

THE PENDLETON TIMES

Serving the Community since 1913

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Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia 26807

Thursday

December 25, 2025



Access to public water is expected to help in developing housing for sale at the Waterfront Group LLC complex between Franklin and Brandywine. Photo courtesy of WV Tourism.

Morrisey, Waterfront Group, Announce Grant And Match for Pendleton Public Service District

By Stephen Smoot

"We are so pleased with the grant awarded for the water line extension to further development at Fisher Mountain," shared Laura Brown, representing Waterfront Group, the developer of the facility that includes a golf course, restaurant, and housing.

Earlier this month, West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey announced a series of statewide water infrastructure grants, which included Fisher Mountain.

The State of West Virginia added \$500,000 to "a private investment from Waterfront Group, LLC (which will) provide the \$2,304,000 needed for this project."

In the past, Pendleton County officials expressed support for such a project that would also bring public water through the area used by the West Virginia State Police barracks and also Pendleton 911.

The governor's release stated that it would "extend water service to approxi-

mately four customers in Brandywine, as well as provide water service to an anticipated home development project with approximately 200 units in Troublesome Valley."

Brown explained that "it's great to have financial support from the state for the overage from our initial quote in April 2023." The former county and regional economic development director added that the award "shows there is money to be had and it's important for local groups to seek it."

This echoed a statement from West Virginia Treasurer Larry Pack in his meeting with Pendleton County officials at Fisher Mountain last month. He encouraged "polite," yet persistent pursuit of these funds, assuring those present that the money is there for such projects.

Brown also praised William Wallace and Cerrone's input, saying, "Wallace believed in both opportunities and in turn got \$1 million in funds secured for Pendleton County."

on Siple Mountain Road in Fort Seybert.

A Christmas Eve service with Pastor Mike Loudermilk will begin at 10 p.m. at **Franklin United Methodist Church** on Main Street in Franklin.

Friends Run Church of the Brethren will have a Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. There will be recitations by the children, singing and lighting of the last advent candle. The play, "12 Symbols of Christmas and the Great Gift Swap," will be presented. The church is located at 3907 Mountainer Drive, west of Franklin.

The annual Christmas Eve program will begin at 7 p.m. at **Mt. Zion United Methodist Church** in Deer Run. The program will consist of three plays, "O Holy Night," "Christmas Symbols," and "Ornaments of Christmas," the nativity and special music.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Parish in Franklin will hold a Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m.

December 25

High Rock Church will have its annual Christmas program at 7 p.m. with an encore performance at 10 a.m. Sunday. This year's play, "Nannie's Hillbilly Christmas," features Ned Crumpet and his family living a poor life in Appalachia until he gets an offer on his land. Suddenly the family

has more money than they know what to do with, so they buy a fully furnished home in an upscale community. It seems like all their dreams have come true even though Nannie, Ned, young Heathrow, Nellie Rae, and the chickens aren't warmly welcomed.

As the holidays approach, the family gets a letter from the folks back home, and nostalgia hits hard. That's when the Crumpets decide to hold a big Pig Pickin' Christmas party, just like the ones they used to have back in the hills. How will their persnickety, condescending neighbors react? Well, once you get to know the Crumpets personally, you'll realize they are the kindest, most God-fearing and all-around best neighbors to have. Everyone is invited to attend for a night of joy and laughter!

December 28

High Rock Church will present an encore performance of this year's Christmas play, "Nannie's Hillbilly Christmas," at 10 a.m.

Feast of Holly Family Mass will begin at noon at **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Parish** in Franklin.

January 1

Mass will be held at 10 a.m. at **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Parish** in Franklin.

The Weird Voice of the Belsnickler Is Heard Abroad in This Land

By Stephen Smoot

This Christmas, a group of locals brought one of Pendleton County's oldest traditions into one of its newest as belsnicklers, the traditional Saint Nicholas, and Krampus, the Panlike anti Santa marched alongside the community groups, volunteer emergency responders, youth organizations, and other revelers who joined the parade.

Two years over a century ago, an unamused Pendleton Times reported of this tradition that "the weird voice of the belsnickler is abroad in the land. This is a splendid way to spread both mud and diseases."

Belsnickling and other mumming traditions have associations with the cooler and colder months, especially focusing on annual changes in the seasons or solstice. As Gerald Milnes,



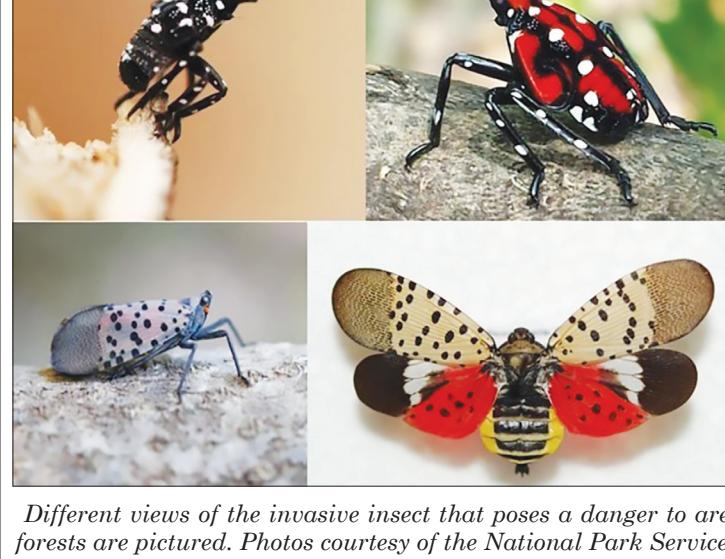
Traditional Pendleton County belsnicklers. Photo courtesy of Augusta Heritage Center

farther.

The word "mumming" comes from both ancient Greek and Anglo-Saxon English. One of the minor Greek

Continued on Page 8

Spotted Lantern Fly Spotting Confirmed in Pendleton County



Different views of the invasive insect that poses a danger to area forests are pictured. Photos courtesy of the National Park Service.

By Stephen Smoot

A voracious insect pest from abroad has had its presence confirmed in Pendleton County, according to Jessica

Hoover, one of Pendleton County's West Virginia University Extension Service agents.

In the fall of 2024, James Watson of the West Virginia

Department of Agriculture shared that the "spotted lanternfly poses a threat to several important agricultural crops, namely grapes and hops, and then unfortunately several of our important forestry trees, specifically black walnut, staghorn sumac, sugar maple, and red maple."

For multiple reasons, the arrival of the spotted lanternfly in Pendleton County comes with specific threats to both local safety and the local economy.

Though called a fly, the insect has a closer evolutionary relationship to grasshoppers. In the younger stages of its life cycle it hops short distances, then flies slightly farther as an adult. With little fear of human beings, they tend to travel farthest by "hitchhiking" with human modes of personal or commercial

Continued on Page 8

The Long, Strange, But Necessary, Trip to the State School Funding Formula and Policy

By Stephen Smoot

Often a situation or process looks overwhelmingly mysterious when overwhelmingly complex. As one moves closer to it, gives close examination and analysis, mysteries clear up as the cogs and wheels of the machine show their purpose. When understanding replaces ambiguity also, the public may be more reassured when proposals of tweaks and changes come.

