

THE PENDLETON TIMES

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Thursday
December 11, 2025

Community Choir and 'Hot Mess' Make a Joyful Noise at PCMHS



The Pendleton County Community Choir shared a full concert of Christmas music during Saturday's Christmas festivities.

By Stephen Smoot

As Main Street Franklin prepared for Christmas cheer, a nearly full house gathered Saturday to enjoy an afternoon of music from two Pendleton County favorites.

After the seats filled with attendees, the first act settled into place onstage. The famous "Pendleton County Hot Mess" delivered cool, precise, and cleanly performed Christmas favorites of both faith and fun.

Within the section of the show entitled "Prelude" came favorites such as "Gloria In Excelsis Deo," "Silent Night, Holy Night," "What Child Is This?" and much more. Each tune came in the elegantly simple Appalachian acoustic style, soft in tone, but rich as the melodies filled the room with music and memories made at the moment, but also remembered from the past.

Bruce Holderman played guitar for the Hot Mess, accompanied by Bob Davis on the mandolin. Kim Bassell joined on bass, while Susan Ide worked the fiddle.

Jennifer Taylor-Ide, who performed with the hammer dulcimer, shared that "Christmas is all about beautiful music and gentle lights – a time for quiet reflection and family and community bonds."

The Hot Mess fulfilled that function with the same spirit as lit candles, fragrant mulled cider, and the aromas from a kitchen full of old-time experts crafting

a Christmas meal.

"Nothing builds community like making music together," explained Taylor-Ide, who remarked on "what a privilege" it is to share that art and experience with others.

After they concluded, the Hot Mess raced off to their next gig. They hustled off to the other side of town to set up on Walnut Street and regale shoppers and vendors enjoying the afternoon there. Taylor-Ide shared, "We about froze, but it was fun and helped to set the celebrative tone."

The Hot Mess cleaned up and cleared out, allowing the Pendleton County Community Choir to take center stage and present the main show.

First, they majestically performed "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem," an arrangement that combined less well known lyrics with traditional words and music for a lovely and novel effect.

From the light and joyful tune in the opening, the choir next featured the powerful tenor of John Windett as he delivered a rich and deep version of "Joseph's Lullaby," a two-decade-old composition by the Christian band MercyMe. Windett's solo soared to the rafters and sublimely gave the emotional tenor of that night that changed humanity forever.

Corrie Wagoner directed the group and provided accompaniment. Katelyn Gatian played percussion while Ray Lambert

Continued on Page 2



Winter Comes to Pendleton County

A possible prelude to a snowy December, this early season snowfall decorated these farms near Upper Tract.

WV Department of Agriculture Issues Alerts on Avian Flu and Disaster Assistance

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture sounded an alert on the appearance of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in a Jackson County "backyard" flock.

According to Beth Southern, spokesperson for the WVDA, "This is only the third detection of HPAI in domestic birds in West Virginia since the global outbreak began in early 2022. A previous outbreak was quarantined and contained in Pocahontas County."

A different release noted that "the diagnosis was confirmed following a field investigation, sample collection, and testing at WVDA's Animal Health NAHLN lab in Moorefield. The affected premise has been placed under quarantine to protect nearby flocks and ensure the continued safety of the commercial food supply."

Backyard flocks have an increased potential for exposure to feral origins of the spread of HPAI. Multiple species of wild birds carry the virus, but have developed strong levels of resistance and immunity.

They will come into contact in the wild from time to time. WVDA has specific biological protocols that kick in when an infected bird or flock is discovered.

Respiratory secretions, manure, and surfaces contaminated with virus-carrying substances can transmit the virus. In rare cases, humans have contracted HPAI.

"Unusual death loss, a sudden drop in egg production, or any sick domestic birds" should be reported to the WVDA at (304)-558-2214.

Late last month, the WVDA also circulated a release "for producers affected by the natural disasters in 2023 and 2024." The Farm Service Agency will distribute approximately \$16 billion in assistance "in new congressionally approved assistance."

This comes on the heels of an earlier program offering a total of about \$10 billion from the Emergency Commodity Assistance program and the Emergency Livestock Relief Program.

Stage two applications opened Nov. 24, and all application deadlines are April 20, 2026.

"West Virginia farmers have faced repeated weather challenges," stated Kent Leonhardt, West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture. He added, "This federal support will help producers rebuild and prepare for the next growing season."

Producers are urged to check with their local FSA office for more information.

Community CALENDAR

VFW Post 9666

Meeting Canceled

The VFW Post 9666 meeting scheduled for this evening has been canceled due to the weather.

Donations Needed For Food Pantry

As a person plans for the Christmas holidays, please consider making a food or monetary donation to CAN as it provides much needed food to community members. CAN is open 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Donations can be sent to PO Box 503, Franklin, WV 26807.

Christmas Programs To Be Presented At Local Churches

"Cricket County City Christmas" will be presented at 7 p.m. Saturday at St. John Lutheran Church in Moyers. Come join the country cousins as they travel to the big city to visit their cousins. There will also be a children's bell choir and a nativity scene.

Join the congregation at Franklin Methodist Church on Main Street in Franklin at 11 a.m. Sunday when the children, youth and young-at-heart adults present their annual Christmas program. It will be a joy-filled time of glorious chaos that one won't want to miss.

