These are related to not only the actual costs of each function of the school system, but also the amount of local base funding in the form of what it receives under the law from property tax receipts collected by the county sheriff’s department and assessor’s office.

These include professional educators, service personnel, system fixed charges, transportation, professional student support personnel, and the sixth comes under “other current charges” that may fluctuate, such as pay for substitute teachers or support for faculty senates.

Under step seven come elements of curriculum and instruction not including the educators themselves. These include improvement of instructional programs, improvement of 21st century technology systems, dual credit and advanced placement course support, and leadership and teaching instruction and trainings.

After the seven steps of assessing the financial condition and needs of the school system, the next three steps in determination examine the context of the systems needs in terms of what support the system derives locally.

Once the state calculates these 10 steps, it can determine the amount of state funding aid to provide to most West Virginia county school systems. Those with populations that are sparse relative to the geographic size of the county to an extent defined under state law receive extra aid, referred to as the 1400 floor, which will be explained in a different article in this edition.

An important element to remember is HB 206, passed by the West Virginia Legislature and implemented during the 2019-20 school year. As Mowery explained in the presentation, “House Bill 206 required each county’s basic state aid funding to be distributed in the form of a block grant, effective with the 2019-20 school year.” Furthermore, he stated that “all basic state aid funds distributed to the county board shall be exempt from expenditure requirements” and also that “a county board may expend the funds in any authorized and allowable manner the county board deems appropriate.

HB 206’s removal of these restrictions and regulations serves in a sense as added support in kind. Although tough to quantify as a statistic, the less time that county schools officials must spend tending to useless regulations, the more time they have for the purposes of education.

This legislation served as a strong and appreciated response to county school systems finding regulatory restrictions on how they could use funds overly onerous.

Additionally, “full time enrollment” of students “drives the formula.” That said, adjustments to that come from the presence of “certified adults,” the 1400 floor for certain counties, and “jointly established schools where the sending school provides the transportation.”

The latter term refers to institutions such as the South Branch Career and Technical Center in Petersburg, the James Rumsey Technical Center in Berkeley County, or the formerly named

Arch Moore Technical Center that serves Jackson and Roane counties. In each case, trades education programs include students from multiple counties. The cost of transportation and education has an impact on spending and funding.

Sparseness of County Population Has an Impact on the Funding Formula

A significant element taken into consideration by the state in terms of the funding formula comes in its definitions of the level of population sparseness or density.

The State of West Virginia created four categories of relative population density. Each tier has different levels of funding impact based on the varied needs of differently populated counties.

Sparse has less than five people per square mile. Low has between five and nine per square mile, Medium 10 to 19, and highly dense counties are defined as having 20 or more per square mile.

These ratios help to determine the funding rate for personnel as part of the entire state funding award. For example, the formula funds different numbers of professional educators for each population sparsity and density tier. Sparse systems receive funding for 77.75 professional educators per 1,000 students. Low gets 72.60, medium 72.45, and high 72.30.

Each category of school system personnel, such as service and professional student support, receives a certain approved amount of funding with one class of exceptions. Selected central office personnel, such as financial officers and directors of certain vital functions, do not receive funding consideration in the state aid formula.

Funding for professional educators can be adjusted for individual advancements, such as national certifications, years of teaching service, and other elements. Furthermore, the levels of funding for this category are also governed by the sparsity and density ratios. As Mowery stated in his presentation, “instead of being based on a specific ratio per thousand students in net enrollment, the PI requirement is calculated as a specific percentage of the lesser of the number PE employed or funded.” Systems get either the allotted funding at the set percentage or the percentage of professional instructors out of total professional personnel, whichever is less.

The State Legislature Provides Flexibility in Personnel Budgeting

Another important Legislature move that provided help and flexibility came in how the state funds these personnel ratios. Until approximately a decade ago, school systems had to hire to the ratio to receive the full personnel funding. Some systems would hire to the limit, then have a “reduction in force,” known better as “RIF” to get the extra money from positions cut when needed.

Obviously, this process created instability and low morale, especially among new hires.

The State Legislature tweaked the process to provide county school systems the personnel funding up front and permitted them flexibility to work within it to not penalize a policy of frugality. Employing fewer personnel than paid for by the formula is called being “under the formula.”

In the final regular meeting of 2025 for the Pendleton County Board of Education, Mowery explained the impact of the formula and other issues to the superintendent, other central office personnel, and board members. He shared that in the county, “we employ under the formula, which is how we survive.”

Mowery explained furthermore that “we get the money whether we employ the people or not.” Keeping each category of personnel “under the formula” level and “to the good,” he stated, “that’s how we balance the budget, keep all of our schools open.”

A large number of school systems in the state employ “over the formula” or in excess of state personnel funding in one, some, or all categories. Most of these, Mowery said, either enjoy a substantial excess levy approved by taxpayers in a vote or are at some level of financial trouble.

“Hancock (County) had a grenade go off,” Mowery shared with the meeting attendees, explaining that they went quickly from a \$5 million surplus to a \$2 million shortfall in short order, and saying that they “missed the mark somewhere on their planning.”

In response, Delegate Pat McGeehan (R-Hancock) stated that he requested that “several delegates . . . start an informal task force to develop a bill, along with funding, which would allow for school districts that are in extreme emergency situations, such as gross mismanagement or maladministration, to receive funding to cover and honor employee contracts through the remainder of the year.”

He added that county systems would have to first eliminate “all these non-essential administrative positions . . . that are making that kind of money with very little responsibility.”

Student Transportation Funding

The sparsity and density ratio also has an impact one what school systems get for transportation as well.

It must be reiterated here that, according to HB 206, no matter what each system receives based on these different “steps” to figure total aid, it may prioritize spending however it wishes, depending on current needs and future projections. This allows for prudent planning and also to prepare for unexpected expenses, either one time or structural, as in planning for inflation.

Counties receive reimbursement for transportation costs that do not include personnel salaries or capital improvements such as Pendleton County’s recent paving of the bus garage parking lot. Pendleton County, and other sparsely populated counties, receive a 95 percent reimbursement rate.

Other factors can help to boost funding. School systems using propane or compressed natural gas, receive 10 percent additional funding. With the Potomac Valley Transit Authority in the future potentially offering hydrogen fuel to local school systems, it would make sense to include that. PVTA has, however, concluded after extensive testing that electric powered buses will not function effectively in areas with mountains or extremes of heat or cold.

Aid also goes to systems whose buses cross county lines to get to career and technical schools.

The Factor of Local Funding

The state determines its own estimates of the local share paid for by tax revenues based on valuations from the state tax office. To encourage local voters to support excess levies for their school systems, the state does not factor monies from this source.

Aid is based on an expected 85 percent amount coming from local tax revenues

It does, however, include contributions from payments in lieu of taxes, whether federal PILT from lands they own, or PILOT agreements between counties, county school systems, and private sector entities. For example, Hardy County Schools entertained a proposal from MN8, a corporation constructing a large solar farm to provide extra support through PILOT. Board members and Sheena Van Meter, superintendent of Hardy County Schools, shared with them that funds obtained through PILOT would simply cause an offsetting decline in the state aid formula, in essence negating it altogether.

MN8 responded positively and stated that they would work with the school system to find ways to help that did not trigger a lowering of state aid.

An article sharing what adjustments that area school superintendents would like to see changed in the state aid funding formula will come later.



# Wildcats Push Warriors, Triumph Over Yellow Jackets

By Stephen Smoot

Caged by the weather for the most part since a triumph against Union in their opener, the youthful Wildcats girls' basketball squad brought strong performances as the area counts down to Christmas.

At first glance last week's contest against Pocahontas County, which ended in a 50 to 35 setback may not seem "strong." The Warriors, however, have played up to their name and then some to open the year.

A 99 point victory over Richwood to open Pocahontas' season saw four players in double figures and all players making the scoring sheet. They then decisively defeated Bath County 67-34.

This game showed that the young Pendleton County squad's identity during the season will likely include a strongly defensive mentality. The Wildcats brought strong physicality to the game at Dunmore, working to match the intensity of the home team.

Only Allison Taylor shot above 25 percent for the field, hitting 50 percent shooting with 18 points. The Wildcats clamped down on shooting opportunities for the Warriors as the remainder of their leading scorers' tallies fell well under season averages to that point.

For the Wildcats, the front court shouldered much of the scoring load. Junior center Susan Vincell shot five of nine for 16 points. The inside and out threat Jameigh Miller followed with seven.

Next up came the first round of the Petersburg Holiday Tournament on Friday. The threat of heavy snows had prevented the boys' team, again, from playing their initial game of the season at Tucker County. The weather, however, did not affect the opening round game pitting Pendleton County against downstream rival Moorefield.

The Yellow Jackets scheduled heavily early on. While an opener against Fort Hill (MD) did not take place, Moorefield hosted Hedgesville on Dec. 8 and lost 48-33 and St. Mary's on the 12th with that game ending in a 72-41 Yellow Jacket setback. Two days prior to the tournament, Keyser traveled to Hardy County and went back north on US 220 with a 74-39 win.



Susan Vincell makes a power move to the basket against Moorefield during a tournament win at Petersburg.

Friday night, in a close and intense contest, Pendleton County kept Moorefield on the schneid with a close and hard-fought 45-40 victory.

Another piece of the identity puzzle seems to have fallen into place here. Pendleton County's front court dominated Moorefield inside and seemed to score at will, based on the shooting percentages. Once again, Vincell took high scoring honors with six of six shooting from the field for 15 points. Freshman Tia Heavner followed with a 63 percent shooting night and 12 points. Miller followed with 11.

Heavner and Miller each hit two three-point shots

as well.

Miller dominated the boards in this game, ripping down 12 total rebounds and also placing second to Lexi Tingler in assists. Tingler had five and Miller three. Vincell also hit double-digits in rebounds with 10.

## Buck Firearms Season Harvest Numbers Reported

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources announced that hunters harvested 33,775 antlered deer during the state's two-week buck firearm season, which ran from Nov. 24 to Dec. 7.

According to preliminary data collected through the WVDNR's electronic game check system, hunters in Greenbrier harvested the most bucks (1,730) followed by Preston (1,349), Randolph (1,198), Hard (1,165), Pendleton (1,135), Pocahontas (1,089), Monroe (1,057), Grant (1,039), Fayette (991) and Hampshire (923).

The 2025 harvest was 18.5 percent below the 2024 harvest of 41,435 bucks. All WVDNR districts registered a decrease in harvests, with the exception of District 4 (Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe Raleigh, Summers and Wyoming counties) which experienced a 7.5 percent increase compared to last year.

This year's decreased harvest was caused by an increase in hard mast production, which often results in decreased harvests due to the difficulty of tracking and targeting game species spread out over a landscape. Several counties also experienced an outbreak of hemorrhagic disease, which likely impacted hunter success, especially in the western part of the state.

Hunters who harvested a buck during a 2025 deer hunting season are also reminded to submit their photos for a chance to win prizes in the state's fifth annual Big Buck Photo Contest. To learn more about contest prizes, rules and how to enter, visit WVdnr.gov/photocontest.