This coming session of the West Virginia State Legislature, many county school systems in West Virginia have requested to change the school funding formula. Officials from county school systems face binds related to certain restrictions in the school aid formula and have asked for increased support and flexibility in how the formula is applied.

Additionally, elements of the state school funding formula unnecessarily make the tra-

ditional public school system vulnerable when students pursue alternative forms of education outside of it, such as with microschools, homeschooling parents and co-operatives, or charter schools.

With public schools one of the most primary services provided by government, it is essential that parents and voters especially understand how the State of West Virginia provides school funding over and above what each system gets from local taxes, other forms of state and federal aid, and also whatever grants they may earn through application and award.

How It Works

About 14 months ago, J. P. Mowery, Pendleton County Schools treasurer, crafted a presentation to explain how the State of West Virginia determines funding to its schools. It may appear a Byzantine maze at first glance,

Continued on Page 5

Merry Christmas

The Pendleton Times Staff extends their sincere wishes for a joyous Christmas season and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year to all their readers, correspondents, advertisers and friends.



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.

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.

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.

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.

MONTEREY
STOCKYARD LLC.

formerly Monterey Livestock Sales

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



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.

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Moorefield

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February 14 • Noon

March 14 • Noon

All Livestock Previously Sold at

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

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.

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



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.academic-works.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.

Applications may be submitted at <https://dar.academicworks.com/>.



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WVUMedicine

GRANT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION

Healthy Saturday
January 3

6:00 am – 9:00 am

- 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

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

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.

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.

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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 Borror, 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.

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 Named Best Bank in WV for Fourth Consecutive Year

Pendleton Community Bank has been named the Statewide 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."

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.

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 unoffical 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."

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 PILOT 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.

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."

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.

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December 25, 2025 - The Pendleton Times - Page 5

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.

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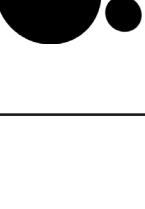
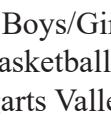
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PENDLETON COUNTY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	HS - High School MS - Middle School	Pendleton County Schools is an Equal Opportunity Provider		1  NO SCHOOL	2 HS Boys Basketball Tygarts Valley 6:00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

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

The oldest artificial Christmas tree dates back to the early 1800s in Germany and was made from dyed goose feathers attached to wires.

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.

Tsnel 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.

FOR SALE

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

12-18-2c

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

10-12-tfn

FOR RENT

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

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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, 2013 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):

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, 2013 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, 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 140, at Page 359, Phyllis A. Lambert and Johnnie G. Wratchford did convey unto Jeffery S. Bowers and 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

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

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

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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 frigid 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 belsenickle tradition before it, festivals and fun have grown up around these newer novelties.

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 native 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 belsenickling. 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.

Other traditions include the Samhain harvest festival of the Celts, which has associations with All Saints' Day and Halloween, as well a Fastnacht, Mardi 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, belsenickling loosely resembles trick-or-treating. Revelers don costumes and, as Milnes wrote start "going from house to house in masquerade, with residents guessing the belsenicklers' identities." He added that "sometimes treats were offered to the belsenicklers, and sometimes belsenicklers 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 Shivaaree, 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. Belsenickling, trick-or-treating, shivaaree, 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 belsenicklers in next year's parade.

COOK'S CHOICE

Birthday Cake!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

CLOSED



FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

BBQ Chicken

Cheesy Ranch Potatoes

Lima Beans, Orange

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

to 12:45. All meals served

with 2% milk & a bread.

Reserve your meals.

Reservations served first.

Menus are subject to change.

304-358-2421

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

fly in Pendleton County lies in tracking down and destroying the plant host that first attracts them to an area, the tree of heaven. Also "the WVDA recommends eradication efforts such as using physical traps, destroying egg masses, and checking vehicles and other items for SLF before traveling.

Additionally, in general, experts advise either care in taking firewood from one place to another for the purposes of keeping one's home warm. They also warn to not transport firewood across long distances for recreational purposes at all, including for camping and bonfires.

The National Park Service in 2019 warned that the "invasive insect native to China, India, and Vietnam" first had a confirmed sighting in 2014 in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Nineteen counties in West Virginia had reported the presence of the insect prior to Pendleton.

"If you see a spotted lantern fly," stated Hoover, "you are encouraged to report it and kill it." Reports to the WVDA's bugbusters@wvda.us should include photographs and as much detail about the insect and activity as possible.

Pendleton Community Care

WILL BE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 24, and

Thursday, December 25

so employees can celebrate the holidays with their families

Thursday, January 1, 2026, for New Year's Day

*No patient denied services because of inability to pay!

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2023 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW XLT 4X4, 3.5 Ecoboost, auto., ldd, white, 110K miles, ex. cond.....**SPECIAL \$29,900 \$27,900**

2022 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW SHORTBED 4X4 STX PKG., 3.5 Ecoboost, auto., ldd., charcoal, 60K miles.....\$36,900

2022 FORD E-450 CUTAWAY UTILITY TRUCK, 7.3 gas, auto., refrigerated enclosed body, only 43K miles.....\$21,900

2021 FORD F-250 SUPERCAV L/BED 4X4, XLT pkg., 6.2 gas V-8, auto., ldd., one owner, 144K miles.....\$26,900

2019 CHEVROLET COLORADO CREW CAB 4X4, V-6, auto., ldd., charcoal, 88K miles, ex. cond.....\$24,900

2018 CHEVROLET 2500 HD CREW CAB S/BED 4X4, 6.0 V-8, auto., ldd., white, 203K miles.....\$19,500

2008 FORD F-550 4X4 UTILITY TRUCK, w/ mechanic's crane and auger, 6.4L diesel, auto., air, etc.....\$26,900

2006 FORD F-350 CREW CAB LARIAT DUALLY, 4X4, 6.0 diesel, auto., ldd., charcoal, only 65K miles.....\$21,900

2006 GMC 7500 SERIES DUMP TRUCK, Cat dsl., Allison, only 77K miles, knuckle boom.....**FOR JUST \$29,500**

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2003 FORD F-350 CREW CAB 4X4 DUMP TRUCK, 6.0 diesel, auto., air, etc., white, one owner, 210K miles.....**SPECIAL \$14,900 \$13,900**

2003 FORD F-550 REG CAB 4X4 FIRE TRUCK, 6.0 diesel, auto., red, ldd w/accessories, only 45K miles.....\$16,900

1999 DODGE RAM 3500 QUAD CAB DUALLY 4X4, Cummins diesel, 5-spd., ldd., 177K miles.....**SPECIAL \$49,500 \$44,500**

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2023 FORD ESCAPE ST AWD "HYBRID," ldd w/options, charcoal 52K miles, like new, over 35mpg..**SPECIAL \$27,900 \$25,900**