A Christmas Program will be held at Christ Central Community Church, Upper Tract at 6 p.m. Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

Date Set To Renew Pesticide Licenses

Five recertification credits are available for Category 1, 4, 11, 12, or PA Licensed Pesticide Applicators at either at 1 p.m. or 6 p.m. Dec. 17 at the Pendleton Community Building in Franklin. To RSVP, call the extension office at 304-358-2286 by Dec. 15.

Senior Sponsored Meal Scheduled

Two AWOL Santas will be sponsoring "Lunch on Us" meals for seniors aged 60+ on Dec. 19 at the Franklin Senior Center. Lunch is served at 11:45 a.m. This will be the Christmas dinner of ham, sweet potato, green beans, pineapples, Santa cupcakes and punch. Please contact the senior center at 304-358-2421 by 2 p.m. Dec. 15 to reserve a meal.

'Times' To Publish Christmas Memories, Holiday Recipes and Church Programs

Christmas is just around the corner. The Times would like for its readers to share with other subscribers some past Christmas memories, as well as favorite holiday recipes.

A list of Christmas programs will also be published.

Please submit articles,

Anatomy of a Snow Day Explained by School Officials

By Stephen Smoot

With the days of stay-at-home parents predominant in families well in the rear-view historical window, school systems have the challenge of making tough decisions during extreme weather events. Every time severe conditions settle in, a process kicks in to help school system officials make the best choice possible.

Those choices must strike the balance not only between the need to keep children in school for academic purposes, and the danger of transporting children to and from facilities in dangerous weather, but also the pressures from the state to hold school a certain number of days without going past the scheduled last day of school.

Corridor H Comes Closer To Completion With 2026 And 2027 Projects Slated

By Stephen Smoot

During the past 30 years, the extension of Corridor H past Elkins and toward the Virginia State Line has changed the Potomac Highlands region considerably.

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan released last month for the next three years has revealed the future of that important highway while also informing Pendleton County residents of projects important to locals.

Pendleton County is slated to receive bridge and road work. The West Virginia Division of Highways has slated for 2026 the replacement of the Briery Gap Bridge. Under the category of "Road Preservation" sits a paving project planned for US 33 between Franklin and Kiser Gap.

Resurfacing will also take place on US 220 between Upper Tract and the Grant County line, as well as Roots Run Road on North Mountain.

Much of this change wrought by Corridor H has seen the rise of visitors from the Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia metropolitan areas. This has contributed to the expansion of the tourism economy throughout the region.

Since construction, the highway's impact has been better than advertised. It contributed mightily to the renaissance of Wardensville and Thomas while improving commercial transport, and supporting established manufacturing and processing. It has also opened opportunities for business, both new and old. Travelers have found the modern highway safer than the two-lane winding roads that connected Hardy County with everywhere else.

Construction will open in 2026 on the two incomplete sections that bookend the route between Thomas and War-

densville. A large part of the work yet to be finished between Parsons in Tucker and Kerens in Randolph County will go to the nearly \$80 million Roaring Run Bridge with about \$26 million scheduled for work this coming year.

Governor Jim Justice's secretary of transportation said a little over a year ago that "this accomplishment involved many late nights of work and after-hour meetings involved in coordinating with our partners at FHWA, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Monongahela National Forest, local leaders, our design consultants, and residents of the local communities. With this project now being underway, only two sections remain in achieving the ultimate goal of fully completing Corridor H."

Another related project will see just over \$20 million in federal and state funds spent to improve West Virginia Route 72 between the Corridor H intersection and Parsons.

After the road extends from Kerens to Parsons, that leaves the section that will eventually connect Parsons to Davis. No work has taken place on construction, but over \$9 million will go towards "wetland mitigation" to reduce impacts of the road work on the surrounding area.

The released information indicated that much of the highway planned to connect Wardensville and the state line would commence on May 28 of next year. Grading and draining the land to prepare for the road bed will come first. Grading, draining, and construction will continue into 2027.

Planned projects may not always find their way through to completion. In recent years, a STIP release contained information about a proposed project to construct an emergency truck lane off US 33 on the east slope of Allegheny Mountain, but never came to fruition.

OBITUARIES



a legacy of love for family, friends and time spent out in God's creation.

On March 5, 1968, he married his loving wife, Vickie Lane (Warner) Huffman who survives.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Jamie Huffman (Bethany) of Seneca Rocks; a sister, Judi McCoy of New Creek; 2 brothers, Dan Huffman (Liz) of Seneca Rocks and Tom Huffman (Kathy) of Petersburg; and a niece; and several nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Frankie and Roger "Alan" Huffman; a grandson, James Lauson Huffman; and a brother-in-law, Tom McCoy.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. today in the chapel of the Basagic Funeral Home in Petersburg with Pastor Tom Shaum officiating. Interment will be at South Branch Valley Memorial Gardens in Petersburg.

Memorials may be made to the family, c/o the Basagic Funeral Home, PO Box 400, Petersburg, WV 26847. Memories and words of comfort may be left at www.basagic.com or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home.

Ward Bradley
"Buck" Huffman

Ward Bradley "Buck" Huffman, 76, of Riverton passed away on Dec. 6, 2025, at Mon Health Medical Center in Morgantown.

He was born on Jan. 9, 1949, in Petersburg, the son of the late Ward and Betty (Haren) Huffman.

Mr. Huffman attended school at Seneca Rocks and was a Christian in faith.