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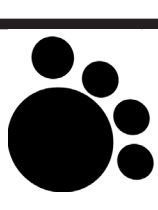
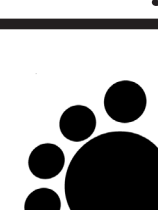

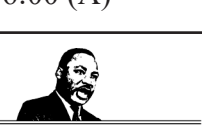
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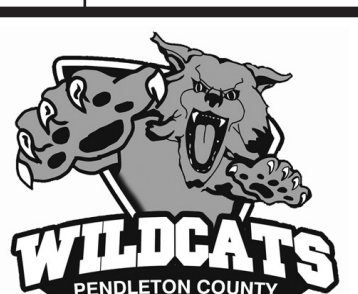
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	HS - High School MS - Middle School	Pendleton County Schools is an Equal Opportunity Provider		<b>1</b>  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>2</b> HS Boys Basketball Tygarts Valley 6:00 (A) MS Boys Basketball Petersburg 6:00 (A) HS Girls Bath Co 6:00 (A) MS Girls Basketball Green Bank 6:00 (H) <b>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>	<b>3</b> HS Wrestling (A) East Hardy TBA MS Wrestling Warm Springs TBA (A) HS Boys Basketball Frankfort 1:00 (A)
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> HS Boys Basketball Pocahontas 6:00 (A) MS Girls Basketball Petersburg 6:00 (H)	<b>6</b> MS Boys Basketball Marlinton 5:30 (A) HS Girls Basketball Tygarts Valley 6:00 (A) MS Girls Basketball Marlinton 6:00 (H)	<b>7</b> HS Wrestling MS Wrestling Tri 6:00 (H) Travel Club Meeting 6:00 <b>Report Cards</b>	<b>8</b> MS Boys Basketball Romney 6:00 (A) HS Girls Basketball Pocahontas 6:00 (H) HS/MS Wrestling Petersburg 6:00 (A)	<b>9</b> MS Girls Basketball Capon Bridge 6:00 (H) SBCTC Presentation for 10th Grade	<b>10</b> MS Wrestling Keyser 11:00 (A) HS Boys Basketball Moorefield 6:00 (H)
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> MS Boys/Girls Basketball Tygarts Valley 6:00 (A)	<b>13</b> HS Girls Basketball Tucker County 6:00 (H) MS Boys Basketball East Hardy 6:00 (A)	<b>14</b> HS Boys Basketball Tucker County 6:00 (H)	<b>15</b> MS Wrestling East Hardy 6:00 (A) MS Boys Basketball East Hardy 6:00 (H) HS Girls Basketball Moorefield 6:00 (A)	<b>16</b> HS Wrestling 3:00 (A) HS Boys Basketball Petersburg 6:00 (A) MS Boys Basketball Mannington 6:00 (H)	<b>17</b> HS Wrestling 9:30 (A) MS Girls Basketball Jefferson 6:00 (A)
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> HS JV Girls Basketball Elkins 6:00 (A) <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> MS Girls 6:00 (A) Basketball Green Bank HS V Boys Basketball Harman 6:00 (A) MS Boys Basketball Green Bank 6:00 (H)	<b>22</b> MS Boys Basketball Tucker Valley 6:00 (A) MS Girls Basketball Warm Springs 6:00 (H)	<b>23</b> HS Girls Basketball Tucker County 5:45 (A) MS Girls Basketball Tucker Valley 6:00 (H)	<b>24</b> HS Wrestling Keyser 8:00 (A)
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> HS Boys Basketball Pocahontas 6:00 (H)	<b>27</b> MS Boys Basketball Moorefield 6:00 (A) HS Girls Basketball East Hardy 6:00 (H)	<b>28</b> HS Wrestling (H) Moorefield 5:00 HS Boys Basketball East Hardy 6:00 (A) MS Girls Basketball Moorefield 6:00 (A) MS Wrestling Keyser 6:00 (H)	<b>29</b> MS Boys Basketball Petersburg 6:00 (H)	<b>30</b> HS Wrestling Petersburg TBA (A) HS Girls Basketball Petersburg 6:00 (H)	<b>31</b> HS/MS Wrestling Petersburg TBA (A)



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- The Rubik's Cube was the best selling Christmas toy in 1980.
- The first Christmas stamp in the United States featured a wreath, two candles and the phrase "Christmas 1962."
- There are two islands named "Christmas." One is located in the Pacific Ocean and the other in the Indian Ocean.
- Tinsel was created in 1610 in Nuremberg, Germany. At one point in history, it was even made out of real silver.
- In 1836, Alabama became the first state to recognize Christmas as a state holiday, But it wasn't until 1870 that President Ulysses S. Grant declared Christmas a national holiday.

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12-18-2c

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

11-7-tfn

### LOST AND FOUND

LOST: KEY FOB with red tab, 2014 Dodge Ram. Call 304-257-4308. 12-25-4c

### LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION  
Division of Highways  
NOTICE TO  
CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until January 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the construction of the following project(s):

Call 033  
Contract 2023360023  
State Project  
S336-33-20.45 00  
Federal Project  
STBG-0033(515)D  
Description  
RESURFACING  
ROOTS RUN RD- NORTH  
MTN.  
Midpoint of Project  
COUNTY:  
PENDLETON

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractor's license is not required

at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must submit electronically with their bid a Proposal Guaranty Bond for \$500.00 or 5% of total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be will received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award. 12-25-2c

#### Notice of Public Hearing:

Pendleton County Schools will conduct the second mandatory public hearing for community comment on the 2026-2027 public school calendar. The hearing will be held on January 20, 2026 at the Pendleton County Board of Education meeting at 5:30 p.m.

12-18-2c

#### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in it by that certain Deed of Trust dated March 7, 2013, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed of Trust Book 140, at Page 359, Phyllis A. Lambert and Johnnie G. Wratchford did convey unto Jeffery S. Bowers or J. Stuart Bowers II, Trustee, certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Pill & Pill, PLLC as Substitute Trustee by a Substitution of Trustee recorded in the aforesaid

Clerk's Office; and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by the secured party to foreclose thereunder, will offer for sale at public auction at the front door of the Pendleton County Courthouse, in Franklin, West Virginia, on

January 6, 2026,  
at 12:05 PM

The following described real estate, with its improvements, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in the Franklin District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:

All that certain tract or parcel of real estate lying and being situate on the southeast side of the South Branch River and Pendleton County Route 220-12, in Franklin District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, described as Lot 35B, containing 0.176 acres, more or less, of Potomac Heights Subdivision, and more particularly described by the metes and bounds in the attached Plat of Survey for Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity by reference hereto, as prepared by Floyd E. Bargy, Jr., WV LLS# 760 of Thrasher Engineering and being the same real estate conveyed to the Grantors by that certain Deed dated March 7, 2013, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 192 at Page 278 to which reference is herewith made for all pertinent purposes.

At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 42 Vealey Circle, Franklin, WV 26807.

AND BEING the same real estate which was conveyed to Phyllis A. Lambert and Johnnie G. Wratchford, by Deed dated March 7, 2013, from ALMOST HEAVEN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, INC., and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 192, at Page 278.

The above-described property will be sold subject to any covenants, restrictions, easements, leases and conditions of record, and subject to any unpaid real estate taxes.

The subject property will be sold in "AS IS" condition. The Substitute

Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

TERMS: Ten percent (10%) of the purchase price as a deposit with the balance due and payable

within 30 days of the day of sale.

Pill & Pill, PLLC,  
Substitute Trustee

Jonathan L. Wertman,  
Authorized Signatory

P. O. Box 440,  
85 Aikens Center,  
Martinsburg, WV 25404  
Phone (304) 263-4971,  
Fax (304) 267-5840,  
e-mail: foreclosures@pillwvlaw.com  
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Tuna Casserole  
Peas/Carrots  
Cauliflower  
Banana Pudding

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 29**  
Cheeseburger Deluxe  
French Fries, Asparagus  
Cantaloupe

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30**  
Crispy Chicken Salad  
Cottage Cheese, Peaches

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
**COOK'S CHOICE**

Birthday Cake!  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 1**

**CLOSED**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 2**  
BBQ Chicken  
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**MONDAY, JANUARY 5**  
Tomato Soup  
Grilled Cheese  
Brussels Sprouts  
Strawberry Cheesecake

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 6**  
Baked Potato w/  
Bacon & Cheese  
Broccoli, Apple Crisp

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7**  
Pork Chops  
Mashed Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Tropical Fruit

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 8**  
Lasagna  
California Blend  
Tossed Salad  
Garlic Bread, Melon

**WELCOME 2026**

Meal times are from 11:45  
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with 2% milk & a bread.  
Reserve your meals.  
Reservations served first.  
Menus are subject to change.  
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# Belsnickler

Continued From Page 1

mythological divinities, Momus, held sway in that religion over mockery and satire personified. In Old English mommer, derived from the same root as miming in French, refers to frolicking in masks.

Milnes noted that “it has been proposed that the cold and dark northern European winters held such authority over human existence that, in prehistory, people sought to give assistance to powers that could influence the change to longer, lighter, and warmer days.” Such cultural imperatives that stem from humanity’s most basic fears and emotions came to America and made their way to the frontier, following it west to the forbidding mountain range that rose to their west like a series of walls.

Now imagine 200 years ago, living in a cabin on the top of one of Pendleton County’s highest ranges. Imagine the seemingly endless winter months, constantly fretting about the wood and food stored away and if it would last, enduring the last gasp of the Little Ice Age and the much colder climate of the early modern centuries. Add to this grime and long nights under uncaring stars, punctuated by heavy snows that could lay for weeks at a time or even all winter.

Though almost all the frontier’s original more secular mindset gave way to fervent Christianity during and after the Great Awakening, the rituals and beliefs surrounding them persisted throughout. Trust in their veracity likely ranged to true belief to a “what could it hurt?” mentality.

After all, as Milnes wrote, West Virginians have traditionally had a love-fear relationship with the sometimes dark and dangerous landscape in which the people lived and died. “West Virginia tradition bearers believe that negative, satanic forces of evil still lurk in the countryside.” If anyone doubts that such aspects passed on long ago, tales of the Braxton County Monster (literally searched for in the mid 20th Century one night by West Virginia National Guardsmen) or the now famous Mothman continue to regale natives and visitors alike.

Like the belsnickle tradition before it, festivals and fun have grown up around these newer novel-ties.

Before one called America itself the melting pot, that metaphor would have graced early Philadelphia quite well. Original Scandinavian settlers of the Delaware Valley quickly found themselves absorbed by the British Empire and the colonies of Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Continual strife and disorder in the Holy Roman Empire pushed many of its people out of their natives homes and toward America. Most Germans disembarked in Philadelphia. They brought from the deep and dark central European forests and mountains tales of Krampus and traditions of belsnickling. These mingled with British Celtic rituals surrounding Halloween and other occasions of masked revelry and naughtiness, as well as with the boisterous Scandinavians who knew none of these traditions, but happily picked and chose which they wanted to combine and keep.

Philadelphia still has the New Years’ Day Mummers Parade that dates to this era. President George Washington himself, with the United States capital in the city, would personally officiate its commencement yearly.

Other traditions moved west with the families who carried them. The family of Mathias Jung, later Young, for example, arrived on the Loyal Judith in 1738. His eldest son moved west to get his own farm in Lancaster County and subsequent generations gradually followed available land west to the Great Valley, then up the Shanandoah.

Many saw the potential in the rich valleys to the west, such as the Van Meter family who settled Old Fields and the extraordinarily courageous and hardworking families who found homes along the three sister streams that drain the three great valleys of Pendleton County.

Milnes included the full slate of mumming traditions that he associated closely with socially sanctioned “disorder.” They came from all points of Western Civilization traditions. One was the Roman Saturnalia, which in Julius Caesar’s time was simply a time for feasting and drinking where servants and slaves were permitted to assume temporary “master” roles, but later turned into utter degradation. Christians started celebrating the Birth of Christ at the same time to counter its increasingly malevolent influence.

# Spotted Lantern Fly Confirmed in Pendleton County

Continued From Page 1

cial transportation.

People can unknowingly move the inconspicuous egg masses over long distances when moving plants such as in the “nursery trade.”

Hoover wrote that “while SLF can infest more than 70 species of fruit, ornamental, and forest trees and vines, the spotted lantern fly prefers the tree of heaven – an equally invasive species” from East Asia that grows quickly and can crowd out vulnerable native species.

They pose at least a major two-fold threat to Pendleton County. In a recent Local Emergency Planning committee meeting for Pendleton County, Rick Gillespie, emergency services coordinator, declared that the health of the area forest has declined considerably. Blights and parasites have killed many elm and ash trees that once heavily populated the area. Destruction of more trees by spotted lantern flies

can create more dead wood in the forests that serves as fuel for potentially devastating wildfires. The accumulation of such debris, according to Gillespie, has made traditionally tamer Appalachian wildfires more akin to severe fires in the drier Western states.

Additionally, the insect’s taste for maples aims directly at a growing local industry carefully guided by Future Generations University, the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau, WVU Extension, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, and others. Though maple production currently only tallies in the tens of thousands of gallons per year in West Virginia, maple serves as part of an essential economic support for several Pendleton County farms, businesses, and non profits.

It also serves as the core of a science and economics education program for fourth graders led by Chris and Melissa Grimes at North Fork Elementary School, as well as the base for their veterans’ support non profit Mountain Cajun Getaways.

According to Hoover, the key to slowing the expansion of the spotted lantern

Other traditions include the Samhain harvest festival of the Celts, which has associations with All Saints’ Day and Halloween, as well a Fastnacht, Mardis Gras, Carnival, and other festivities to keep hearts light during the dark months.

In Britain, a recent blog described being in a pub when “a gang of bizarrely dressed fellows crashed into the bar unannounced” in the garb of “Father Christmas, another as St. George as they had a dragon in tow. There was also a doctor, a horse, and a man in drag.” They had come to put on a “bizarre, bawdy, and unhinged” rendition of the classic story of St. George and the Dragon, also associated with these traditions of disorder, but also birth and renewal.

As practiced in Pendleton County tradition, belsnickling loosely resembles trick-or-treating. Revelers don costumes and, as Milnes wrote start “going from house to house in masquerade, with residents guessing the belsnicklers’ identities.” He added that “sometimes treats were offered to the belsnicklers, and sometimes belsnicklers offered treats to the household.

He also reported that “somehow, against great odds, this custom has found a way to continue into the twenty-first century in West Virginia,” recounting that area resident Johnny Arvin Dahmer told him in 2002 that he had received a troupe of them around Christmas.

Milnes speculates that the tradition came down from the “wild hunt” culture of ancient Germanic peoples, which likely dovetailed with equally rambunctious traditions of the Celtic British immigrants. This includes wedding kidnappings and the Shivaree, depicted at Seneca Rocks on a West Virginia State Capitol mural.