2022 SUBARU LEGACY 4-DR SEDAN "Premium Pkg.," ldd w/options, perfect condition, charcoal, 111K miles.....\$19,900

2021 LINCOLN CORSAIR AWD SUV, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., silver, 82K miles, very sharp.....\$24,900

2020 CADILLAC XT4 SPORT AWD, 2.0 liter, auto., ldd., pearl white, only 58K miles.....**SPECIAL \$29,500 \$27,500**

2019 INFINITI QX60 LUXE AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., pearl white, 94K miles.....\$19,500

2019 FORD TAURUS AWD "POLICE INTERCEPTOR," 3.7 V-6, auto., ldd., maroon, 143K miles.....\$8,995

2019 FORD EDGE SEL AWD, 2.0 liter, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., charcoal, 131K miles.....**SPECIAL \$17,900 \$15,900**

2018 FORD EXPLORER XLT "SPORT PKG." AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., white, local 1 owner, 117K miles, ex. cond.....\$18,900

2018 FORD EXPLORER XLT "SPORT PKG." AWD, 2.3 4-cyl., auto., ldd., dark cherry, 115Kmiles, very sharp.....\$18,900

2018 JEEP CHEROKEE LIMITED AWD V-6, auto., ldd., white, 89K miles, very nice.....\$16,900

2017 JEEP WRANGLER 4-DR HARD TOP 4X4, "Willy's" pkg., V-6, auto., ldd., charcoal, only 88K miles.....\$19,900

2016 FORD EXPLORER XLT PREMIUM PKG. AWD, 3.5 V-6, auto., ldd., silver, 120K miles.....\$13,900

2014 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE AWD, 2.4 liter 4-cyl., auto., ldd., silver, 77K miles.....\$10,900

2010 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4-DR

THE PENDLETON TIMES

Serving the Community since 1913

Section B

December 25, 2025

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. 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,
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,
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,
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,
Carly
BES First Grade

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,
Scarlette P.
FES KB

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,
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,
Madelyn
BES First Grade

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,
Addy G.
NFES Kindergarten

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 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,
Bentlee
BES PreK

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,
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,
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

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,
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Love,
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FES 1B

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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

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,
I want a real Dodge Ram and Chevrolet Traverse, and a Chevrolet Truck with a remote to drive it.

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Love,
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FES Pre-KB

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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 rocking 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 making 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 teethers 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 bubbly wants a Transformer and my mommy 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 really like to play outside and would like a football and soccer ball.

Love,
Liam
Tiny Tots

Dear Santa,
I would like to have a flying Transformer, a big, big motorcycle, some dinosaurs, and a fire truck this year!

Love,
Oliver
Tiny Tots

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

Love,
Gatlin
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 Garage, and a Thunder Tumbler 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,
Pierce
BES PreK

Dear Santa,
Do your reindeer eat carrots? 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

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 either a giant robot or a monster, 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 monster 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 tractor, 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 reindeer eat carrots? 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.

Asbury's
FAMILY RESTAURANT

SENECA
CAVERNS
escape. underground.

Dear Santa,
I would like an electric scooter. My brothers are being mean to me. Bring me some rubber band bracelets. Mom wants more Christmas lights and we have so many. Dad would like some tools that he doesn't have. He likes to build things.

Love,
Adelyn H.
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I want VR Goggles and a new iPad. I want you to pick me a cool Lego set. I want a Transformer that is remote control. Luke wants a new iPad and Harper I think wants a white Christmas tree to sit in the yard. This can't go in our house because it is too big! Grandma wants a pink pencil sharpener. Grandpa wants a new book. He's a book reader. My mom would like some bracelets and necklaces. Dad would like a Blue Mountaineer shirt with a gold WV state on it.

Thank you,
Love,
Will M.
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I want an Optimus Transformer and construction toys. I want a Dead Pool and a Wolverine toy. I would like a plane toy that flies that is fake. You can bring mommy make-up and daddy a gun and bow and Fletcher a gun and bow. I will leave you a heart because you like them and a sleigh so you can fly.

Love,
Hollis P.
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
How many presents do you deliver in a night? Will you get me some new skates and for Pop-Pop a B-B Gun? Grandma really wants a waffle iron. I really want to make them with her. I definitely want a Furby too. Me and grandma will make a batch of chocolate chip cookies for you.

Love,
Josie H.
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I want Robucks and an Apple iPad. I think that's it. I guess bring VR goggles for Will. Probably bring Harper a necklace. Mom wants computer charger and bring dad a new food tray. Grandma likes jewelry bracelets and grandpa may need glasses to read.

Thank you, Santa,
Love,
Luke M.
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I want a Dragon Race car track with super cars! Also, maybe another tablet, I lost mine. Mommy and dad don't want anything for Christmas this year. You could bring Austin a PS5 and Bentley would like to have a red headset.

Thank you,
Love,
Liam N.
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I want a Transformer Bumblebee, police car, ambulance, and one that is a truck with fake fire on it. Also, another teddy lamb that is nice and comfy! Maisyn would like a little baby that has diapers, a bottle of milk, and some baby food. Mommy would like a pretty dress and daddy wants some clothes too probably jeans and another orange shirt. Can you bring these gifts to us?

Love,
Maverick F.
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I want a Nintendo Switch, a Hot Wheels video game, a bow and arrows, my own creative King Beast and a gun. My daddy would like a gun too, maybe even his own buggy or four-wheeler. Mommy wants some new slippers with Hello Kitty on them, some purple hair dye, and a new hair brush. Jace would like his own creative King Beast same as me, and also his own Pokémon coloring book. My elf is good at watching us and left us some notes.

Thank you,
Love,
Jackson W.
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I would like a PS4 Minecraft game, a blue dirt bike with gas, lots of toys and a gun game too. Sophia wants a gun, a little dirt bike, and a LOT of toys. Daddy wants a Nerf Gun and Mommy would like her own PS5 that she can share with Sophia. They want a drift game, a lion game, and a gun game.

Thank you,
Love,
Brayden L.
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
You brought me a baby doll last year and I lost it. Could you bring me another one of those? I also want a Barbie, something you can paint on, make-up and brushes, a teddy bear, and a dirt bike. Kyler likes toy cars but he already has a monster truck so he doesn't need another one. Lucas wants a red or orange dirt bike. Dad said he only wants one thing but I think he wants a tool box, a hammer, and a white tank top. Mommy will want some make-up, some earrings, a washing machine and dryer.