Upon his retirement from truck driving, he enjoyed spending time outdoors and hunting wild game. However, time spent with his family was his greatest pleasure. He leaves behind

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Community Choir at PCMHS

Continued From Page 1

worked bass instrumentation.

The singers included soprano performers Nancy Kimble, Kayla Harper, Mahala Alt, Jodie Gardner, Kim Kline, LeAnn Ruddle, Stefanie Aumann, Lindsey Propst, and Darlene Bokelman.

Altos included Kim Bissell, Jayne Germain, Katelyn Gatian, Rebecca Lough, Carmen Rexrode, Angela Lambert, Holly Hubbs, and Sheila Ruddle.

John Windett, Paul Shafer, Wesley Alexander, and Gary Price sang tenor while Rich Gardner, Dwight Sponaugle, and Scott Rightsell sang bass.

Anatomy of a Snow Day

Continued From Page 1

Schools website, Tritapoe delivered a presentation entitled "Steps to Build a Snow Day."

The first step, one could call intelligence gathering. "Nicole and I," Tritapoe stated "attend meetings to talk about the weather forecast and the decision." She shared later that "the National Weather Service has a meeting that we attend." These virtual meetings, held at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., provide local school and other officials with up to the minute information based on their observations and modeling.

These come as part of the NWS' Impact-Based Decision Support Service. As its website states, "IDSS are forecast advice and interpretive services the NWS provides to help its core partners."

These include emergency services and other public safety officials. "This support may be needed in response to a particular event or routinely to support high-value decision-making," shared the NWS website.

Hevener and Tritapoe also reach out to other superintendents and school transportation officials in the region to get their take on what has happened in their areas. Additionally, they will call the West Virginia Division of Highways to "get their take." With Pendleton County's topography able to wreak havoc on weather patterns, they also have residents in key areas who can provide valuable information about ground-level conditions in widely scattered parts of the county.

Another vital source of information comes from traffic cameras installed by the Pendleton County Office of Emergency Management. Tritapoe lauded their utility, saying, "I really like it." The cameras monitor key points on Allegheny Mountain, Elk Mountain, Shenandoah Mountain, and North Fork Mountain and provide instant

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information on conditions.

That said, Hevener pointed out the occasional malfunctions on the North Fork Mountain camera and stated that she had reached out Rick Gillepsie, OEM coordinator. "He will get back to us when he figures out what's going on with that one," she stated.

Finally, Tritapoe relies on voluntary reports, often with photographs, for information. She ensures that the superintendent gets all the information needed to make the choice on how to proceed.

School officials have multiple options available. First comes the traditional "true" snow day. In moderately poor conditions, only "261 day workers" are required to come to work unless the weather is too poor for even that.

No remote learning takes place on such days.

The state allows local school officials five true snow days and five non-traditional instruction days. If counties go past that point and cannot use other options or receive waivers, students will have to attend past the scheduled end date. This creates issues with summer activities, such as family vacations, work start dates, and other conflicts.

Counties strategize the use of these options differently. For example, Kanawha County Schools uses true snow days first before opting for NTI days.

Delays can occur as well, with officials choosing between a two- and a three-hour delay. Hevener and Tritapoe expressed concerns with parents or guardians receiving information too late.

Once decided, as a handout from Tritapoe stated, "The announcement goes out to social media, emails, text messages, and phone calls, as well as to radio and television stations that cover our area." Regardless of the means, the information gets spread quickly.

No more children huddling around the radio or television waiting patiently for the announcements in this century.

The handout also read, "If possible, the announcement is made the evening before, but could be as late as 4:45 a.m. on the day of the weather event."

"We try to make those decisions as early as possible," shared Tritapoe, who then added "we're not always going to make the right decisions, but we hope to."

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- The Community for providing their support, furnishing food and money for our dinner, especially the local churches.
- The Community for their active support in attending the dinner.
- All of the EMTs that worked in the planning, preparation and cleanup for the dinner.
- Especially individuals that aided in cleaning the building and preparing and serving the food.
- And many, many thanks to Peer's Sanitation in their constant help and support by providing trash service.

Raffle Drawing Winners:

7mm-08 (2 guns)

Roger Shewsbury and Mason Chapins

Cornhole Boards - Dillon Sakeal

\$20 - Kim Therrien

Region 8 Joins Maryland and Pennsylvania Groups in Applying to Assist Area Downtowns

By Stephen Smoot

Three economic planning and development councils in three states have joined forces to apply for assistance in restoring, redeveloping, and revitalizing downtown areas.

Region 8, the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, and the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission have taken on the task of working together to find solutions to assist cities and towns with struggling downtown areas.

These bodies represent Grant, Mineral, Pendleton, Hardy, and Hampshire counties in West Virginia, Washington, Allegheny, and Garrett in Maryland, and six counties in Pennsylvania.

According to the project summary submitted to the Appalachian Regional Commission, "these three LDDs in the mid-Atlantic have many similarities in their economies and communities; therefore, they face a lot of the same challenges."

It goes on to add that the challenges include "lack of investment in, and redevelopment of mixed use buildings in the central business districts of the towns and cities."

The application is for a \$100,000 planning grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission with the three regional councils responsible for a total of \$90,000 to match. The purpose of the grant lies in helping the councils identify and use "financial mechanisms to make private sector redevelopment projects feasible."