Such traditions may in the past have been used to dispel fears and reassure the worried. They also bring a message that needs to be considerably reinforced in these way-too-serious times. Belsnickling, trick-or-treating, shivarees, and other beautiful and useful nonsense have another connecting theme.

They remind all to never take themselves so seriously as to never subject oneself to a bit of harmless ridicule and frivolity.

Let’s see a lot more belsnicklers in next year’s parade.

# Pendleton Community Care

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**SGR396A** 0.721 ac., home with 4 bedrooms/2.5 baths, 3 car garage, paved driveway, large back deck w/exceptional mountain view, in Franklin, across from Pendleton Manor. **\$349,000.00.**

**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. **\$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 REDUCED \$375,000.00.**

**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.**

**SGR382A** 45 Ac. w/1 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin, Solar powered, no restrictions, Cistern & Septic, Shooting Range, Excellent Hunting, Franklin District. **\$399,000.00 REDUCED \$379,000.00.**

**SGR382B** 35 Acres, Strauter Rd, Ruddle area. Year-Round Spring. Building Lots. Utilities. Excellent Hunting. Life Estate on 6 Acres. Franklin District. **\$169,000.00.**

**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 \$264,000.00 REDUCED \$250,000.00.**

**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.**

**61 Chestnut St.,**  
**Franklin, WV 26807**

Broker George Sponaugle - 304-358-2714  
Agents: Kathy Sponaugle - 304-668-3283  
Gene Boggs - 304-668-2982 Angie Nelson - 304-358-8150



**FRANKLIN** - 3 BR 3 BA renovated mobile home on 4.9 acres. \$215.000  
**BRANDYWINE** - 1 BR, 1 BA rustic log cabin on 32.28 ac bordering national forest. Solar and propane. WVPT2000860. \$239,000.  
**SMOKE HOLE** - WVGT2000894 \$975,000 \$899,000 \$849,000; 13.93 +/- ac., 2 Story Cabin, 3 rentals cabins, 2 ponds.

# Sugar Grove Realty, Inc.

Jeffrey S. Bowers, Broker C **304.668.0002**

Stuart Bowers, Sales Agent C **304.668.1147**

Tommy A. Roberson, Sales Agent **304.668.1050**

Penny K. Lambert, Sales Agent C **304.668.2975**

Jennifer Raines, Sales Agent **304.851.3522**

Kelly Roby, Sales Agent **304.257.8859**

**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 REDUCED \$279,000.00.**

**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 Falls. Perfect for hunters, fisherman or outdoor enthusiasts. **\$189,000.00 REDUCED \$179,000.00.**

**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. **\$293,000.00. 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 33 East of Franklin. Lots from **\$20,760.00.**

**SGR247 Residential lots** with town water, sewer & underground utilities. Protective covenants and restrictions. Franklin Airport Development. Lots from **\$14,630.00.**



Exclusive to our readers, Santa shares some of his favorite letters from Pendleton County boys and girls this year.



Dear Santa,  
Do you have a computer at your house? This could help you look up stuff. I would like a big monster truck, stickers with letters, microphone.  
Love,  
Braxton  
BES PreK

Dear Santa,  
Thank you, Santa! I bet you're always ready for Christmas! Are you ready for cookies and milk? Can I have some pickles for Christmas – they might be heavy! Please bring me new cowboy boots and a Pokemon binder. I would also like Pokemon cards and a Nintendo Switch. My brother would like a clock because we don't know what time it is in the bedroom. Mom would like to have a new dress. Please bring dad a water case for his phone so he can check the time when he's in the bath. I will make a gingerbread house for you. Thank you for the pickles!  
Love,  
Alexander  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
I love you! How do you have so much magic? How do you deliver the presents all around the world? I want to be at the North Pole and be a toy maker. Can you get me up in the middle of the night and take me to the North Pole? If you do this, I will love you forever and ever. Zoe wants a lunch box and a back pack. Bring mommy a picture of me and Zoe and bring daddy a Grinch blanket. I have a Grinch blanket and he really likes it. We will leave you chocolate chip cookies and milk.  
Love,  
Ryleigh E.  
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
I am blaming my red hair for any mischief I got into this year. (I know I use that excuse every year, but my Papaw always says that it's true!). Mamaw and Mommy say I've still been good enough to get presents, though! I really, really, really want a cash register with microphone and scanner. Guess what Santa? I'm going to be a big sister next year! Can you go ahead and bring my brother something he can use when he is born? I think a toy that has lots of buttons that make sounds because I can always use it before he does, just to be able to teach him how to use it, of course!  
Love,  
Teagan  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
Do you want cookies and milk by the fireplace? Please bring me a princess suitcase because I don't have a suitcase. I tried to search this up on my cousin's phone and it's like this princess but it's at Walmart and it's a coffee maker little toy and there's also an adventurous one with a backpack and goggles – please bring me that. Also, a Barbie like set that has like a backpack and goggles and a puppy and something else. Bring my mom maybe a um little like calendar because she doesn't have one at home. She doesn't know what day it is sometimes but sometimes she does. My dad needs a little notebook that says on the first page "I love you, Daddy! From Carly and Santa." Also, little pictures that have family on it, the five of us – me, mom, dad, Carson, and Macie. Macie said she wants elephant stickers, earrings, and she wants a fluffy pen. Carson probably needs this baseball game, maybe number 29 or 30, and it's on college football. Thank you, Santa!  
Love,  
Carly  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas, I want a 6-7 sign, a Rumi barbie doll, Zoe Barbie doll and Meira Barbie doll. I want two baby dolls for my sissy. I've been good this year. Santa, are you Toolman? Who is Mrs. Santa Claus? I will leave you some milk and cookies.  
Scarlette P.  
FES KB

Dear Santa,  
I love you! Can I have a phone and a puppy so my other puppy can have babies? And a BIG container of vanilla ice cream. Can I please have a sketchbook and some new toy boxes please?  
Love,  
Rose  
FES 1A

Dear Santa,  
I want a Barbie doll and a Barbie doll house. I want a princess costume. Can I please have a Sleeping Beauty costume? Please bring my brother an airplane, boat, and a robot. I have been a little bit good, a little bit naughty, and a little bit bad. Mom wants makeup, grandma wants a new cat because mine scratches. I want Santa to have a Merry Christmas, joy, and love. The reindeer have good hearts too.  
Autumn S.  
NFES Preschool

Dear Santa,  
How are you? Please bring me a vanity with make-up for Christmas. I also would like Slime. Mason would like some trucks and dinosaurs. Miles would like a chewing toy because he has like one more teeth to come in. Mom would like a pink shirt and Dad needs a new hunting shirt. I will leave cookies and milk for you and carrots for your reindeer. I know how many deers you have – 12, so I will leave 12 carrots. Thank you, Santa!  
Love,  
Madelyn  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
I love my daddy and mommy and I would like a bow and arrow and a pistol so I can go hunting and shoot some deer. I would also like a whole dinosaur set and toys of all the birds and eagles in the world. Be careful on your Christmas ride! Mrs. Ruddle says Dasher and Dancer are real, so please tell them to be careful and all the other Reindeer too.  
Rhyder W.  
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
I got a lot of stuff but I'll tell ya three because Mrs. F said we don't have room for all that. I want a cyber truck and a dirt bike and a toy house. I'll put the rest in another letter.  
Love,  
Wyatt  
FES KA

Dear Santa,  
I love you. Can you bring toys to my house? Can you bring me a play house? I want a Keychain for my backpack. Can you bring my brother some hunting gear? Can you bring my brother back from the army? Thank you, Santa. I'll leave you some milk and cookies.  
Ruby H.  
FES KB

Dear Santa,  
I have been a very good girl this year! My mommy and daddy say I haven't been but don't listen to them! I would like to have some puzzles and a jungle gym since I like to climb on everything.  
Love,  
Luna  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I love you. I want a car I can ride. My mom wants a pink car. Dad wants an old car. Mawmaw Sandy wants a horse. Grandma would like toe clippers because Grandpa Billy's toes have not been clipped in a long time.  
Love,  
Elijah P.  
NFES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
I want a remote-control T-rex, a remote control Spinosaurus, a remote-control Triceratops, and I want a remote-control monster that eats people and needs 9 batteries to work. I'm on the nice list. I've been in here for 90 years. I'm not saying Mason's on the naughty list but....  
Love,  
Kayden  
FES KA

Dear Santa,  
I want a turkey, pizza turkey! I want a toy dump truck. That's all.  
Love,  
Willie  
FES KA

Dear Santa,  
Santa, I think everybody should have a gift for Christmas. Could I please have a Magic Mixie and a rubber band bracelet kit?  
Thank you!  
Love,  
Emerson  
FES 1A  
Dear Santa,  
How do you get to all the boys and girls in one night, because that is a lot of kids! I already sent you a letter and asked for an octagon gymnastics roller to practice. My elf Jingles that you sent to my house is really funny. You could bring my maw-maw a heart puzzle and she would like that. My paw-paw doesn't really need anything except for someone to come fix his broken wall. I will leave you peanut butter cookies, I hope those are your favorite.  
Thank you!  
Addy G.  
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I want a real Dodge Ram and Chevrolet Traverse, and a Chevrolet Truck with a remote to drive it.  
Love,  
Liam  
FES Pre-KB

Dear Santa,  
How many cookies do you eat on Christmas Eve at all the houses you go to? I want you to bring me a glow-in-the-dark Ben 10 toy, a real arm band, and toy to go through walls.  
Love,  
Bentlee  
BES PreK

Dear Santa,  
I want a kitty stuffed animal. I want bunny game. That's it! Thank you for everything you have done for me and my brother.  
Love,  
Amelia  
FES 1B

Dear Santa,  
I'm new here! I don't need much this year, just lots of snuggles and love. Please bring my siblings lots of toys. I'm sure my mom and dad would like a quiet, full night of sleep, but maybe wait for next year for that to keep them on their toes!  
Love,  
Ronin  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bike that can fly and pedal on the ground and in the sky. 1 piece of candy so I can grow wings. Magical flower that gives me powers. Baby toy for my babysitter at my dad's house.  
Tyler  
FES Pre-KA

Dear Santa,  
I would like to have lots of stuff. Sand for mommy and sand for met too.  
Zarian  
FES Pre-KA







# Letters to Santa...

Forwarded directly from the North Pole, we're pleased to brighten the holiday season by reprinting some of Santa's favorite letters from Pendleton County children in day care, preschool, kindergarten and first grade.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a rock-  
ing chair. I love to sit in the  
ones at daycare and rock. I  
would also like some balls  
to throw back and forth with  
my sister.  
Love,  
Bodie  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me some  
trucks and cars to play with,  
I love watching them drive  
by the daycare window. I  
would also like some  
dinosaur toys to play with.  
I also would love to have a  
wrestling mat so I can show  
my daddy my new wrestling  
moves!  
Love,  
Reese  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a baby  
doll that I can snuggle and  
kiss on. I would also like to  
have some new books that  
my mom can read to me.  
Actually, any girl toys would  
be great because the house is  
full of boys!  
Love,  
Joanna  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I love playing with the  
daycare baby dolls so please  
bring me a few new ones for  
home so I can practice for  
my new baby sibling. I would  
also like to have a farm set  
because I love playing with  
the farm animals and mak-  
ing the sounds each one of  
them make.  
Love,  
Hadley  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I love playing with fidget  
spinners at daycare. Please  
bring me some for home. I  
would also like to have a play  
set with little people. I like to  
play with them because they  
fit perfectly in my hand.  
Love,  
Emilia  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
Can you please bring me  
some toys that make noise?  
I love hearing the sounds. I  
would also like some books  
that my grandma can  
read to me and my brother!  
Love,  
Wren'Lee  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would like a toy that helps  
me walk so that I can keep  
up with Archer. Bring my  
mommy something nice, too!  
Love,  
Aleenah  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would like some push  
toys this year. I love to pull  
myself up and I'm always on  
the move.  
Love,  
G  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would really like a play  
mat this year. I'm learning to  
move around and they make  
tummy time and floor play so  
much fun!  
Love,  
Hadleigh  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would love some teething  
this year because I'm working  
on getting some teeth so I can  
eat cookies with you soon,  
Santa! Please also bring me a  
baby doll that rattles because  
I love to make noise.  
Love,  
Sadie  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would like a new TV for  
the car, all kinds of Elsa toys  
and a dirtbike like my daddy!  
Love,  
Haisleigh  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I've been very good this  
year. I only want a scooter—I  
really, really want one! My  
siblings needs some toys, too,  
Santa,  
Love,  
Lela  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would love to have a Barbie  
house and lots of Barbies, too,  
this year. I try to be very good,  
Santa!  
Love,  
Ellison  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I want a purse and some  
make-up to put in it. I would  
like a playset, like an ice cream  
shop. I promise to play nice  
with my sister!  
Love,  
Zoey  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I want a bed that has a  
slide because I think that  
would be fun! I love Paw  
Patrol, so, can I have lots of  
those this year? I'm  
so excited for Christmas!  
Love,  
Blair  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would like you to bring  
my brothers some toys this  
year. For me, can you bring  
me a race track with lots of  
cars and trucks that can go  
super-fast on the track?  
Love,  
Kipton  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I love fidget toys and would  
like to have several in my  
stocking this year. Baby  
dolls are one of my favorite  
things to play. Can you  
bring me some new ones that  
come with lots of things to  
use for the dolls?  
Love,  
Sophia  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I try to be very good! I  
want lots of Paw Patrol toys,  
especially Everest because  
she's my favorite one. Daddy  
also wants gifts this year. I  
think he wants Chase from  
Paw Patrol and a pencil to  
color. My bubby wants a  
Transformer and my mom-  
my wants  
a book for Halloween.  
Love,  
Maisyn  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I want Elsa and Ana for  
Christmas. Some Elsa and  
Ana dresses would be great,  
too. Can you bring Carter a  
green phone and Brayden  
a blue phone?  
Love,  
Wrenlee  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would love to have a  
bunch of Paw Patrol toys and  
a Paw Patrol house. Can you  
also bring me a new Bluey  
stuffy and some toys for my  
siblings?  
Love,  
Amaryllis  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I try to be very good for my  
mommy and daddy. I would  
love some monster trucks  
this year.  
Love,  
Idris  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I love playing with dolls.  
Can you bring me some new  
dolls and a really big, tall  
doll house?  
Love,  
Freya  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I try to be very good. I  
would like lots of doll babies  
this year. Can you bring my  
daddy some gifts, too, Santa?  
Love,  
Octavia  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I love to play with all kinds  
of toys but this year can I  
have lots of dinosaurs? Can  
you also bring my Grandma  
something nice, too?  
Love,  
Azariah  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would love to have lots  
of big, big monster trucks!  
I love to play outside so can  
you bring me lots of diggers  
and dump trucks?  
Love,  
Archer  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I try to be very good for  
mommy and daddy. I would  
like lots and lots of toys this  
year, especially a tiger toy.  
Love,  
Greyson  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I love Elsa so I would like  
lots of Elsa toys this year.  
Maybe you could bring me  
Elsa dolls, Elsa dress-up, and  
Elsa doll house, Santa!  
Love,  
Caroline  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would like to have lots  
of toys for Christmas. I re-  
ally like to play outside and  
would like a football and  
soccer ball.  
Love,  
Liam  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a fly-  
ing Transformer, a big, big  
motorcycle, some dinosaurs,  
and a fire truck this year!  
Love,  
Oliver  
Tiny Tots