Thank you,
Love,
Kaisley K.
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I want a Godzilla toy, a race car, a Batman for me and my brother, and a toy monster truck. Weston wants a Spiderman and a ship. Mommy would like a sleigh and some bells. Daddy wants a new work truck, maybe a red and black one. I love you and you are the best! Thank you,

Love
Hunter
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I extend my sincere best wishes for a holiday that's as beautiful as you are. Thank you for your valued patronage.
Merry Christmas!
HIDDEN GEM BEAUTY
82 N. Main Street, Franklin • 304-668-2428
McKenzie Arbaugh

Dear Santa,
I want some Barbie dolls with the van and a Barbie house. Andrew would like a drone. Harper wants a Squishmellow and a sticker maker. My baby sister probably wants a new bottle. Mommy and Daddy want another remote because we lose it and break it sometimes.

Thank you,
Love,
Kirkland S.
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I want a mermaid tail, a pink dollhouse, and a toy dog. Bubby wants a phone and Legos. My little sister wants fake lipstick because she likes to sneak mine. Mommy and Daddy would like a TV remote because one broke and a music track. I will be waiting for you at sunset.

Thank you,
Love,
Raylee S.
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I would like some long dangly earrings, a unicorn blanket, some floaties, a toy doggie with some food, and finger nail polish for me and mommy. Wyatt wants some video games for his Switch. Daddy wants a cop game to play and new jammies. Mommy wants warm socks and maybe a new phone because hers is kind of busted. Grandma wants a mattress and some more pillows. Grandpa wants a new phone too. I will leave out some cookies and milk for you.

Thank you,
Love,
Laynee R.
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I want a Godzillia toy, a race car, a Batman for me and my brother, and a toy monster truck. Weston wants a Spiderman and a ship. Mommy would like a sleigh and some bells. Daddy wants a new work truck, maybe a red and black one. I love you and you are the best! Thank you,

Love
Hunter
BES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
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Merry Christmas!
HIDDEN GEM BEAUTY
82 N. Main Street, Franklin • 304-668-2428
McKenzie Arbaugh

Dear Santa,
I want a robot and a bobcat animal toy that runs fast like a cheetah. Aubrey wants a Barbie and a white board with markers. Mommy would like a camera. My baby brother would like painting board, and Tylen wants new underwear.

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

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!

Love,
Jentrey
BES First Grade



Merry Christmas!
and Happy New Year
JIM CRITES
Sales & Service
304-257-8540 jimcrites@hotmail.com
3 Spruce Avenue Petersburg, WV 26847

*May All Your
Hopes & Dreams
Come True
this
Holiday Season!*
HOUSE of BEAUTY
304.668.5023

*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

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

*May all of your hopes and
wishes come true!*
TOWN OF FRANKLIN



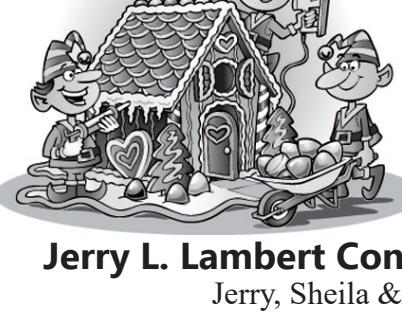


**To Our
Cherished Community**

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.



Visit Pendletontimes.com

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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

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 want a Minecraft Ax, tractor that comes with a disc and a small disc.

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,
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,
I want a trailer with hay bales, truck for the hay bales and hitch. Big grain wagon with the thing down.

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

Dear Santa,
I want a Minecraft Ax, tractor that comes with a disc and a small disc.

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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

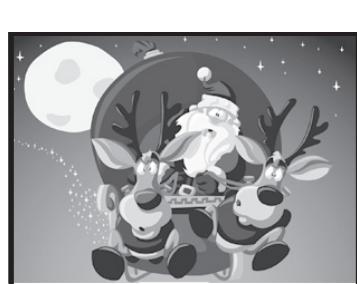
MERRY Christmas

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.

deer

tree

We're
Filled With

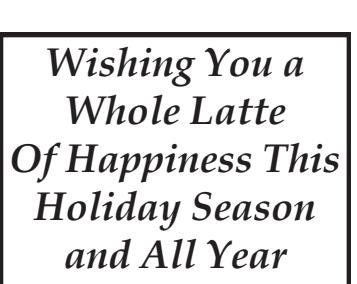
GRatitude

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

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



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!

Page 6B - December 25, 2025 - The Pendleton Times

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 combine toy, and an airsoft gun. That's all I really want. I want my mom to have a new Stanley 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 cookies for you. I'm excited for you to come to my house.

Alyssia 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 Squishmallow, 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 football writing book. My brother wants a new controller. Is your favorite kind of cookie chocolate chip? That's my favorite. 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 water 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,
For Christmas, I want an iPad. I want a Shadow mini figure. I also want a Sonic Lego set. I want a new Godzilla evolve. I want my little brother to have monster trucks. I want my mom to have a new necklace. I hope your elves are doing good. I hope there isn't many naughty kids. I'll leave you some milk and cookies.

Alaric Z.
FES KB

Dear Santa,
I really like you! I am so thankful for all the gifts. I want my sister to get a new bike because she broke hers. I want my mommy to get a new coffee mug. Can my daddy get new pants please? I would like Legos and dino slippers. Pretty please?

Thank you!

Love,
Charlee H.
FES 1A

Dear Santa,
I love you. What is your favorite cookie? I want a Nintendo Switch. I want a bunny. I want a red dirt bike. I want a Rubik's cube, a drone, and a helicopter toy.

Thank you.

Love,
Mason L.
FES 1A

Dear Santa,
I think you are cool and real. I would like a PS5, new headphones and a controller. Please can I have a gaming room?

Thank you!

Love,
Zion
FES 1A

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite cookie? 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 tablet? 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 Christmas! 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 Underpants 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 bracelet kit and a Nintendo Switch and a book? Thank you!

Love,
Liam
FES 1A



Christmas Wish List

✓ Happiness ✓ Health ✓ Prosperity ✓ Friendship
✓ Love ✓ Peace ✓ Contentment

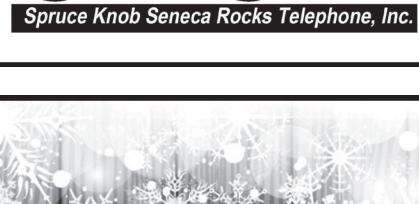


From our family to yours, best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!
Thanks for stocking our year with such good memories. Your visits have brought us so much joy in 2025 and we look forward to serving you again in 2026.