Redevelopment is hoped to expand "housing, small business growth, vibrancy and sense of place, and historic

preservation."

One of the key assets of each agency lies in their ability to issue from revolving loan funds designed to spur local development.

The Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies, or ARISE, program has the mission to encourage cooperation across state lines in Appalachian states for economic development. In August 2022 at the program's outset, Gayle Manchin, ARC co-chair, said, "ARISE encourages our states to think as one united Appalachian Region to have a transformational economic impact across ARC's 13 states."

She went on to add, "In order to have true, large-scale change in Appalachia, we need to be working together at every level—within communities, throughout states, and across state lines. ARISE complements and expands on local and state efforts by fostering collaboration across state lines to produce a more robust and sustainable regional economy."

The program endeavors to promote five areas of "building" — businesses, workforce, infrastructure, regional culture and tourism, and leaders and community capacity.

It also dovetails with the mission of other organizations currently operating. Two ARC supported partnerships, for example, the Canal Towns Partnership and the Mon Forest Towns Partnership, use the presence of national park and forest lands as a way to focus efforts.

While the Canal Towns Partnership only includes Region 9 counties in West Virginia, the Mon Forest Towns initiative supports efforts in two counties of Region 8, Pendleton and Grant. Partly through the Mon Forest Towns Partnership and the work of Michelle Connor, Franklin's representative,

the Pendleton County seat has already experienced success in redevelopment of downtown buildings that ushered in expanded business, housing, and cultural opportunities.

According to the Appalachian Regional Commission, the partnership has "been working to leverage this unique shared natural asset through regional thinking." It includes "a community-driven model for sustainable recreation-based economic growth across 12 towns in the Monongahela National Forest region."

WIC Announces December Schedule

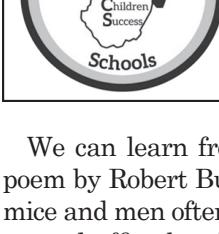
During the month of December, Pendleton County WIC Clinic will be open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Pendleton Community Building in Franklin. Limited services are also available from 2 to 4 p.m. on other days of the week. Call for details.

Pendleton County participants can receive services in Petersburg if alternate days or evening appointments are desired. The office will be closed Dec. 19, Dec. 23 – 26 and Dec. 30 to Jan. 1, 2026.

WIC offers nutrition education and healthy foods to pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants to age 1 and children to age 5. Either parent or a designated guardian can bring a child to appointments.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 304-358-3088 or 304-257-4936.

Proper Planning



By
Nicole
Hevener,
Superintendent

radio for emergency purposes would be a great means of being prepared for unexpected events that may affect the school schedule. Communication is key in such events, and our local radio stations serve us well.

This winter our school system has used three of the available five Summer Saver Days (Non-Traditional Instructional Days or NTIDs) for weather related cancellations as of Dec. 8. These lessons are to be turned in no later than the third day back from the closure of school. Students not completing these lessons will have a negative impact on grades, so please work with your student to ensure lessons are completed well and turned in on time. When there is a forecast for possible snow, sleet, or ice, please encourage your child to bring home the supplies needed to complete these lessons. If you have any questions about the Summer Saver lessons, please contact your student's teacher through Rooms.

Your questions and insights are welcome. Please feel free to contact me at nhhevener@k12.wv.us or "Sharing with the Superintendent" located on the Pendleton County School home web page (pendletoncountyschools.com).

Pendleton County Schools wishes each of you a very safe and happy holiday season.

We can learn from a well-known line in a poem by Robert Burns, "the best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry." Our team at the central office has been having conversations about emergencies that could cause our plans and procedures to be ineffective despite proper planning. What should we do if the electricity is out for large parts or all of the county? What if our communication system (Apptegy/Thrillshare/Rooms) fails? What if other unforeseen situations arise? Sometimes the best plan is the one we have had in place for a very long time—utilize the local radio stations. The radio stations that Pendleton County Schools report weather-related delays and cancellations include: WFRB 105.3, WSVA/Q101, WKCY/104.3, WELD/101.7 and WQWV/103.7.

We encourage use of the radio in the event that cell service or electricity is not available. Each home having a small, battery powered



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10 Years Ago

Week of December 8, 2015

FES Honors 54 Students For Test Scores

Parents and students packed the cafeteria at Franklin Elementary School at last week's Pendleton County Board of Education meeting. Rick Linaburg joked that he needed a bigger school for gatherings as large as the one assembled Tuesday evening. Linaburg welcomed parents and guests to the awards ceremony in which students excelling on the West Virginia Summative Assessment tests during the spring of 2015 were recognized.

Fifty-four FES students were recently honored for meeting or exceeding scores on last spring's assessment tests.

SUGAR GROVE

College Students Lived by a Different Set of Rules

Shenandoah College and Shenandoah Conservatory of Music, Dayton, VA, was an institution where many from Pendleton County once attended. The college church hosted many a concert with music resounding for its audience on many occasions throughout the school year, before moving to Winchester, VA, in 1974.

Times have certainly changed from those college days. When looking at the house rules prior to the 1960s, times have certainly changed! Take for instance:

• College freshmen had to be in their dorms Sunday through Friday by 9:00 p.m.

• College sophomores were to be in their dorms by 10:30 p.m. Sunday through Friday.