Dear Santa,  
Can I please have a race  
track and lots of other toys,  
too? I try to be very good. You  
can bring my brother some  
toys, too!  
Love,  
Eli  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I love candy so you can fill  
my stocking full of candy!  
Can I have a baby stroller  
to push my baby dolls? I  
am trying to be very good  
because I'm going to be a big  
sister soon!  
Love,  
Addy  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bike, a big  
race truck, and a guitar for  
Christmas this year! Please  
bring my mommy something  
extra special, too!  
Love,  
Cora  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I really, really want Elsa  
toys! Can you bring me an  
Elsa dress and an Elsa doll  
house?  
Love,  
Clara  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
Can you bring me a real  
horse? I want a big one! I  
would also like some police  
and firefighter costumes  
and toys.  
Love,  
Jacob  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I love to play with cars and  
trucks—anything that goes  
fast! Can I have a firetruck,  
Hot Wheels Ultimate Ga-  
rage, and a Thunder Tum-  
bler Spinning Car?  
Love,  
Sam  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a big  
kitchen set because I love  
to play with the food. I also  
would love zoo animals and  
wooden people and playsets  
for me and my brother to  
play together.  
Love,  
Gatlin  
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,  
How many reindeer do you  
have? I would like to have a  
light for outside, a Barbie  
house, and a pink Barbie car.  
Love,  
Quinley  
BES PreK

Dear Santa,  
What is your favorite kind  
of cookie? I will make them  
for you to eat. For Christmas  
I would like a Barbie house,  
bracelets, and nail polish.  
Love,  
Ali  
BES PreK

Dear Santa,  
How do you get all the  
presents to my house? I want  
you to bring me a dinosaur  
hot wheels track, Legos ei-  
ther a giant robot or a mon-  
ster, and toys for my kitties  
Love,  
Lucas  
BES PreK

Dear Santa,  
What does your house look  
like? I am sure it is very big.  
Could you bring me a mon-  
ster truck track, Santa Claus  
toy, and a car track?  
Love,  
Leo  
BES PreK

Dear Santa,  
How many cookies do you  
make? I would like for you to  
bring a doll, basketball, and  
soccer ball.  
Love,  
Chloe  
BES PreK

Dear Santa,  
How many elves do you  
have at your shop? I would  
like a skateboard, a toy trac-  
tor, and a Bluey train set.  
Love,  
Pierce  
BES PreK

Dear Santa,  
Do you have a phone at  
your house, to call people? I  
would like you to bring me  
a monster truck, Paw patrol  
toys, cookies and candy cane.  
Love,  
Pacey  
BES PreK

Dear Santa,  
Do your reign deer eat car-  
rots? I will leave them some if  
they do. I would like to have  
a speaker, a teddy bear, and  
Stich toys.  
Love,  
Brooklyn  
BES PreK



## We're All REVVED UP...



To wish you and yours a sleigh full of happiness at  
Christmastime and throughout the New Year!  
We hope this holiday season delivers everything  
you've been wishing for, right down  
to the last detail.

# AUMANN'S CUSTOM AUTO

## Start Your Engines... Christmas Is Coming!



As we gear up for another holiday season, we'd like  
to send you our best wishes for a very  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Thanks for your trust in us.**  
**We look forward to serving you again soon.**  
**Bowers Garage & Body Shop**  
Sugar Grove and Brandywine



With **JOY**  
in our hearts we wish you a  
*Merry Christmas*  
& Happy New Year



Thank you for your patronage in 2025.





Dear Santa,  
Christmas is the best season! You are really nice! Christmas should be every day! It is the best time of the year! Would you please bring me something like AirPods? I would also like a fake computer. One day hopefully when I grow up I want to be a teacher because they do fun things. You can help me with that because you give everyone wishes. I want Pierce to have a Ninja Kids costume because he loves Ninja Kids. He should also have a scratching pole because he likes scratching on me. Lane likes to play a lot of games so I'm thinking get him a new X-Box. He picks on me, but I still want him to have something for Christmas. Please bring my mom a new phone. Bring my daddy a new pair of pajamas. Christmas is the best! I will leave cookies and milk for you and I'm going to go around in my house maybe behind my couch and spy on you! Please Santa and thank you!

Liam B.  
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Rudolph with a red nose. I would like a robot. Ciara would like something pink because that is her favorite color. Mimi and poppy put up a tree with lights.

Love,  
Kenlyn M.  
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
I love you! For Christmas please bring me a new set of Spiderman bed sheets, some toy cars, and some new Spiderman pajamas. Please bring my mom a pair of slippers. My dad needs a new hammer. Annabelle would like some Stitch stuff and Marie would like a new blanket. Please bring Ben some toy cars, too. I will leave you some cookies and milk. Thanks. Santa!

Love,  
Liam  
BES First Grade

*May All Your  
Hopes & Dreams  
Come True  
this  
Holiday Season!*

**HOUSE of BEAUTY**

304.668.5023

Brandywine



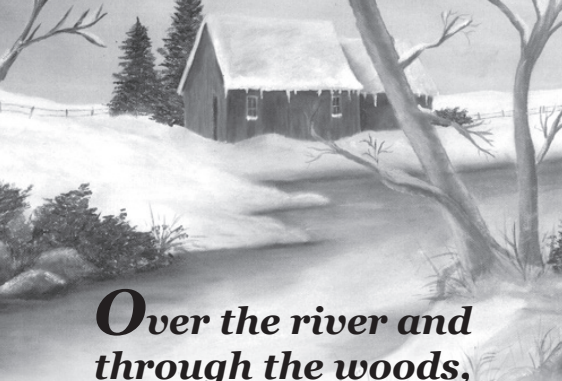
Thank you,  
Love,  
Jackson W.  
BES Kindergarten

*Visit [Pendletontimes.com](http://Pendletontimes.com)*

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

*May your  
Christmas  
be merry, bright  
and magical  
in every way.  
Thanks for your  
support in 2025!*

**Jerry L. Lambert Construction, LLC**  
Jerry, Sheila & Chris  
WV#027848



***Over the river and  
through the woods,  
may the holiday spirit reach you  
wherever you are this season!***

As we reflect on 2025, we're filled with gratitude for the good friends and neighbors who make this community such a wonderful place to live and work. Folks like you have brought so much meaning and happiness to our year, and we thank you for your trust in us.

We hope your Christmas season is merry, bright and beautiful and your New Year happy in every imaginable way.

**Whiterock  
Excavating  
LLC**

**BILL AND ANGIE NELSON**

304-668-4332    304-358-2524

Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year

*May all of your hopes and  
wishes come true!*

**TOWN OF FRANKLIN**

***Wishing You A  
Merry Christmas!***



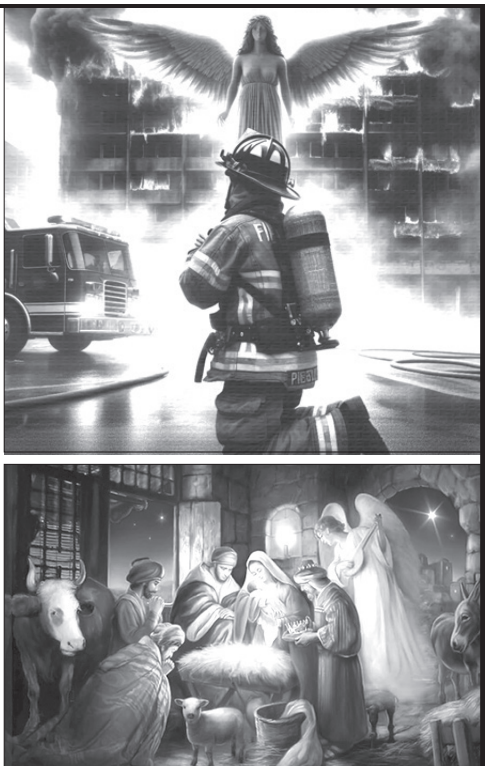
Here's hoping your holiday is uplifting in every way!  
We're always proud to be of service and  
we thank you for your continued patronage.

**KAR KARE**  
**Dempsey**

***To Our  
Cherished Community***

The Circleville Volunteer Fire Department extends its deepest gratitude for your unwavering support. Your kindness, whether through encouraging words, thoughtful gestures or simply being prepared for emergencies, fuels our dedication to keeping you safe. We are honored to serve you and humbled by the strength of our community bond.

***On behalf of Circleville  
Volunteer Fire Department,  
we would like to wish you all a  
Merry Christmas  
with hearts filled with peace,  
your home with joy and  
your lives with blessings.***





Dear Santa,  
How are you? Did you have a good Christmas? Please bring my little sister some new outfits and a headband. My cousin, Mike, likes hunting so please bring him a camouflage gun. One of my dogs that is a boxer, her name is Ruby, needs an outfit and skirts – I like to put some of my skirts on her. For my mom, she probably would like a fluffy pillow and a dress. Well, my dad goes hunting for stuff so probably get him a gun with deers on it. Do you know one of those bags that has a dog in it (a fluffy one)? Please bring that for me. I would also like a fluffy fox stuffy and clothes. I will leave chocolate cookies and white milk for you. Thanks, Santa!

Love,  
Hadley  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
Are you ready for Christmas? I would like Ariat boots that have the holes in them and the ones that have the squares. Please also bring me a gold cross necklace and a capybara Squishmallow. Bring my mommy them like slippers like Miss Melanie has but the ones that has fur in them. Daddy needs some coal and maybe a slushie. My sister, Briella, likes Bluey so please bring her a Bluey boots or shoes. Thanks!

Love,  
Cohen  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
Are you ready for Christmas? I would like Roblox on my tablet for Christmas. Please also bring me a little pet kitten and I would like barrettes. I don't know what size she wears, but maybe a medium one, a grey and black and red shirt, white pants, and I guess blue shoes. Logan needs a hammer and a new chainsaw and that's it. Harper needs something like a little drawboard. I will leave cookies and milk for you. Thank you, Santa!

Love,  
Rein  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
Happy Christmas! Have a good Christmas! Please bring me Stitch toys, monkey bars, and maybe another trampoline. RJ would like to have Bluey stuff. Bring mom some more Christmas decorations because she likes the Grinch. Dad would like to have new tools. I will leave cookies for you. Thank you, Santa!

Love,  
Liz  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
I like the reindeer! Please bring me baseball cards for Christmas. I would also like some of them little toy cars and an iPhone 17. My mom wants makeup and dad wants a new hunting blind. Emma would like new clothes. I will leave cookies and milk for you. Thank you, Santa!