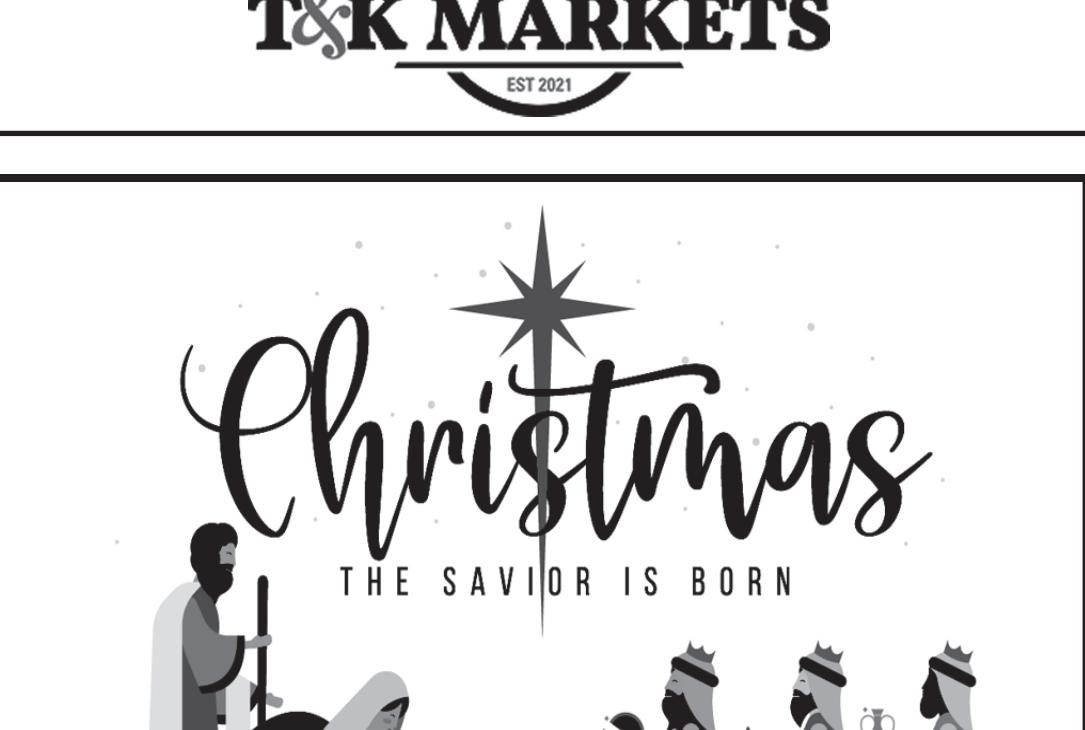
MERRY CHRISTMAS!



It's the most wonderful time of the year!

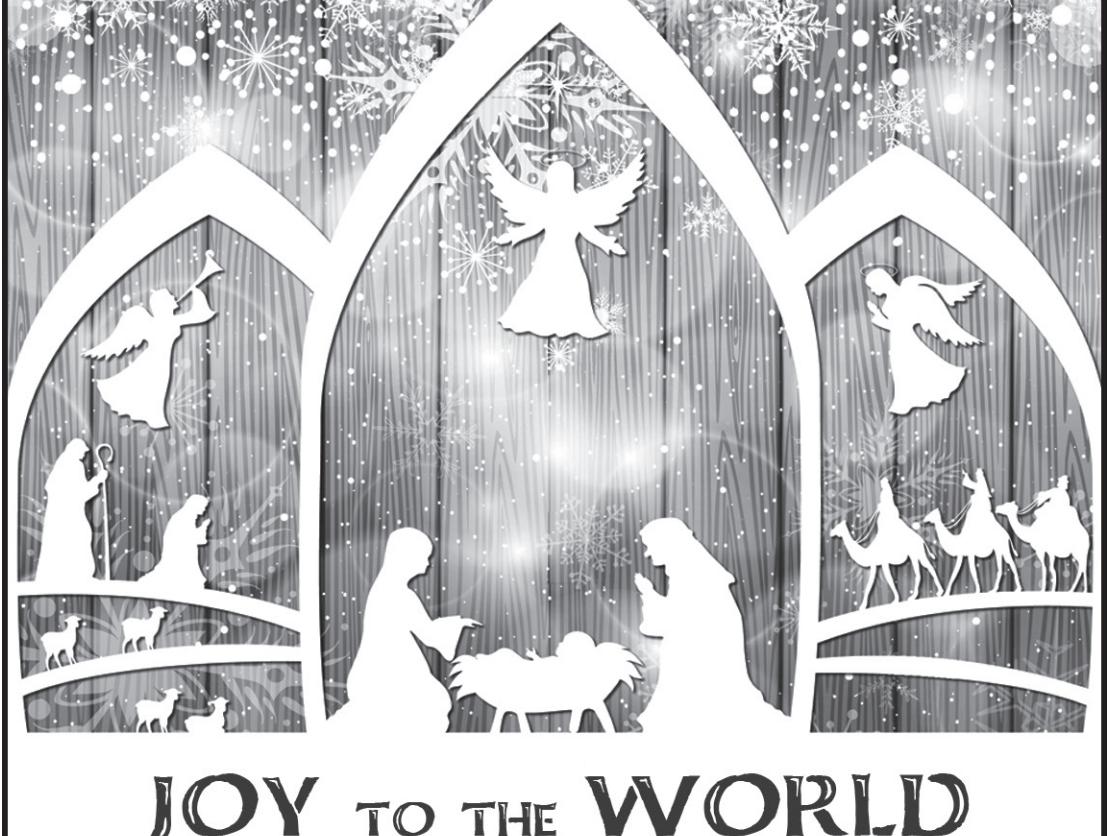


Merry Christmas
From the
Board of Directors
and Staff



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

Dear Santa,
I love you and thank you for the present. I also love your elves. May I have a Ninja Kids, dinosaurs, and Godzilla.

Thank you!!!!

Love,
Easton S.
FES 1A

Dear Santa,
I want Spiderman and superhero stuff. I want Play-Doh and dinosaur stuff too.

Thank you!

Love,
Carter
FES 1A

Dear Santa,
I want a bear stuffy. I want a robot. I want some coloring pens. I want a notebook.

Love,
Catherine
FES 1B

Dear Santa,
I want a stuffed animal horse, a Barbie doll, and a play horse.

Love,
Layal
FES 1B

Dear Santa,
I would like a robot dog and a robot. I have also been wanting 3D pen really bad. I did have a Barbie wheelchair, but the wheel broke off and I would like another one.

Love,

Naomi
FES 1B

Dear Santa,
I would like a stuffed animal cardinal. That's all!

Love,

Connor
FES 1B

Dear Santa,
I want a desk so I can put my mommy's PlayStation on it. I would like a Stitch plushie.

Thank you!!

Love,

Colt
FES 1B



Dear Santa,
I want a lava lamp, a 3D toy, a Stitch toy, and an Axolotl toy. That's it!

Love,
Olivia
FES 1B

Dear Santa,
I want an American Girl Doll for Christmas. I also want a toy panda and an LOL doll, a teenage one. The last thing I want is an LOL doll glam press.

Love,
Alessandra
FES 1B

Dear Santa,
I want blue Crocs, a stuffed cheetah medium sized, and a football pillow.

Love,
Cayde
FES 1B

Dear Santa,
I want an LOL Barbie doll and a robot.