• College juniors were allowed to stay out every night until 10 p.m. Sunday through Friday.

• All students needed to be in by 10:30 p.m. on Saturday nights.

• No dates were permitted when scheduled events were taking place.

• Boys were allowed in the dormitory parlors on Monday through Friday after evening meals until 9:00 p.m., Saturday noon until 10:30 p.m. and Sunday noon until 9:00 p.m.

• No girl was to visit in the men's dormitory at any time.

• Playing any musical instrument in the dormitory or typing was prohibited after 11:00 p.m.

• Pets were not allowed in any dormitory.

20 Years Ago
Week of December 8, 2005

SUGAR GROVE

Silent Majority Needs To Take a Stand

Whether to greet one another with "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays" is being kicked around. Little by little one's embedded culture is being whittled away. What

will go next? The religious stamps, singing of Christmas carols, Christmas decorations (trees and lights)? Easter celebrations? Halloween fun? Where will it stop, or will it ever? The Australian government has taken a stand. They basically have said that people, who don't want to be Australians, and they don't want to live by Australian values and understand them, well then they can basically "clear off." They have the opportunity to go to another country, which practices what they want.

The writer would like to suggest that it is because of this country's values and embedded culture that one has become such a great nation. So great, that peoples from every nation desire to live here. Then why would one, as a nation, wish to become "generic"? Perhaps it is time for the silent majority to seek a leader, to lobby for American rights and be heard. That ever popular talk show host, Paul Harvey, has expressed the silent majority's concerns so well.

I don't believe in Santa Clause, but I'm not going to sue somebody for singing a Ho-Ho-Ho song in December. I don't agree with Darwin, but I didn't go out and hire a lawyer when my high school teacher taught his theory of evolution.

Life, liberty or your pursuit of happiness will not be endangered because someone says a 30-second prayer before a football game.

So, what's the big deal? It's not like somebody is up there reading the entire book of Acts. They're just talking to a God they believe in and asking him to grant safety to the players on the field and the fans going home from the game."

But it's a Christian prayer, some will argue.

Yes, and this is the United States of America, a country founded on Christian principles. According to our very own phone book, Christian churches outnumber all others better than 200-to-1. So what would you expect, someone chanting the Hare Krishna?

If I went to a football game in Jerusalem, I would expect to hear a Jewish prayer.

If I went to a soccer game in Baghdad, I would expect to hear a Muslim prayer.

If I went to a ping pong match in China, I would expect to hear someone pray to Buddha.

And I wouldn't be offended. It wouldn't bother me one bit. When in Rome..."

30 Years Ago
Week of December 7, 1995

County Deer Kill Rises to 2,553

Another 312 bucks were killed in Pendleton County last week which added to the 2,241 killed the week before which brings the total buck kill in Pendleton County during the two weeks of bucks only hunting this year to 2,553.

Hunters continue to lament

the scarcity of bucks and abundance of does roaming the woods this year, but no doubt there will be fewer does around this week when a three-day antler-less season will be in effect Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

40 Years Ago
Week of December 12, 1985

Family Dollar To Open Store Here

CHARLOTTE, N. C. — Family Dollar's 1000th Store Grand Opening Celebration which began on November 21, 1985, with 976 stores open, has surpassed the plan to have 1000 stores in operation prior to December 25, 1985. With 28 additional stores opening through December 15 and today's announcement of seven more scheduled to open December 19 and 20, Family Dollar will now have a total of 1,011 stores!

One of the stores opening Thursday, December 19, is in Franklin and is Family Dollar's 39th West Virginia store. It is located in Franklin Shopping Plaza next to Payless Supermarket off U.S. 33-220. It will open at 10 a.m.

Family Dollar was founded in 1959 with a single store in Charlotte, N. C., and on December 20 will have more than 6,440,513 square feet of total sales space and 1011 stores. The company presently operates in 22 states.

Big Bubble Is Shelter For Property

Clothing, furniture and household items which have been donated to area flood victims are being stored and distributed from a huge bubble building located on school property back of Franklin High School.

Made of reinforced plastic material, the structure is 325 feet long, 125 feet wide and 37 feet high. It has no rigid supports but maintains its shape by air pressure forced into the canopy by seven four-foot diameter fans. The fans operate automatically and one or more turns on as air pressure in the structure requires.

The bubble building, valued at a quarter million dollars, was donated to the county by Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company and Monongahela Power Company donated 150 five-foot anchors to hold the building in place.

DAHMER

Eddie Warner with the Department of Agriculture placed bait traps over Pendleton to check on the gypsy moth. His bait boxes trapped between 50 and 60 male gypsy moths in about all parts of Pendleton County. None were trapped on Spruce Knob.

There was an old superstition when a new baby arrived, the parents would take the baby and place its hand on something they wanted it to be when it grew up. For example, the writer knows of one couple

that placed their son's hand on an ax handle. Now, if this were possible, the writer is wondering on what Robert and Kathy Propst will place their son's Chad Nathaniel's hand?

Roscoe Johnson and others were checking in this area for pine blister rust. Gooseberries are alternate hosts by which the rust spreads. After recovering from the Great Depression, a work project for the gooseberry bushes was locally called the gooseberry gang. This gang placed twine strings in order to tell what area they were to work. In those days money was scarce and many a boy or girl or even older people would go wrap the strings up into balls. One day Virginia (Propst) Killander was busy wrapping up the string when she caught up with the many putting out the twine. She dropped the twine and later remarked, "Boy, did I run!"