Love,  
Malcolm  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
Are you ready for Christmas? I hope you come! I have almost everything, but I would like a skateboard with knee pads, elbow pads, and a helmet. I'd like a toy turkey and a toy of Rudolph. Mommy would like new shoes. Please bring dad derby parts. My brother, Braxton, would like some new hot wheel vehicles. My sister, Bralee, would like some toys. I will leave cookies and milk for you. Thank you, Santa!

Love,  
Brantley  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
Good morning! I would kind of want the official deer plushie from 99 Nights. I want the mini figures, too. My brother would like a Lamborghini truck toy. My mom would like a diamond and my dad would like a real chicken that lays eggs because he calls me stinky sometimes. Grandmaw Liz needs four goats because we saw a video of four cute little goats jumping and it's so funny. Grandpa needs toys sometimes. I think I would get him a toy kitchen. Aunt Teeny would like another dog. She has a bunch of dogs at her house, some outside in cages. Please bring Uncle Joe an alien toy. We are going to bake our own cookies and we have a cookie place and it has where to put the cookies and where to give the reindeers a treat and where to place the milk and I will leave that for you. Thank you!

Love,  
Mia  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
How are you for Christmas? I want a lot of batteries for Christmas. They are for my Xbox controller. All I want is batteries. I want my brother to help my mom clean for Christmas. Jeremiah wants Resident Evil and I'm not sure what Noah would like. I will leave cookies and milk probably. Thanks, Santa!

Love,  
Isaiah  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
Hi, Santa, can I have an iPhone for Christmas? I would also like a new bed and another dog – a real dog. If you give me a real dog, like real dog-wise, I'll have two, but if you talk about all the dogs like even toy dogs, it'll be three. My mom, Rachel, probably wants new clothes. Dad probably wants more things of elements for his water, it's like protein. Gracie wants a new clock because she only wakes up at noon. Britton would like a PS5. Ellison would probably like a unicorn toy or something. My dog, Ember, needs more toys, more treats, and probably gonna need an ornament and a stocking shaped like a paw because she barely even has any ornaments because the groomer gave us a bone that was white, black, and red – it was a bone shaped ornament. I'll probably leave you, like, a cake. There's like this thing – it's vanilla and chocolate, they're like cakes that are shaped in a Christmas tree. We will probably leave out four of those cookie things and milk. Thank you, Santa!

Love,  
Luke  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
I love you! Please bring me a dirt bike, a paintball gun, and a go cart for Christmas. Bring my mom more pajamas and my dad wants deodorant to smell good. Lukas also wants a dirt bike and Kaisley would like makeup. Thanks, Santa!

Love,  
Kyler  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
I like you! Please bring me walkie talkies, ear muffs, and highlighters for Christmas. Mommy wants lipstick and bring Dad a cup for water. Bring my brother, Avery, a toy truck. I will leave sugar cookies for you and carrots for your reindeer. Thank you, Santa!

Love,  
Wyatt  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
Are you ready for Christmas? I want a walkie talkie for my little sister to play with me. Also, a bean bag chair so my little sister and I can sit on it. I want an inflatable obstacle course so when my little sister gets bigger we can do a race on it. Also, my baby sister would like a rattle. Mommy would like a bracelet. For Travis, bring maybe a patch to put on a hat. Lala and Aurora, my dogs, would like a dog toy to share. Or maybe like two dog toys because I don't think they would share too good. I will leave milk and cookies for you and carrots for the reindeer. Thank you, Santa!

Love,  
Gwen  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
How are you reindeer doing? I would like an alive pet cow and a barn so I can keep it in there. I would also like a reindeer plushie and a laptop. Bring Gammie Morgan Wallen wrapping paper and a Morgan Wallen blanket. Pappy would like to have a new hunting knife. I've been thinking of something to leave you and your reindeer. I will write it on a note. Thank you, Santa!

Love,  
Alyssa  
BES First Grade



Dear Santa,  
Thank you for bringing our presents and we are so thankful that we love you! Please bring me some make-up for Christmas. I would also like a Barbie doll and a big Squishmallow. Bring my mommy some plants because she's been asking me to get some plants but I don't have enough money. My daddy would like some ice cream. My brother, Liam, would like to have a monster truck and my brother, Waylon, would like to have a train because he loves trains. I will leave a love letter for you. Thank you, Santa!

Love,  
Aubrey  
BES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a little motorcycle, little dirt bike and some puzzles. Colton  
FES Pre-KA

Dear Santa,  
If you could bring me a hamster and nerf gun. My grandma needs a new car. Reyana  
FES Pre-KA

Dear Santa,  
I want a Minecraft Ax, tractor that comes with a disc and a small disc. Asher  
FES Pre-KA

Dear Santa,  
I hope you bring me new toys and my mommy Cody Johnson tickets. Nova  
FES Pre-KA

Dear Santa,  
I want a monster truck, tractor trailer with big round holes in it, a tool set for Jackson and me too! Mason  
FES Pre-KA

Dear Santa,  
I want a trailer with hay bales, truck for the hay bales and hitch. Big grain wagon with the thing down. Tucker  
FES Pre-KA

# Wishing You Love & Light

As we gather with friends and family during this joyous season, let us not forget a **CHRISTMAS WISH** and a **PRAYER** for those serving in far away lands to protect the **FREEDOM** we cherish.

## Merry Christmas and Good Tidings to All

from everyone at

# CMI

### At the Birth of Our Savior

At this special time of year, we give thanks for the many blessings we share, including the privilege of serving good people like you.

With Best Wishes for a Joyous Yuletide.

## Bowers and Bowers, PLLC

Jeffrey S. Bowers & J. Stuart Bowers, II

Attorneys-at-Law

# Merry Christmas

With appreciation for your friendship and patronage, we wish you a warm and wonderful holiday. Customers like you have really made our year special. Thank you and have a blessed Christmas season!

## JAMES RIVER EQUIPMENT

1332 Garbers Church Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
(540) 434-4457

800-900-8970




Love,  
Victoria  
FES Pre-KB

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I want a hair gem to clip in my hair that goes boop boop boop.  
Love,  
Kam  
FES Pre-KB

Dear Santa,  
I was a good boy. I want a guitar and a four-wheeler. I will leave milk and cookies.  
Love,  
Brayden  
FES KA






**Ho Ho HOME!**

***Hope the Holidays Fill Your Home  
With Joy From Floor to Rafter!***

Thanks to all of our friends and clients for making 2025 an outstanding year for us. We wish all of our customers, neighbors and friends, Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy, healthy year ahead.



**JAY NESSELRODT**  
**304-668-2172**  
License #057375

Dear Santa,  
I would like a train, a helicopter, and airplane, an excavator, a bus, and a truck.  
Love,  
RJ  
FES KA

Dear Santa,  
I want another Elf on the Shelf, an ice cream toy, and a toy house. Jaylynn wants a stuffed sheep and Jake wants a toy truck. I will leave you milk and cookies.

Love,  
Jaycee  
FES KA



Dear Santa,  
I've been a good girl this year. Can you please bring me a new vanity? I want a new jewelry box and a Barbie dream house. I would like to give my grandmother a hair tie for her long hair. I want to give my mom a new shirt. I will leave you some milk and cookies on the table like last year.

Merry Christmas, Santa!  
Naomi H.  
FES KB



**WARMEST  
WISHES FROM  
PILL BOX PHARMACY!**

 **Pill Box  
PHARMACY**

(304) 358-2887 Franklin  
(304) 227-3661 Harman



# Christmas Coloring CONTEST

The exceptional skill with color and design exhibited again this year by local kids made Santa's job of picking almost impossibly difficult. Here are examples of the kind of skill that forced Santa to make some tough decisions.



Second Place — Abigail Sims of Wayside  
pre-kindergarten, daughter of Ruth and Timothy Sims



Second Place — Cayde Ayala of Franklin  
first grade, son of Rachael Ayala



Third Place — Tuff Archie Heavner of Seneca Rocks  
kindergarten, son of Ben and Becky Heavner



Third Place — Rhett Hott of Franklin  
first grade, son of Brooke and Mike Hott

# MERRY Christmas


**Thanks  
Snow Much!**



We loved every minute  
of serving you  
this year, thanks!

**North Main Street  
Salon/Barber Shop**

Ashley, Ryan, Ashleigh,  
Madison and Irea



**Wishing You  
A Magical,  
Merry  
Christmas  
Bowers Used  
Auto Sales**

Justin Bowers  
Main Street, Franklin  
540-209-4920  
304-668-0504



**Warm  
Wishes**

*May your  
Christmas  
be filled with  
meaning and  
joy!*

**CAVE COUNTRY  
STORE & CAMPING**

304-358-7553

*We truly  
appreciate  
customers  
like  
you.*



**We're  
Filled With  
Gratitude**

**Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year!**

**D&K Dairy Bar &  
Grocery**


**Wishing You a  
Whole Latte  
Of Happiness This  
Holiday Season  
and All Year**

*Thanks for perking up our  
year with your visits!*

**Elevated Grounds**  
Kevin, Tiffany & Family  
Main Street, Franklin



**Rejoice!**



As we ring in the holidays,  
we're filled with gratitude for so  
many blessings, including the  
friendship and support of good  
folks like you. Thank you and  
Merry Christmas!

**H&R  
BLOCK**  
*Ann & Myra*



Dear Santa,  
I've been good this year.  
For Christmas, I really want  
the Lego Titanic. That's all I  
really want for Christmas. I  
will leave you some milk and  
cookies.  
Ryder E.  
FES KB

Dear Santa,  
I've been a very good boy  
this year. For Christmas, I  
want a big John Deere com-  
bine toy, and an airsoft gun.  
That's all I really want. I want  
my mom to have a new Stan-  
ley cup. I'll leave some cookies  
and milk on the table for you!  
Liam D.  
FES KB

Dear Santa,  
I've been a good girl this  
year. For Christmas, I want a  
bicycle, and a play pony. Can  
I get a dirt bike, too? Santa,  
will you bring my sister a baby  
doll? I'll leave milk and cook-  
ies for you. I'm excited for you  
to come to my house.  
Allyssia F.  
FES KB

Dear Santa,  
I would like some big trucks,  
some farm animals, and a red  
truck. Dad needs new tools,  
and mom wants a new phone.  
Jada would like a Squishmal-  
low, Josie would like a new  
bed, Grady would like new  
trucks. I will leave you some  
cookies.  
Gabriel V.  
FES KB

Dear Santa,  
How do you fly? Where did  
you get that magic glitter? I  
would like a bunch of ninjas,  
a Pokémon Lego set, and 10  
Minecraft Lego sets. My dad  
needs a new knife, and mom  
needs some doctor stuff. Ollie  
needs more transformers. I'll  
leave you Christmas cookies  
and Rudolph some carrots.  
Samuel C.  
FES KB

Dear Santa,  
I want some hunting gear  
for Christmas. I want a foot-  
ball writing book. My brother  
wants a new controller. Is  
your favorite kind of cookie  
chocolate chip? That's my fa-  
vorite. I'll leave some cookies  
and milk for you.  
Ryker L.  
FES KB

Dear Santa  
For Christmas, I want a  
phone, a big toy car, and a  
food truck. I would also like a  
car like Lightning McQueen.  
My sister wants a phone. My  
little brother wants a food  
truck too, like mine. Dad  
wants a new phone. Mommy  
wants another chicken and a  
necklace. I will leave you some  
milk and cookies and salad for  
the reindeer.  
Kaysen K.  
FES KB

Dear Santa,  
I want something for  
Christmas, please. Can I get  
a Spiderman car to ride in? I  
want a robot, and a new wa-  
ter bottle. I like you, Santa.  
Can you bring my baby sister  
a toy to hold onto. Can you  
also bring a toy to hold for  
my baby brother. Thank you,  
Santa. I'll leave you some  
milk and cookies.  
Ethan H.  
FES KB

Dear Santa,  
I like you. I've been good  
this year. For Christmas, I  
want a football video game,  
a book that I can read, and  
a necklace. My sister would  
like a Barbie. I'll leave some  
milk and cookies on the  
table.  
Jace E.  
FES KB

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas, I want  
some Legos. I want a tractor  
trailer toy. I want a small  
phone with a dinosaur cover.  
I want my dad to have some  
candy for Christmas. I will  
leave milk and cookies for  
you because I know you like  
cookies with milk.  
Remi P.  
FES KB

Dear Santa,  
What is your favorite cook-  
ie? Can I have a big toy  
scooter?  
Thank you.  
Love,  
Lyla  
FES 1A

Dear Santa,  
How are you? I love you!  
Please can I have a tab-  
let? Please can I have some  
clothes? Thank you. May I  
have some socks? May I have  
a bracelet set?  
Thank you.  
Love,  
Marlee  
FES 1A

Dear Santa,  
How can your reindeer fly?  
I want a fuzzy, white tiger  
blanket. Thank you. Please  
can I have a Furby? Please  
can I have a kitten blanket  
for my sister?  
Thank you.  
Love,  
Addisynn  
FES 1A

Dear Santa,  
So, how are you? Do you  
love Jingle Bells? So, can  
I please have a little live  
puppy? Have a good Christ-  
mas! And I want an electric  
scooter.  
Thank you!  
Love,  
Arlo  
FES 1A

Dear Santa,  
How are you? Can I have  
a little elf? You're the best.  
I want a little puppy. I want  
a little koala. Thank you for  
giving me presents!  
Love,  
Brielle M.  
FES 1A

Dear Santa,  
How are you doing? Please  
may I have a friendship  
bracelet making kit?  
Thank you.  
Love,  
Sylvie D.  
FES 1A

Dear Santa,  
I love you Santa. Merry  
Christmas. May I please  
have the Grinch? May I  
please have Minecraft and  
video games? May I please  
have Legos? May I please  
have Bigfoot? May I please  
have books like Captain Un-  
derpants and Dogman? May  
I please have a football? May  
I please have Bigfoot feet and  
Yeti feet?  
Love,  
Mason R.  
FES 1A

Dear Santa,  
I love you! For Christmas,  
I want a Lego train because  
I already have a big bus. I  
want a Lego city with train  
tracks and a helipad.  
Love,  
Marcus S.  
FES 1A

Dear Santa,  
Santa you are so nice.  
Thank you for bringing me  
presents every year. Merry  
Christmas! Please will you  
bring me a friendship brace-  
let kit and a Nintendo Switch  
and a book? Thank you!  
Love,  
Liam  
FES 1A



# Christmas Wish List

↓ Happiness ↓ Health ↓ Prosperity ↓ Friendship  
↓ Love ↓ Peace ↓ Contentment



From our family to yours, best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!  
Thanks for stocking our year with such good memories. Your visits have brought us so much joy in 2025 and we look forward to serving you again in 2026.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!