Love,
Juniper
FES 1B

Dear Santa,
I want magnet toys. I want a toy fox from the Christmas movie with the necklace. I even want a scruff a luvs (cat, dog, or bunny).

Thank you!

Love,
Brielle
FES 1B

Dear Santa,
I would like a Barbie dream house with a pool and a Wednesday doll with Thing.

I want a car that goes with the Barbie dream house and a Monster High doll with a big camper. I love Santa!

Love,
Kynley
FES 1B

Dear Santa,
I want a Christmas costume of the Grinch. I want a Christmas Minecraft tree. I want a Minecraft costume of Steve with a chest. Can I have a red lightsaber? Can I have a Minecraft crossbow?

Love,
Rhett
FES 1B

Dear Santa,
I want a robot dog and a Lego set.

Love,
Keraun
FES 1B

Dear Santa,
I want a VR set, an Apple headset, a lightsaber, Roblox, and V Bucks.

Love,
Oliver
FES 1B

Dear Santa,
I want a basketball hoop. I have a list but there is not much on it. I want a monster truck, Legos like basketball Legos. I want a Creeper from Minecraft. I don't know what my dog wants. I think a ball, toys, and a dog bed.

Love,
Bryer
FE 1B

Dear Santa,
I want a car that you can get in, push the gas pedal, and go. It comes with a remote. If I get tired my mom can use the remote. My mom wants a pretty cup, and my dad wants paint. I will leave water for the reindeer and cookies for Santa.

Ayden L.
NFES Preschool

Dear Santa,
I want a trampoline, a little swimming pool, a Barbie doll, and a new bike for my sister. Bring my mommy a new Stanley and dad a Stanley because he always steals mommies for work. I will leave cookies, milk, and carrots. I have been a good girl this year.

Harley J.
NFES Preschool

Dear Santa,
I want a stuffed animal pony, magna tiles, a little scanner to play library, and blocks. My sister wants a stuffed animal sheep. Mom likes to cook, so bring her cooking things. Dad likes boom booms. I have been good this year. I will leave Santa milk and cookies. I will leave the reindeer carrots.

Maggie W.
NFES Preschool

Dear Santa,
I want a toy crossbow, toy canon with balls, and a net gun. Please bring Oliver, a remote-controlled hot rod. My dad wants a boomerang. Mom wants a pan for cooking. I will leave Santa cookies and a pie for his reindeer.

Campbell C.
NFES Preschool

Dear Santa,
I want some race cars, a race car track, and Lincoln logs. My sister wants a red scooter that lights up. You do not have to bring mom or dad anything. I have been nice this year.

Kolton A.
NFES Preschool

Dear Santa,
I want a Spiderman boat, Wren cards, and a Nintendo. Noah wants a Nintendo Switch. My dad wants a dog collar. Mom wants makeup. Poppy wants a drill. Uncle Bub wants a dog food launcher. I have been a good girl this year. I will leave deer food and cookies.

Luca G.
NFES Preschool

Dear Santa,
I want an electric scooter, monster truck you drive with a remote control, and little Garfield socks. Please bring my dad a shirt with Garfield on it. I have been good this year.

Kashlyn W.
NFES Preschool

Dear Santa,
I want a bicycle, a box for my puppy, a puppy that goes in a bag, and a puppy dog that talks to me. Ellie wants a snowman and butterflies. Jake wants a talking dinosaur. Bring a blanket for the baby. Mom wants earrings and Steven wants a necklace. I will leave the reindeer a stuffed animal.

Juliette R.
NFES Preschool

Dear Santa,
I would like a baby puppy that I am not allergic to, a TV and a Christmas tree to put in my bedroom and playroom, and the big blue toy barn I saw with a red house that connects to it.

You can bring my mommy anything she would like and me and daddy will wrap it up for you. You could also bring my daddy a TV and Christmas tree for his room too like me. I'm gonna cover up my whole house in tons of Christmas lights so that you can find it. Thank you and have a safe trip!

Benson P.
NFES Preschool

Dear Santa,
I would like a pistol for Christmas. I want my mom to have her love heart back that she got for Mother's day if you can. You can also bring my sister Haleigh a Labubu doll, a remote control car for Briar, a cool dude setup for Gavin, a doll baby where you can brush its hair for Aniyah, some coloring books for Chelsea, and some new tools for dad and for him to never get hurt again.

Thank you!

Isaiah H.
NFES Preschool

Dear Santa,
I love Rumi from K-Pop Demon Hunters. She is my favorite, so could I have a baby Rumi and a mommy Rumi? She is the queen and I love her. I would also like a doll house for baby and mommy Rumi to live in and a car for them to drive. I love you Santa and thank you!

Leah T.
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I would like a new soft silky blankie for Christmas. Please bring my grandma some new clothes as well because she is very nice and loves me very much. Thank you very much Santa!

Micah V.
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I would like a dirt bike, a four wheeler, and a monster truck for Christmas. Please also bring my mommy money and clothes for Christmas. She likes money and clothes a lot. I love my mom and she has been good like me! I like you Santa and thank you!

William H.
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I would like a baby puppy that I am not allergic to, a TV and a Christmas tree to put in my bedroom and playroom, and the big blue toy barn I saw with a red house that connects to it.

You can bring my mommy anything she would like and me and daddy will wrap it up for you. You could also bring my daddy a TV and Christmas tree for his room too like me. I'm gonna cover up my whole house in tons of Christmas lights so that you can find it. Thank you and have a safe trip!

Tuff H.
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 loose any presents when you're delivering on Christmas eve!

Have a holly jolly Christmas Santa!

Tuff H.
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I would like 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 daddy a new coffee cup because he likes to drink coffee. Merry Christmas!

Lynleigh G.
NFES Kindergarten

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 Spiderman 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 dirt bike, a four wheeler, and a monster truck for Christmas. Please also bring my mommy money and clothes for Christmas. She likes money and clothes a lot. I love my mom and she has been good like me! I like you Santa and thank you!

William H.
NFES Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I would like a baby puppy that I am not allergic to, a TV and a Christmas tree to put in my bedroom and playroom, and the big blue toy barn I saw with a red house that connects to it.

You can bring my mommy anything she would like and me and daddy will wrap it up for you. You could also bring my daddy a TV and Christmas tree for his room too like me. I'm gonna cover up my whole house in tons of Christmas lights so that you can find it. Thank you and have a safe trip!

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Thank you!

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Lynleigh G.
NFES Kindergarten



Thinking of you at Christmastime.
Wishing you peace, joy and good fortune always!

May your heart and home be filled with all the happiness this special season brings.
We thank you for your patronage, friendship and support.

• • • • •

GREER LIME COMPANY
RIVERTON



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 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

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

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

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!
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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

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

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.