50 Years Ago
Week of December 11, 1975

DAHMER

This season more smoke can be seen curling up from chimneys than last year, which means more folks are using wood to keep expenses down. Maybe this is a way to help Santa Claus bring presents to good girls and boys.

Due to not many children in this community, there has been no Christmas program here for several years. Someone got the bright idea to have Mt. Zion and St. Luke churches to have a combined Christmas program at St. Luke on Thursday, December 25 at 7:00 p.m. The Christmas spirit is being rekindled and an excellent program is anticipated.

60 Years Ago
Week of December 9, 1965

1400 Report For Labor Interviews Over Weekend

More than 1,400 persons were interviewed in Franklin during the past weekend by executives of a firm considering Pendleton County as a site for the construction of a plant in their expansion program.

The interviews were conducted in the courthouse in Franklin by the president, vice president, and three other executives of the firm, assisted by a representative of the West Virginia Department of Commerce and several members of Pendleton Industries, Inc.

More than 600 persons reported for interviews Sunday, 475 Saturday, and 340 on Friday.

Company officials were of the opinion that a decision on the plant location would be made by the first of the year.

70 Years Ago
Week of December 8, 1955

Charleston Man Gets Prize 28-Point Buck

One of the finest trophy kills reported in the county was a 28-point buck killed by L. W. Cobb, 36, of Charleston.

Cobb, who was spending the week with Elmer Propst of Brandywine, killed the big fellow on the South Fork. He said he saw it last year while hunting there and shot at it three times but missed it. Since then he has had his 30.06 gun barrel turned down and his sights adjusted so he was ready for him this year.

"He was old and poor," Cobb said, "but he was unusually large. I would estimate his weight at about 200 pounds."

Cobb said he had hunted all over West Virginia but he liked Pendleton County best. "I like Pendleton County squirrel hunting too," Cobb added. "I was here four days during the season and got my limit."

EDITORIALS

Our Band Needs A Boost

Our Pendleton County schools have produced many groups, individuals and organizations in recent years of which we have been very proud. One of the organizations which has proved to be exceptionally successful and popular is the Franklin School Band. As proof of its popularity, it frequently has been demonstrated that the best way to get a large crowd at any public gathering is to announce that the Franklin Band will play. It never fails to pack them in.

We sometimes forget, however, that these groups, no matter how outstanding, need the support of our citizens. Providing a good band requires more than simply teaching several youngsters to play a horn. The members of the band need instruments, they need uniforms and if they are to participate in events outside the county, they need transportation facilities.

Members of the Franklin Band have not had new uniforms for ten years. Their present uniforms have been patched and darned so many times that the boys and girls have become ashamed to be seen in them. The band has had opportunities to play at several celebrations recently, but they have had great difficulty in obtaining transportation facilities and the youngsters have been reluctant to play because of their appearance.

The band has meant a great deal to the citizens of the county. They are always ready and willing to play for local celebrations and gatherings and they play well. Walter Judy has done an excellent job in developing a band of which we can be proud. But they have come to the place where they are now in need of assistance.

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Smith Creek/ Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

Only two more weeks to Christmas. Is one ready?

In less than two weeks winter starts. The area has already had its first measurable snowfall.

Good luck to the bear hunters going out until the end of the year. Doe hunting is this weekend, and muzzleloader season comes in on Monday for the week. Good luck.

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: "When those failures occur, we must prayerfully dust ourselves off and turn to Jesus, the One who died for us and lives for us."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for Dec. 1 through Dec. 7 were as follows: Dec. 1 - 37°, 25° (56°, 26°), Dec. 2 - 44°, 30°, .07" (34°, 20°), Dec. 3 - 45°, 23° (32°, 11°), Dec. 4 - 37°, 26° (38°, 13°), Dec. 5 - 35°, 22°, 3" snow (33°, 18°, .04" + .25" snow), Dec. 6 - 44°, 20° (28°, 17°) and Dec. 7 - 43°, 25° (41°, 20°).

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Catholics Portray '12 Days of Christmas' as Faith Not Folklore

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

Catholics and Protestants celebrate the Christmas season from Jesus' birth, December 25, until the day before the Epiphany. The Epiphany is the celebration of when the three wise men visited Joseph, Mary, and Jesus in Bethlehem. Since the church is still celebrating, it's a great opportunity to leave one's Christmas decorations up a little longer!

The meaning behind the song "Twelve Days of Christmas" comes from a legend, where Catholic families courageously developed unique ways to secretly pass the faith onto their children. Everyone now has the song "Twelve Days of Christmas" to enjoy.

The first day of Christmas: A Partridge in a pear tree.....a bird representing Jesus who sacrificed his life, just as the bird that is known to do this.

The Second Day of Christmas: Two Turtle Doves....symbols of love, fidelity, and connection. The two doves represent the Old and New Testament.

The Third Day of Christmas: Three French Hens...signify faith, hope, and love.

The Fourth Day of Christmas: Four Calling Birds...signify the four Gospels.

The Fifth Day of Christmas: Five Golden Rings...represent the first five books of the Old Testament.

The Sixth Day of Christmas: Six Geese A-Laying...symbolizes the six days of creation, emphasizing God's power as the creator of the world.