# It's the most wonderful time of the year!





Merry Christmas  
From the  
Board of Directors  
and Staff

# Christmas

THE SAVIOR IS BORN



Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace  
to those on whom his favor rests. - Luke 2:14

May your home be filled with the peace of Christ  
this holiday season.



## PENDLETON MANOR

All faiths or beliefs are welcome.





# JOY TO THE WORLD

May the spirit of the season fill your heart with enough joy  
to carry you through the year.  
From our family to yours, we wish you  
a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

## The Schaeffer Funeral Home Family

Petersburg

December 25, 2025 - The Pendleton Times - Page 7B



Dear Santa,  
I would like tractors and a goose neck for Christmas. My brother would like a long neck dinosaur and a truck. Daddy might want a new hunting knife. Mommy might also want a pretty bracelet to go on her hand and Grandma needs a pretty necklace too. I hope you are careful when you are delivering presents. Thank you Santa!

Braxton L.  
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bike with training wheels, a Spider-man stuffy, and a new fluffy blanket for Christmas. I have been good this year and help mommy take care of my new baby sister. Please also bring a fluffy blanket for sister, a stocking for baby sister and our puppy Apollo, a dog bed for Oden, a dinosaur for my brother, a new baby pillow for my mommy, a gun for Stephen, a car for Brandon, a pan for Brittany, cookie cutters for grammy, a chair for pappy, and work clothes for Jessie. I hope you are safe on Christmas eve!

Love,  
Ellie R.  
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
I would like a skateboard and a dual tire tractor for Christmas. I have been a good boy at school, and a good boy most times at home. I have some gingerbread cookies at home that I will make for you. You can bring some warm shirts and socks for mommy and daddy. You can probably bring sister a Christmas hat. Don't lose any presents when you're delivering on Christmas eve! Have a holly jolly Christmas Santa!

Tuff H.  
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
I want a BIG unicorn please! What is your favorite kind of cookie? I want to be sure I make your favorite for you to eat when you visit. My brother really wants a real gun to go hunting with. My baby sister really likes baby dolls. Can you please also bring my mom toys for baby brother? He will be here soon! Please bring my dadd



Santa Says,  
*Celebrate!*

Hope your Christmas season is filled with warmth, caring and plenty of fun!

Thanks for all you've done to make our year a merry one. We really appreciate the support and friendship of this community, and we wish you all the best!



**HARTMAN'S  
SERVICE STATION**

Mark, Vickie, Katie & Holly



Dear Santa,  
What is your favorite kind of cookie? When you come down my chimney I want to tell you thank you for all the presents. I hope next Christmas I can have an elf on the shelf. I have been trying hard to be good. Could I please have at least 10 presents? A motorcycle, a toy train, and a Paw Patrol tower with all of the characters would be good. Merry Christmas and thank you!  
BrantLee V.  
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
What are your favorite Christmas cookies? I want to make some for you to eat. Also why do you wear black boots? I would like some magnetic Minecraft blocks for Christmas. My brother would also like some Fortnite magnetic blocks.  
Thank you!  
Waylon C.  
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
I would like a big Slime kit for Christmas please. Could you please bring sissy a gymnastics bar for her to do flips on? She likes to do stuff like that. Mommy loves coffee so can you bring her a new coffee cup, and daddy needs a new sweater.  
Thank you Santa!  
Haleigh S.  
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
I would like a new toy truck and a blue and yellow car for Christmas! Daddy and Ninna need trucks too!  
I love you Santa!  
Wyatt H.  
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
I would like a painting and drawing set, a night light, and a horsey note pad for Christmas. I would also like you to bring a new blanket for my horse. Please get daddy a new shirt, and mommy a new water cup. I love you Santa and I love my Elf Trixie. Thank you for sending her to me!  
Merry Christmas Santa!  
Love,  
Gabby R.  
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a toy car for Christmas. What is your favorite cookie? I want to make some for you with Mommy to put out for you on Christmas eve. Please bring a gift for my sister too, we have been good. I'm not sure what mommy and daddy want for Christmas, but you can bring them something too.  
Merry Christmas!  
Josiah M.  
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
How do your Reindeer fly? I want you to bring me a puppy, and I will name him Costco. I'd also like a big mommy dog and I will name her water bottle. I also need a new muffler for my dirt bike since mine still has blue powder in it from mommy's gender reveal. Please bring my mom some big overalls, a hat, and gloves so she can play with me in the snow on Christmas.  
Thanks!  
Jamie B.  
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,  
This year I have been very good. I would like a gold chain, a big robot, and money. My mom will like flower Legos. My dad will like shoes and a coat. My little brother will like a mini dirt bike. My grandpa will like tools. I will leave you milk and cookies.  
Love,  
Noziah N.  
NFES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like Stitch, golden chain, boots, and Legos. My mom would like lounge bearpaw boots. My dad would like tools. My brother would like a big truck set. My baby brother would like a Mickey Mouse stuffy. Merry Christmas Santa!!!  
Love,  
Russell W.  
NFES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas! I would like a bike, phone, Nike high top shoes, a watch, a rubber band bracelet set, Carhartt pants, computer or tablet, shorts, and hoodie. My sister Addy would like underwear and a tiny hat. Ellie would like a robot cat and books. My dad would like a pen, a lunchbox, and a notebook. My mom would like earrings and lipstick.  
Love,  
Ivy H.  
NFES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
I hope your reindeer are nice. I want boots for Christmas. My dad wants a shirt. My mom wants a jacket. I would like a flag for my brother. I would like a ring, a necklace, and earrings for Christmas. My sister wants a necklace.  
Love,  
Samantha S.  
NFES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good girl. I want a computer and a Lamborghini. My baby brother will like a coat. MomMom will like a ring. Uncle Tim will like a computer. Poppy will like a pen.  
Love,  
Haven W.  
NFES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good boy. I want toy wrestlers, Legos, golden chain, and a stuffed TMNT Raphael. Mom wants a heart necklace and a ring. My brother wants a hunting vest. Dad wants a tape measure and a gun.  
Love,  
Brody N.  
NFES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
Ho! Ho! Ho! I want a PSP, a Switch 2, and a toy for Christmas. Can you bring my mom and dad a new car? I will lay out cookies and milk for you and carrots for your reindeer.  
Love,  
Noah G.  
NFES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
I hope you and your reindeer are doing well. I would like a kitchen set, toy phone, a vanity, a toy robot dog, and a ninja set. My mom wants a candle. My dad wants bow stuff. Grandma wants crocheting stuff. My sister has been mean to me. I will leave cookies for you.  
Love,  
Skylar S.  
N.

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. I would like a rollie chair, Hot Wheels, a big truck, and a bike. My mom would like a trophy. Mawmaw wants a horse.  
Love,  
Shepard P.  
NFES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
I hope you and your reindeer are doing well. I would like a Labubu, Slime, Playdoh, and AirPods. Isaiah will want a little excavator. My mom will want perfume. My dad will want a watch. Chelsea will want some money and gold. Aniah would like a stuffie. Briar likes cars. Gavin will like Slime. I will leave milk and cookies out for you.  
Love,  
Haleigh H.  
NFES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
How have your reindeer been? I want some Legos, a toy car, an iPhone, and a tablet case. My little brother wants Minecraft Legos, a Lego cup, a Lego big truck, and a robot cat. My mom wants a ring and some lipstick. My dad wants glasses and a watch. I will set cookies, milk, and carrots out for you and your reindeer.  
Love,  
Wyatt M.  
NFES First Grade

Dear Santa,  
How are you? I want an iPhone, a computer, money, a Labubu, and AirPods. My mom would like a chapter book and an Apple watch. My dad will like a gun and a car. My sister wants coal. Mawmaw wants a heart necklace. I will leave milk, cookies, and carrots out for you.  
Love,  
Takota K.  
NFES First Grade

# Sugar, Spice & Everything Nice

Here's hoping your holiday is made up of all the good stuff!

**Merry Christmas, and thanks for stopping in!**

*Sweet Dreams of Cakes and Things*

**Linda Rexrode**

## Tidings of Comfort & Joy

At Christmastime, may the company of loved ones present and the fond memories of those who have passed surround you with happiness and fill your heart with peace.

*We wish you all the very best this holiday season.*

**Kimble Funeral Home**

Franklin

**We hope your holiday season is filled to the brim with happiness and good fortune!**

**FRANKLIN MOOSE LODGE**

## Unwrap your Holiday Spirit!

As another year hits the road, we'd like to acknowledge the people responsible for our success and wish you a very merry Christmas season.

Thanks for stopping in and we look forward to seeing you in 2026!

**Ted Davis Auto Sales**

Riverton

## Christmas Is Coming!

*We hope the joy and goodwill of the season fills your heart with gladness. We look forward to serving you in the New Year.*

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

**HOME • FARM • INDUSTRY**

**Propane • Heating Equipment • Welding Supplies**

**Quality • Service • Trust • Commitment**

**1256 Mountaineer Drive, Franklin, WV**  
**Ph: 304-358-2307 Fax: 358-2392**



# History of Christmas Traditions in America

## Christmas Trees

The first American Christmas tree can be credited to a Hessian soldier by the name of Henrik Roddmore, who was captured at the Battle of Bennington in 1776. He then went to work on the farm of Samuel Denslow in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, where for the next 14 years he put up and decorated Christmas trees in the Denslow family home.

The first Christmas tree retail lot was established in 1851 by a Pennsylvanian named Mark Carr, who hauled two ox sleds loaded with Christmas trees from the Catskill Mountains to the sidewalks of New York City.

The first president to set up a Christmas tree in the White House was Franklin Pierce, and the first president to establish

the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the White House lawn was Calvin Coolidge.

In 1882, the first tree lights were sold in New York City.

## Martha's Great Cake

Although not the first Christmas cake, this is a recipe from the first First Lady, Martha Washington. These are the exact words in which it was written for celebrating what she called "a true Virginia Christmas" at Mount Vernon:

"Take 40 eggs and divide the whites from the yolks and beat them to a froth, start to work four pounds of butter to cream and put the whites of eggs to it a spoon full at a time till it is well worked. Then put four pounds of sugar finely powdered to it in the same way, then put in the yolks of eggs, and five pounds of

flower, and five pounds of fruit. Two hours will bake it. Add to it half an ounce of mace, one nutmeg, half a pint of wine, and some French brandy."

## Holiday Cards

The first American to print and sell Christmas cards was Louis Prang of Roxbury, Massachusetts, who began publishing cards in 1875.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower is given credit for sending the first "official" Christmas card from the White House. An art print also became the standard Christmas gift for the president's staff, a practice continued to this day.

## Here comes Santa Claus...

The first department store Santa was James Edgar, who, during Christmas seasons beginning in 1890, would wander about his store (the Boston Store) in Brockton, Massachusetts, dressed as Santa Claus, talking to the children of customers.

# Holiday Traditions Have Ties to English History

Singing carols, exchanging gifts, enjoying a holiday feast and wishing others good cheer – this is what Christmas is all about to many people. However, some may not know that these traditions are related to English celebrations.