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Kimble Funeral Home

Franklin

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite kind of cookie? When you come

History of Christmas Traditions in America

Christmas Trees

The first American Christmas tree can be credited to a Hessian soldier by the name of Hendrick 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

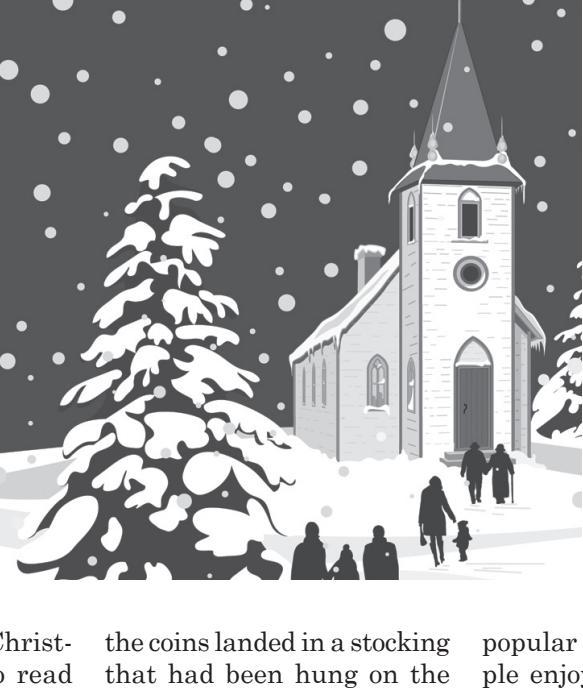
also comes from this time period. According to legend, Father Christmas once dropped some gold coins while coming down a chimney. Instead of falling through the ash grate,

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.

Share the Faith

Meadows Backhoe Service

Dennis & Wilma



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

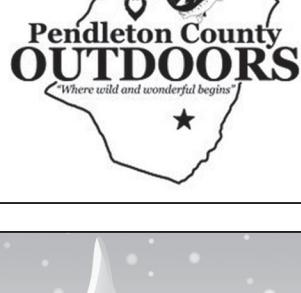
The Korner Shop Gang



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

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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



MERRY CHRISTMAS

and Happy New Year

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

OWENS
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Jeffrey S. Bowers, Broker
39 Maple Ave - Franklin
www.sugargrovew.com 304-358-3332

New Years Word Search



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



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

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



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

Sites Auto Parts

Eddie & Angie

Jolly, Happy Christmas



Wishing our customers and friends all the best this season!

* * * * *

Sponaugle & Sponaugle
Law Office

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

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.

Bettye's Backroad Breads
Roxanne Arbaugh
304-668-0454
Facebook - Bettye'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

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
A
N
D
Happy New Year

POTOMAC Hardware
304-358-2230

TRAILS END OUTFITTERS
304-358-2252

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."

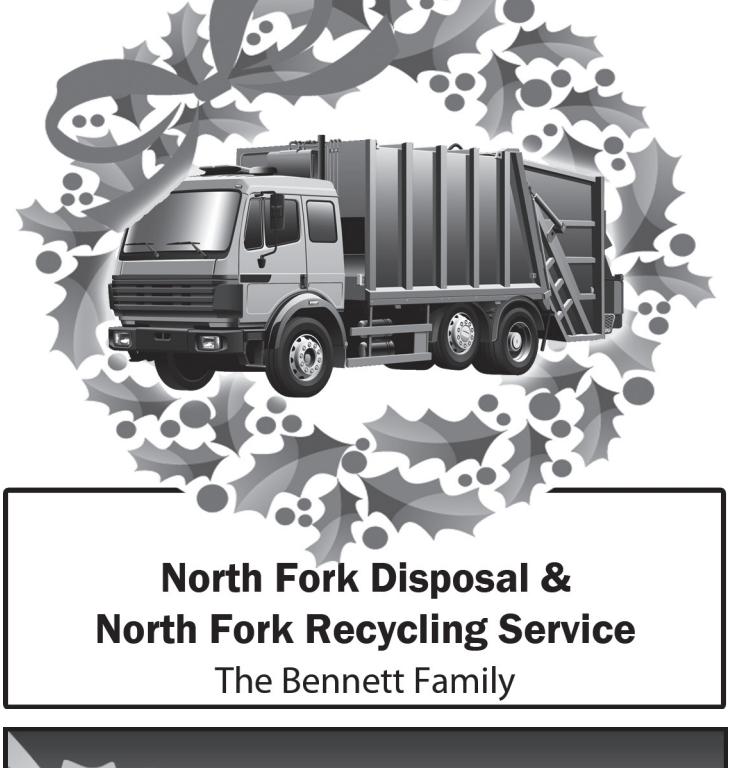
Again, Santa reached into his bag and this time he brought forth a tiny red and white striped candy cane. As he hung it on the tree, he spoke softly. "The candy cane is a stick of hard, white candy... white to symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus... the shape 'J' to represent the precious 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 the 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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AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
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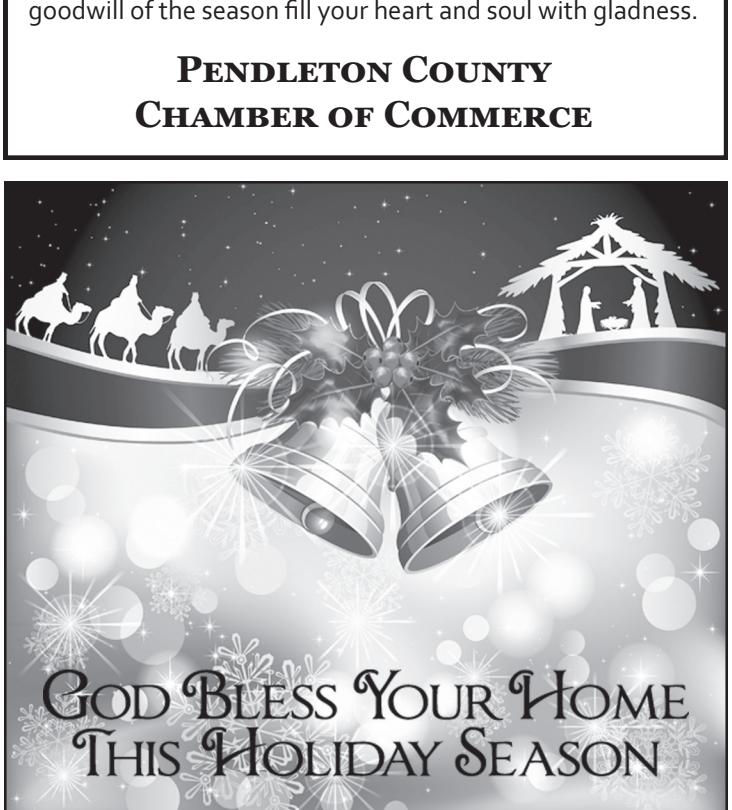
North Fork Disposal & North Fork Recycling Service
The Bennett Family



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



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

Warm & Cozy Wishes
for a holiday season that is merry and bright!