The Seventh Day of Christmas: Seven Swans A-Swimming...representing the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Eighth Day of Christmas: Eight Maids A-Milking...symbolizing the eight Beatitudes, based on the Sermon on the Mount preached by Jesus.

The Ninth Day of Christmas: Nine Ladies Dancing...represents the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The Tenth Day of Christmas: Ten Lords A-Leaping...signifies the Ten Commandments.

The Eleventh Day of Christmas: Eleven Pipers Piping...represent the 11 faithful disciples.

The Twelfth Day of Christmas: Twelve Drummers Drumming... represents the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the Christian core beliefs.

The Twelfth day of Christmas ends on Epiphany which is when the wise men visited Jesus, which is fifth/sixth of January. That is when the Christmas season ends, and why some folk leave up their decorations long after Christmas.

Life's little daily instructions include the following:

1. Never give up on anybody.
2. Be kinder than necessary.
3. Become the most positive and enthusiastic person one knows.



Amanda Simmons Puffenbarger (1847-1921) was the daughter of Philip and Mary Ann Mowery Simmons. She was married to Amos Puffenbarger (1852-1902), son of Fry and Sarah Elizabeth Snyder Puffenbarger. Both Amanda and Amos are buried in the St. Michael Cemetery.

4. Write a letter of thanks for a given gift.

5. Send a card to a friend in the nursing home

The community was blanketed with snow...pure, white and with a peaceful scene. Motorists were warned that the roads would be slippery, so caution would be the best order of the day. Digital temperatures would end the week with dips into the teens.

This week's quotes are as follows:

"May December bring you countless blessings and endless joy." — Unknown

"Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall." — Larry Wilde

"December, being the last month of the year, cannot help but make us think of what is to come." — Fennel Hudson

"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold." — Aristotle

"Kindness is like snow...it beautifies everything it covers."

— Kahil Gibran

Sitting by the fireplace is cozy to hear the "Talk of the Grove."

Last Monday, Joyce Smith Cockrell, daughter of Noah Smith and granddaughter of Martin Smith, and Kathy and Dave Arnold of Midlo-

thian, Virginia, made a surprise visit to Phil Downs. They enjoyed visiting the Smith homeplace, and St. Michael Cemetery where many family members were fondly remembered.

Evan Arrington, and family of Morgantown came and spent the week with Bill and Donna Arrington. It was a time of fun and enjoyment.

Nathan and Emma Puffenbarger spent Saturday night with their grandparents, Robert and Nancy Hodges of Harrisonburg, Virginia. They enjoyed the Harrisonburg Christmas parade.

Joel and Betsy Farrar of Lynchburg, Virginia, were Saturday evening visitors of Willard and Judy Rader.

Clickety-clacks for the chin wagers are as follows:

• Clark Griswold used 25,000 lights on his house in the movie "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation."

• Christmas Island is located in the Indian Ocean.

• There are a total of 354 gifts in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" song.

• The first artificial Christmas tree was made of goose feathers.

• About 1.3 billion Christmas cards are sent every year.

The remaining December birthdays are as follows: Debbie Horst, 18th; Katelyn Frank, 20th; Roger Kiser and Glenna Koontz, 21st; Carly Mitchell, Terri Grogg, Tasha Bowers and Sharon Gillispie, 22nd; Betty Lamb and Suzanne Bruebeck, 23rd; Brenda Allen, 24th; Dottie Lambert and Jesus, 25th; Mark Rexrode, 27th; Macie Mitchell and Melissa Dahmer, 29th; Maria Miller and Doug Pitsenbarger, 30th; and Bobbie Armstrong and Clinton Bowers, 31st.

Concerns are for Mike Adams, Charles Anderson, Alfred Armstrong, Joan Ashley, Roger Ashley, Dave Basagic, Allen Beachler, Bobbie Bodkin, "Bo" Boggs, Larry Byers, Doreen Calhoun, Joyce Calhoun, Marie Cole, Stanley Dahmer, Kim Davis, Tommy Davis, Phil Downs, Steve Durham, Jennifer Errett, Isaac Eye, Mary Eye, Carl Gant, David Gillispie, Nancy Goland, Nancy Gonshor, Patsy Green, JC Hammer, Steve and Armanda Heavner, Hannah Hedrick, Jack and Starr Hedrick, Chuck and Tracy Hiett, Jim Hiner, Evan Hise, Tim Hively, Edsel and Mary Ann Hogan, Karen Holsten, Julia Homan, Charlie Marie Hoover, Keith Hoover, Debbie Horst, Bob and Cynthia Hurry, Mike and Lisa Jamison, Linda Jones, Richard Judy, Marsha Keller, Tara Kelley, Ruth Kile, the Tom Kline family, Kim Kline, Tracie Knight, Laura Kropp, Melissa Lambert, Robert Lambert, Rex Landis, Donna Mallow, Roger and Skip Mallow, Audree Marsh, Anna Mauzy, Ed May, Dave McConnell, Gene and Joan McConnell, the Mary Lea Hahn McCoy family, Gary McDonald, Rose Miller, Bruce Minor, Carroll and Dottie Mitchell, Dennis and Jamie Mitchell, Tom Mitchell, Barbara Moats, Gloria Moats, Sherri Moyers, Helen Nash, Aaron Nelson, Dominique Nelson, Dwight Nelson, Ruth Nelson, Cheryle Paine, Terri Parker, Andy Pond, Wayne Price, Janice Propst, Alda Propst, Mike Propst, Sheldon Propst, Eldon "Butch" Puffenbarger, Tom Rader, Willard Rader, Jason Rexrode, Jimmy Rexrode, Linda Fay Rexrode, Vesta Ruckman, Bernie Sasscer, Annie Simmons, Erin Simmons, Eva Simmons, Greg Simmons, Judy Simmons, Nelson Simmons, Tonya Simon, Robbie Sites, Mike Skiles, Bruce Smith, Ed and Carolyn Smith, Natalie Stephenson, Tina Stuben, Steve Stump, Linda and Larry Vandevander, Junior Waggy, Mary Louise Waldschlager, Rene White, Sherry Wilfong, Judy Williams, Patty Willis and Ann and Ed Wimer.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 15
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Peppers, Onions, Let & Tomato
Potato Wedges
Fruit Cocktail