Giving gifts on Christmas is a Victorian custom. Before that time, people exchanged gifts on New Year's Day or Twelfth Night. Beginning in Victorian era, British children would write letters to Father Christmas and throw them into the fireplace. They believed the draft would carry the letters up the chimney and Father Christmas would be able to read the smoke.

The tradition of hanging stockings from the mantel

also comes from this time period. According to legend, Father Christmas once dropped some gold coins while coming down a chimney. Instead of falling through the ash grate,

Singing carols at Christmas also has English origins. In the Middle Ages, groups of singers and musicians, called waits, would roam from house to house singing carols to spread the holiday spirit. Most of the popular carols sung today were written during the Victorian era.

Decorating the home with holly and other greenery is an English winter tradition that began long before the Christian era. Historians believe this was done to lift people's spirits and remind them that spring would soon arrive. Hanging mistletoe has become especially

popular today, because people enjoy kissing under the mistletoe. This custom descended from ancient Druid ceremonies.

Drinking wassail is another English custom that continues today. Derived from the Anglo-Saxon phrase "waes hael," meaning "good health," wassail was meant to enhance the merriment of the holiday season. It originally was made of mulled ale, cream, roasted apples, nuts, eggs and spices. Throughout the years, people have developed quite a ceremony for drinking wassail. First, the bowl is carried into the room. Then, people sing a traditional carol about the drink. Finally, the hot beverage is served.

This year, as people decorate their homes and raise their glasses in a toast of good cheer, they can know that they are carrying on centuries-old traditions.



the coins landed in a stocking that had been hung on the mantelpiece to dry. From then on, children have hung out their stockings in hope of finding them filled with gifts.

**HERE'S HOPING  
YOUR HOLIDAY  
SEASON BRINGS  
VOLUMES  
OF JOY!**



**PENDLETON COUNTY  
LIBRARY**

*Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year*

**ROCK GABLE  
SERVICE STATION**

Circleville 304.567.2539

*Serving up an order of JOY!*




Our special today is enough peace and happiness to fill you all year through.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**  
\*\*\*\*\*

***The Korner Shop Gang***

**Share  
the  
Faith**



**Meadows  
Backhoe  
Service**

*Dennis & Wilma*

**Have Yourself A  
Merry Little Christmas!**




**May your heart be light, and your troubles few at this festive time of year.**

For your valued business we are sincerely grateful.  **State Farm**

**Jim Brown Insurance Agency**


Jim, Debra & Susan




**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

May you be armed with peace and love throughout the year!

Thank you for making our season complete and we look forward to serving you in 2026!



**38 Pike Rd., Franklin**  
off Rt. 33  
in T&K Market Shopping Plaza  
**304.358.3265**  
[www.pencooutdoors.com](http://www.pencooutdoors.com)



**A Blessed Christmas  
and Happy New Year  
to you and yours**

*Thank you for your patronage throughout the past year.*

**Rexrode's  
Country Store**

Tish, Bray, Becki, Johnny and Karen

*There's No Place  
Like Home for  
the Holidays*



*Thanks for making us feel so welcome here,  
and for trusting us with your business!*

*To all our clients, friends and associates  
everywhere, we extend our sincere best  
wishes and gratitude this holiday season.*

**Sugar Grove Realty, Inc.**

**Jeffrey S. Bowers, Broker**

39 Maple Ave - Franklin  
[www.sugargrovewv.com](http://www.sugargrovewv.com) 304-358-3332



**Wishing You a Season of Joy**

Hope it's merry, hope it's bright,  
Hope it's filled with all that delights.  
From the festive wrapped gifts to the lights on the tree,  
May your season deliver a heart full of glee!

**Tiny Tots Day Care Center**


Brad, Emily & Courtney Hartman & Staff

**Franklin (304) 358-2032**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
and Happy New Year**

We wish you all the best and thank you for your patronage.



**Josh Owens, Owner**  
304-249-5420 ~ 304-668-9616  
WV051083




# New Years Word Search

G	B	P	J	K	P	P	E	C	O	U	N	T	D	O	W	N	G	P	I
N	U	N	J	N	O	I	S	E	M	A	K	E	R	C	H	E	E	R	S
S	O	L	Q	Y	C	H	V	K	C	H	A	M	P	A	G	N	E	R	U
R	I	I	A	U	A	B	V	H	G	O	A	L	S	N	M	K	J	Q	L
R	E	V	T	P	C	O	N	F	E	T	T	I	F	I	V	C	B	V	M
G	J	M	P	U	A	M	Q	A	Y	G	E	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C
U	V	Y	A	A	L	V	C	D	J	I	L	L	A	B	S	B	D	G	P
K	V	W	Y	E	C	O	R	A	D	N	E	L	A	C	N	N	J	J	G
Y	T	P	T	G	R	Q	S	J	W	Q	Q	T	E	U	Y	Y	A	T	F
L	S	A	M	P	M	T	K	E	Q	W	B	W	O	R	T	B	N	H	T
U	A	R	S	S	I	K	S	P	R	B	U	K	T	F	R	A	U	V	A
V	O	T	W	E	R	A	U	Q	S	S	E	M	I	T	O	B	A	H	R
L	T	Y	D	B	N	B	T	S	L	H	G	A	M	E	S	E	R	H	A
K	G	J	C	P	P	H	A	R	J	J	E	O	A	T	J	C	Y	T	E
M	S	G	M	V	G	L	D	L	I	N	V	I	T	A	T	I	O	N	Y
U	G	B	T	I	Y	V	P	P	L	E	U	J	M	Y	T	W	H	B	W
H	T	Q	N	I	E	S	A	U	A	O	K	P	S	F	K	L	D	U	E
Y	U	D	M	O	C	N	D	Q	I	R	O	U	I	Q	J	I	Y	T	N
J	I	A	E	G	L	Q	H	W	B	L	U	N	J	K	M	H	C	D	S
M	C	L	O	C	K	B	R	F	L	B	L	I	S	C	F	U	G	B	R

BABY  
BALLOONS  
CALENDAR  
CELEBRATE  
CHAMPAGNE  
CHEERS  
CLOCK  
CONFETTI  
COUNTDOWN  
GAMES  
GOALS  
HAPPY  
INVITATION  
JANUARY  
KISS  
MIDNIGHT  
NEW YEAR  
NOISEMAKER  
PARTY  
RESOLUTION  
STREAMER  
TIMES SQUARE  
TOAST



we hope this  
*Holiday Season*  
has you  
**JUMPING for JOY!**



Krystal, Kevin and the rest of the coaching staff wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Raymond's Gymnastics**  
267.374.9018

*Ho - Ho - Ho*  
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



Thanks for stopping in and we look forward to serving you in 2026!

**Sites Auto Parts**  
Eddie & Angie

Fresh From the Oven:  
My Christmas Best!



Customers like you are the main ingredient in my success and I couldn't be more grateful. Thanks for sweetening my year with your orders.

**Betty's Backroad Breads**  
Roxanne Arbaugh  
304-668-0454  
Facebook - Betty's Backroad Breads

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



May the love of family and warmth of good friends sustain you throughout the holiday season and beyond.

*We thank you for supporting our business. We look forward to serving you in 2026!*

**RED LICK GREENHOUSE**  
Circleville

**'STRIKE UP THE HOLIDAY FUN!**



Hope you have a ball this holiday season with plenty of good times to spare for the New Year! Thanks for rolling with us this year. It's been our pleasure to serve you, and we hope to see you again very soon.

**Best Wishes!**  
**Potomac Highlands Rec Center**

**Jolly, Happy Christmas**



Wishing our customers and friends all the best this season!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sponaugle & Sponaugle**  
Law Office

*Merry Christmas*

From  
**Orange Cat Café at Moe Fatz**  
54 N. Main Street, Franklin • 304-902-7101



To Our Good Friends  
**AT THE HOLIDAYS**  
*Your goodwill and generous support make it all worthwhile for us—thanks!*



**Kile's Grocery**  
The Laytons  
Dave & Marsha

**THANK YOU**  
for your loyal patronage  
and we look forward to your visits in 2026!



*Merry Christmas* <sup>A</sup><sub>N</sub><sup>D</sup> **Happy New Year**




304-358-2230



304-358-2252

**Merry Christmas, Friends!**

Here's hopin' you have a wonderful holiday season filled with family, friends and enough good cheer to last all year through!



**SOUTH BRANCH VALLEY LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE**  
MOOREFIELD

**THE SPIRIT IS BUILDING!**



Thanks to all of our friends and clients for making 2025 an outstanding year for us. We owe our success to your loyal support, and we wish you and yours a very happy holiday!

**Pap's Lumber & Rentals**  
*Wayne & Carol*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



*and sincere thanks to our many kind neighbors this holiday season*

**Ruddle Equipment Co.**  
US 220 North  
Franklin



# Symbols of Christmas...

Author Unknown

Late one Christmas Eve I sank into my easy chair. Admiring the tree with its decorations, I couldn't help but feel that something was missing... The kids were in bed, the gifts were all wrapped, the milk and cookies were in their place for Santa. It wasn't long before the tiny twinkling tree lights lulled me into a deep sleep.

I don't know how long I slept, but all of a sudden I opened my eyes and there stood Santa Claus himself next to my Christmas tree.

He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot just as the poem described him. But he was not the "jolly old elf" of Christmas legend. The man who stood before me looked sad and disappointed with tears in his eyes.

I had to ask, "Santa, what's wrong? Why are you crying?" It's the children," Santa replied sadly. "But the children love you," I said. "Oh, I know they love me and the gifts I bring them," Santa said. "But the children of today seem to have somehow missed out on the true spirit of Christmas. It's not their fault. It's just that the adults, many of them not having been taught themselves, have forgotten to teach the children."

"Teach them what?" I asked. Santa's kind old face became soft, more gentle. His eyes began to shine with something more than tears. He spoke softly. "Teach the children the true meaning of

Christmas. Teach them that the part of Christmas we can see, hear and touch is much more than meets the eye. Teach them the symbolism behind the customs and traditions of Christmas we now observe. Teach them what it is they truly represent."

Santa reached into his bag again and pulled out a shiny star and placed it at the top of the small tree. "The star was the heavenly sign of promise. God promised a Savior for the world and the star was the sign of the fulfillment of that promise of the night that Jesus Christ was born. Teach the children that God always fulfills His promises and that we will still seek Him."

"Red," said Santa, "is the first color of Christmas." He pulled forth a red ornament for the tiny tree. "Red is deep, intense, vivid. It is the color of the life giving blood that flows through our veins. It is the symbol of God's greatest gift. Teach the children that Christ gave His life and shed his blood for them that they might have eternal life. When they see the color red it should remind them of that most wonderful gift."

Santa found a bell in his pack and placed it on the tree. "Just as lost sheep are guided to safety by the sound of the bell, it continues to ring today for all to be guided to the fold. Teach the children to follow the true Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep."

Santa placed a candle on the mantle and lit it. The soft glow from its one tiny flame brightened the room. "The glow of the candle represents how man can show his thanks for the gift of God's Son that Christmas Eve long ago. Teach the children to follow in Christ's footsteps... to go about doing good. Teach them to let their lights shine before men that all may see it and glo-

rify God. This is what is symbolized when the twinkling lights shine on the tree like hundreds of bright, shining candles, each of them representing one of God's precious children, their light shining for all to see."

Again, Santa reached into his bag and this time he brought forth a tiny red and white striped candy cane. As he hung it on the tree, he spoke softly. "The candy cane is a stick of hard, white candy... white to symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus... the shape 'J' to represent the precious name of Jesus who came to earth as our Savior. It also represents the crook of the Good Shepherd which he uses to reach down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like sheep, have gone astray. The original candy cane had three small red stripes which are the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed, and a large red stripe that represents the shed blood of Jesus so that we can have eternal life. Teach these things to the children."

Santa brought out a beautiful wreath made of fresh fragrant greenery and tied with a bright red bow. "The bow reminds us of the bond of perfection which is love. The wreath embodies all the good things about Christmas for those with eyes to see and hearts to understand. It contains the colors of red and green and the heaven turned needles of the evergreen. The bow tells the story of goodwill towards all and its color reminds us of Christ's sacrifice. Even the wreath's very shape is symbolic, representing eternity and the eternal nature of Christ's love. It is a circle without beginning and without end. These are the things you must teach he children.

"But where does that leave you Santa?" I asked. The tears gone now from his eyes, a smile broke over Santa's face. "Why, bless you, my dear," he laughed. "I, too, am only a symbol. I represent the spirit of family fun and the joy of giving and receiving. If the children are taught these other things, there is no danger that I'll ever be forgotten."

"I think I'm beginning to understand at last," I replied. That's why I came," said Santa. "You're an adult. If you don't teach the children these things, then who will?"

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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*Warm & Cozy Wishes*

for a holiday season that is merry and bright!

*Dr. Kevan Hoover & Staff*



**North Fork Disposal & North Fork Recycling Service**  
The Bennett Family

*JOY to the WORLD*

Wishing you a bright and blessed Christmas, trimmed with our gratitude.  
May the holiday spirit fill your heart with peace and happiness.