Dr. Kevan Hoover & Staff

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 TRADING
1-855-440-SENG
newrivertradingllc.com • 613 Hughes Street,
Summersville, WV 26651 • WVMTNMAN@HOTMAIL.COM



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



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

Peace & Joy
Wishing you every happiness this holiday season.

Franklin
304.358.2714
www.ODRWV.com
George I. Sponaugle, Broker

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

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
304.257.4616

WESTFIELD INSURANCE
Sharing Knowledge Building Trust*



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!

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

COUNTRY
Decor & More



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

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.warnersdriveinvw.org
Facebook.com/warnersdriveinvw



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



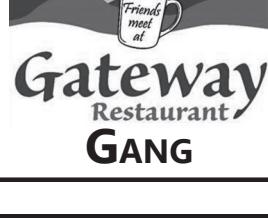
May your day be filled with love and laughter.

'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



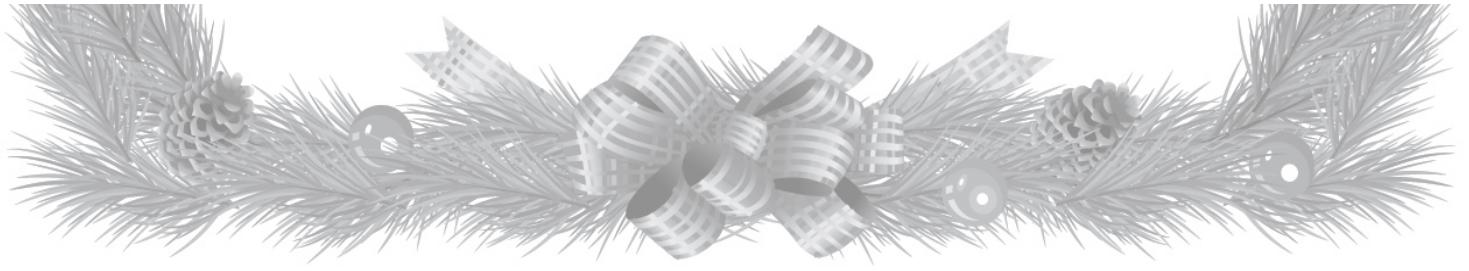
To the
Nicest
Folks
We
Know...

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

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 mistletoeing and hearts will be glowing when loved ones are near.

It's the most wonderful time of the year.

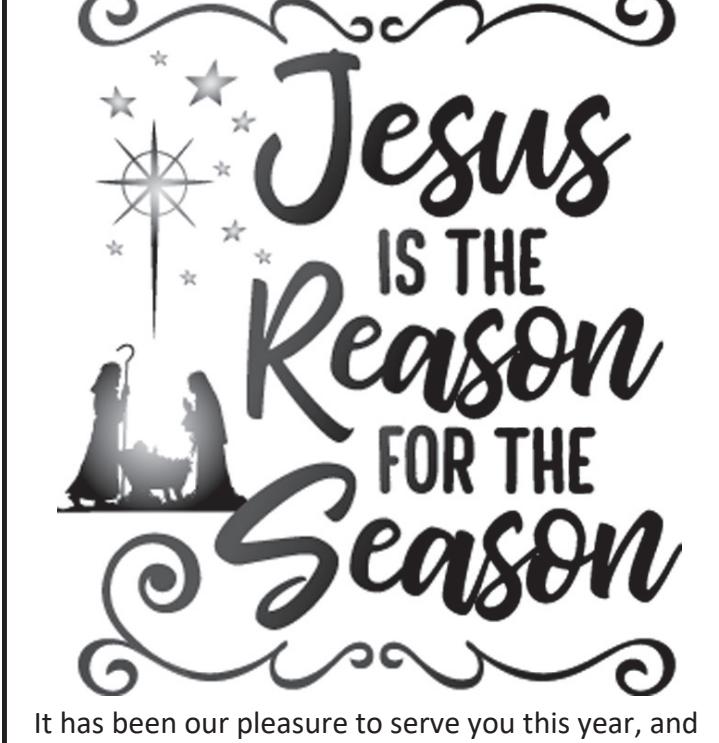
Thanks for making our year special.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Yokum's Store & Vacationland

Seneca Rocks

304-567-2351



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.

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!

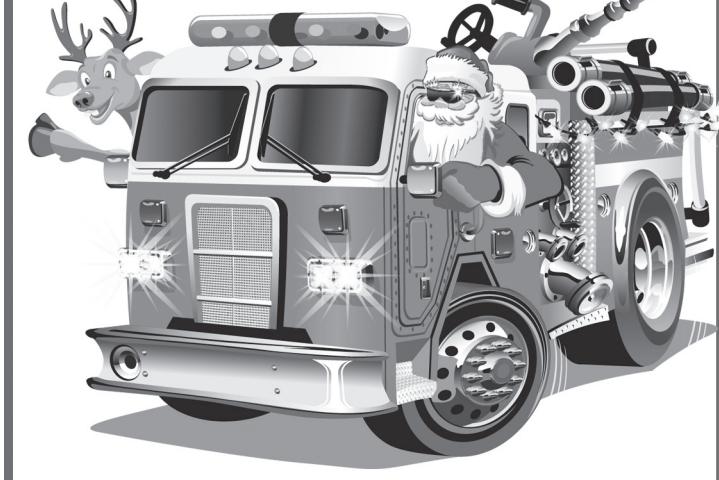
Fox's Pizza

Brandywine

Darren and Heidi Kimble and Family
And all of our wonderful employees



Christmas Is Coming!



May blessings of goodwill fill you with joy this holiday season!
FRANKLIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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!


**COUNTRY ROADS
COLLISION**
EST. 2020

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 drop 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."

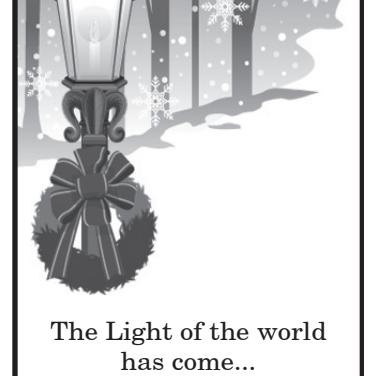


Hoping your holiday season is fit for a king!



FRANKLIN TOTAL FITNESS

44 Pike Road | 304-902-7019



The Light of the world
has come...

Let us rejoice in His gift
of peace and joy!

Christmas
Blessings!

MAGIC DOOR
BEAUTY SALON

Kathy, Rose
Sarah & Kitty



Make It Merry
Hope your holiday season is a ball!
Thanks so much for
dropping in on us this year.

Betty's
Total
Image



Burke&Herbert Bank®

564 N. Main St. Franklin, WV 26807

burkeandherbertbank.com 304-358-2388



Merry Christmas!

From the entire team at PCB, we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



128 N. Main St.

Franklin

(304) 358-2311



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