*Merry Christmas, Friends!*

*New River*  
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*Peace & Joy*

Wishing you every happiness this holiday season.

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www.ODRWV.com  
George I. Sponaugle, Broker

**OLD DOMINION REALTY**  
*Built on Integrity*

**JOY**

*to the world, the Lord is come*

*As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we're reminded of the many blessings we enjoy, including the opportunity to serve good people like you. Thanks for your support.*

**From Our Family to Yours,  
Have A Safe and Merry Christmas and  
A Blessed New Year!**

**Brandywine Family Dining**  
Rt. 33, Brandywine ~ 304-249-5616

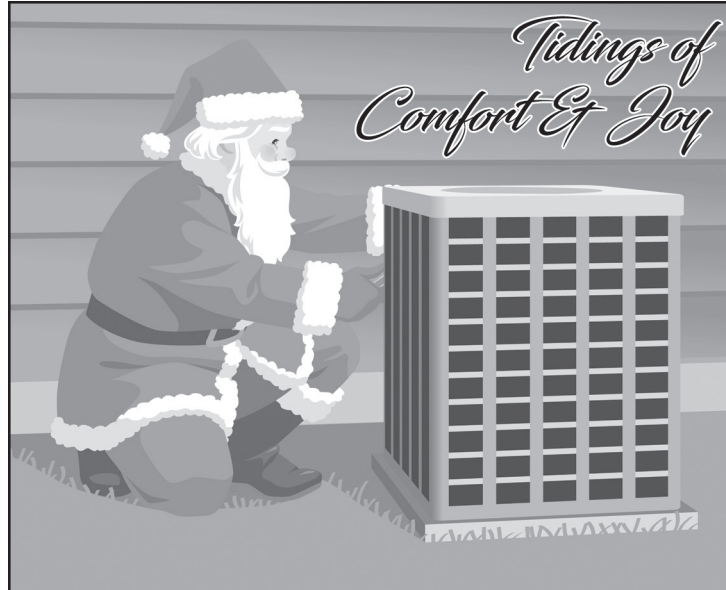


*Merry Christmas*  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The holiday spirit is in the air and we hope the joy and goodwill of the season fill your heart and soul with gladness.

**PENDLETON COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

*Tidings of Comfort & Joy*



To our friends, neighbors, customers and associates, we offer our warmest wishes for the coolest holiday season ever!

**Mountain Air Heating & Cooling**  
**Tyler Scheibner**  
**304.668.9296**

WV Contractor's Lic. #WV006661

**JOY**

LOVE, HOPE & PEACE AT CHRISTMAS

Thanks for stopping in.  
May the spirit of the season fill you with joy through the coming year.



**Mid-Atlantic Group**  
INDEPENDENT INSURANCE BROKERAGE  
6 Mountain View St. - Petersburg

**WESTFIELD INSURANCE**  
Sharing Knowledge Building Trust®  
**304.257.4616**



**GOD BLESS YOUR HOME  
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

We feel truly blessed to know people like you, and wish our friends, neighbors, associates and customers a very merry season followed by a memorable and joyous New Year. *Thanks!*

**WARNER'S  
COIN LAUNDRY**



WISHING YOU A **WHITE CHRISTMAS**

With wishes warm and bright to all of our friends this holiday season. We appreciate your trust in us and look forward to seeing you again, soon.

**Merry Christmas!**  
**Dr. Brandon Mitchell, DDS**  
Alyssa, Amber, Chanda, Donna and Brandon



**'Tis the Season To Say THANKS!**  
We couldn't have done it without your support!  
*Wishing you and yours much good fortune this holiday season and beyond. We're truly grateful for your support and look forward to serving you in 2026.*

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

**COUNTRY**  
*Decor & More*

13804 Mountaineer Dr.  
Riverton  
**304-567-6673**  
teleflora.  
Melinda Kimble, owner





**Season's Greetings**

We're putting on our best to wish all of you a very merry and bright holiday season. We're truly grateful for your loyal patronage.

**Consignment & Boutique**

**241 High Street, Franklin**  
(717) 465-8207  
lotstoloveconsignment@gmail.com

*(Lots to Love)*

**WISHING YOU A HOLIDAY SEASON THAT'S**

**Reel Merry**

It's the support of you, our patrons and our generous community sponsors that keep our historic theater running.

**Best wishes from**  
**WARNER'S DRIVE-IN**

www.warnersdriveinwv.org  
Facebook.com/warnersdriveinwv




**The First Noel**

*Like the shepherds in the fields on that holy night so long ago, our faith is renewed and our spirits lifted as we celebrate the Miracle of Christmas. In memory of Joe Harper.*

**Merry Christmas  
Happy New Year**

Thank You  
**HARPERS OLD COUNTRY STORE &  
FRONT PORCH RESTAURANT**




*May your day be filled with love and laughter.  
'Tis the season to say thanks!  
We couldn't have done it without your support.  
May God bless you and yours!*

**Merry Christmas from the**



**Gateway Restaurant GANG**



**A Holiday Hello From Us**

Just a wave and a wish for everything joyful this Christmas season and all year!

**Thanks so much for believing in us and choosing our small businesses.**

**FRANKLIN FLORIST**  
and  
**CAKES IN WONDERLAND**  
304-358-2727 • 304-668-5012

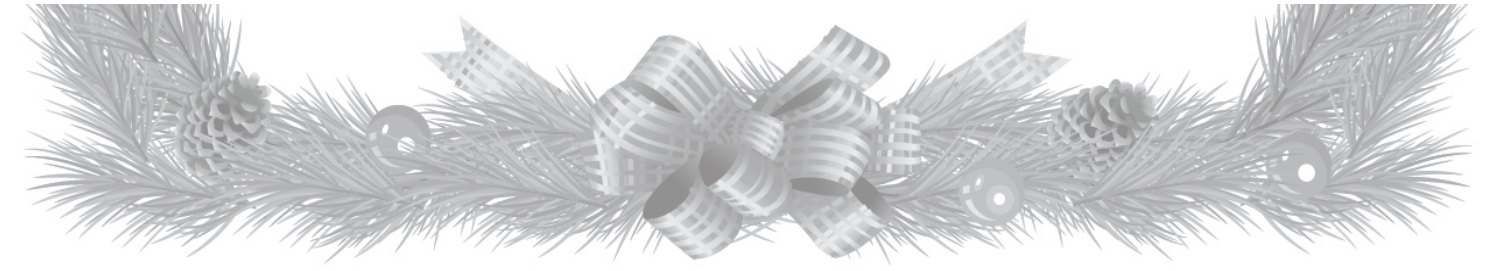


**To the Nicest Folks We Know...**


Thanks for making our year so special with your kindness and generosity. We hope this Christmas delivers everything on your wish list, including new memories you'll cherish for a lifetime.

**Happy Holidays, Everyone!**

**J & L Reconditioning**  
Brandywine 304-249-5480




**CATCH the feeling**



May the magic of Christmastime fill your heart and soul with gladness!

**Best Wishes and Many Thanks**

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**  
**EDDIE SIMPSON CONSTRUCTION**  
Franklin



**Jesus IS THE Reason FOR THE Season**

It has been our pleasure to serve you this year, and we hope we see you again soon.

**Tom Mathias Insurance**  
34 Odgen Farm Rd., Moorefield  
304-538-7444 1-800-628-3064



**Christmas Greetings**

May you and your family enjoy the many blessings that give true meaning to the holiday season.



**HOTT'S AG SERVICE**

*We feel privileged to have you as customers, friends and neighbors and look forward to serving you in 2026.*

**Christmas Is Coming!**



May blessings of goodwill fill you with joy this holiday season!

**FRANKLIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

*Celebrating the Reason for the Season*



*Glory to God in the highest, and Merry Christmas to you!*

**Thanks so much for believing in us and choosing our small business.**



**DEANS GAP FARM**  
Fort Seybert

**It's the Most Wonderful time of the year**




There'll be much mistltoeing and hearts will be glowing when loved ones are near.  
It's the most wonderful time of the year.  
*Thanks for making our year special.*

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

**Yokum's Store & Vacationland**  
Seneca Rocks 304-567-2351

**Delivering our best AT CHRISTMAS**

Here's hoping your holiday delivers an abundance of peace and joy, topped off with a generous helping of good cheer.



*Thank you for your loyal patronage. We look forward to serving you again next year!*

**Fox's Pizza**  
Brandywine  
*Darren and Heidi Kimble and Family  
And all of our wonderful employees*

**Ho-Ho-Hope It's Happy!**



We're all revved up to wish you a merry Christmas powered by faith, family, friendship and joy. Big thanks to all of our valued customers for your trust in us. Merry Christmas, everyone!



**105 Arlie Lane Brandywine 304-249-2109**



# The Colors of Christmas

A variety of colors are associated with Christmas and its traditions. Each of these colors symbolizes one or the other thing. Some of these colors are green, white, red, blue, gold and more. The meaning of most of these colors of Christmas comes from the traditions of Northern/Western traditions of European countries.

1. Green — Various plants are used during the season to decorate houses and streets during the time of winters to make people know that this season of winters will not last forever and it will end very soon. It reminds that spring is will soon come to make the environment a great one. This tradition has been followed from a long span of time.

From time immemorial Romans used to share with each other evergreen branches of trees during the time of January to wish each other good luck. In the ancient times Egyptians used to keep branches of palm during the time of winter festival.

Also, in some parts of the Europe, plays of paradise were performed during the time Christmas. They were told the stories of the bible (often those who could not read those stories). In the play, the pine tree having red tied around the tree was chosen to represent the “Paradise Tree” in the Garden of Eden. And, most importantly, green helps in the representation of Christmas tree which is a must during the celebration. Green is one of the most important Christmas colors which can be seen everywhere in the Christmas decoration.

2. White — White color is a vivid representation of peace and purity! During the winter, the snow that we witness

has also a white color. Also, on various occasions, white wafers are used to decorate the paradise tree of the Christmas. These wafers represent the bread that is eaten during Christian Communion, a time when people remembered that it were these breads because of which Jesus died. In addition to that, in most of the churches white is used as the color of Christmas.

3. Red — In the earlier times, red was used to represent the apples laden on the Paradise tree. These apples and their red color represented the fall of Adams. Red is also considered as the color of the holly berries, which is often used to represent the blood of Jesus who is believed to have died on the cross. In additions to that, red is also the Bishop robes’ colors! These must first have been worn by St. Nicholas which then became the uniform of Santa.

4. Blue — Blue is a significant colors of Christmas, which represents Jesus mother’s. In the earlier times, blue dye color was more expensive than that of the gold. And, so only the people from the royal families and kings used to wear blue because they were important people of the whole community. During Christmas, Mary was painted with blue color to show that she was a significant person of the community.

5. Gold — Gold is considered as the color associated with light and sun, both of which are very important during the season of dark winters. Also, red and gold are the colors of fire that are required to maintain the warmth of the body. Though, sometimes, silver is also used in place of gold, but gold is the color that actually represents warmth.

# WVU Expert Offers Poinsettia Care Tips, Shares Holiday Plant History

Sven Verlinden, West Virginia University plant expert and an associate professor in the WVU Davis College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, says it’s possible to keep poinsettias healthy and vibrant throughout the holiday season with a few simple tips.

“You may find that poinsettias can come in different colors other than the traditional red, like pink, white or green — this is because of mutation breeding. The bright red part of the poinsettia isn’t actually the flower, its modified leaves known as bracts. The tiny yellow buds in the center are the true flowers.

“One of the most important factors for poinsettias is that they need lots of light. The best place to put a poinsettia after you buy it is a bright and cool place in the house — maybe by a north or west-facing window. Around 60-65 degrees is the ideal temperature, but regular indoor temperatures, around 70-72 degrees, are perfectly fine. If you’re picking up or gifting poinsettias this holiday season, start your car before transporting them, as extreme cold can cause the plants to droop or drop leaves.

“Poinsettias are originally from a semi-arid region of Mexico, so they do not like to be wet. Every three or four days, they should be watered. They can easily get

overwatered, so that’s one of the things to really pay attention to.

“Like using a toothpick to see if a cake is done or not, you can stick your finger in the soil of the poinsettia to feel if it’s still damp. This is a great indicator of whether or not it’s time to water your poinsettias. Only water them when the top inch of soil has dried out completely.

“There’s a very long tradition of viewing poinsettias as symbolic plants, dating back to their early use in holiday and cultural celebrations. The Aztecs first used the poinsettia for religious, ceremonial, medicinal and dye purposes. The poinsettia wasn’t introduced in the United States until the 1820s by Joel Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador in Mexico.

“Poinsettias were made popular as a holiday tradition by a very large greenhouse in California called Ecke Ranch. They first grew tall poinsettias to be used as cut flowers, not as a potted plant. Then they developed new varieties that could grow a lot smaller and fuller, ideal for use in pots. To popularize the plant, they sent poinsettias to TV studios nationwide during the holiday season.”

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