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17
Chicken Tenders
Macaroni & Cheese
Lima Beans, Tropical Fruit

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18
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• Contest is divided into two grade categories:

Preschool and Kindergarten and First, Second and Third Grade

• The top three entries in both age categories will receive a cash prize.

• Contestants must use crayons, colored pencils or markers.

• ALL entries must be submitted with the contest entry form.

• Previous years' winners are encouraged to enter,

but are not eligible to win prizes in consecutive years.

• Entries must be received at "The Pendleton Times" office by Monday, December 15, either by drop off at the office or mail.

Mail to PO Box 906, Franklin, WV 26807.

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Pendleton County Schools Examines Joining PVC for Unified Sports Programs

By Stephen Smoot

During the past several years, the Potomac Valley Conference has served up some of the best in Class A through Class AAA high school varsity sports teams in the state. From the Wildcats dominating the field in softball last year to Frankfort's improbable victory in the state football championship this year, some of the state's best high school athletes compete on these fields, courts, courses, and more.

Through the Potomac Valley Conference, however, has come growing momentum to provide a broader sports opportunity for those who want the enjoyment of sports and the fun and fellowship of joining a team, but prefer an emphasis on fun participation more than victories and titles.

Derek Lambert, Pendleton County Middle/High School principal, approached the Pendleton County Board of Education last week to share that the Potomac Valley Conference "wants to bring back the Unified Sports Program that was around several years ago."

The concept of the Unified Sports Program originated with the Special Olympics. It creates athletic experiences that, according to the Special Olympics website, "joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding."

It goes on to add that "having sports in common is just one more way that precon-



Though not part of the SOWV Unified Sports Program, the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind's goal ball team serves the same purpose of connecting athletes with differing abilities and challenges.

ceptions and false ideas are swept away."

Special Olympics of West Virginia offers a wide selection of opportunities, including

basketball, bowling, golf, flag football, softball, volleyball, cornhole, and bocce ball.

Keyser High School fields a bocce ball

team through the Unified Sports Program. One of the oldest sports in the world, history first sees evidence of it played by ancient Egyptians even before the invention of writing. Italy currently serves as the world's capital of the sport. Harrison County's large Italian-American community holds regular bocce ball tournaments in Shinnston.

Centuries ago, England tweaked the game somewhat and gave it the name "bowling."

Another area school fields a team that evokes the spirit of Unified Sports, but is not yet included in the Special Olympics of West Virginia's list of offerings. The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind field one of the best high school squads in the nation at the sport of "goal ball." This sport takes soccer inside, puts it on a court filled with tactile clues showing location, then puts blinders on the players.

In this fashion, visually impaired players and those with full sight share the same sensual challenges and can play together.

Lambert told the board and superintendent that "we're not asking for money, but for an opportunity to join the rest of the Potomac Valley Conference counties in offering this opportunity to students who would not otherwise have it."

The PVC will organize first at the high school level, with plans to expand and include sixth- to eighth-graders, eventually.

Board members passed Lambert's request unanimously, with J. D. Wilkins, board president, wishing them "good luck."

FES Students Recognized for Academic Achievements

The faculty at Franklin Elementary School has released the following honor rolls, citizenship award, top five Accelerated Readers and Story Book Club for the first nine-week's grading period.

A Honor Roll

1A (Ruddle) — Emerson Byers, Liam Kesterson and Rose Latif;

1B (Nicely) — Cayde Ayala, Juniper Brooks, Layla Dudley, Kynley Hedrick, Rhett Hott, Keraun Nibblins, Naomi Nine-Miller, Brielle Raines, Olivia Seymour, Amelia Spillars-Auville and Connor Trenton;

2A (Mowery) — Raiden Boggs, Ruger Hartman, Mikaylie Hedrick, Colt Hiett, Ellanore Hoover, Richard Spillars-Auville, Jada Verdoni and Genevieve Wimer;

2B (George) — Karma Calhoun, River Gilley, Carlea Hedrick, Addyson Horton, Silas Kain, Alby Nesselrodt, Waylon Ours and Violet Vanmeter;

3A (Kimble) — Micah Botkin, Charli Hiett, Layne Kimble, Jase Mitters, Bryson Rexrode and Cash Varner;

3B (Dove) — Trenton Bowers, Charles Caplinger, Eve Hott, Paisley Hott, Emma Humphrey, Kinley Minor, Bryer Moyers, Braylee Propst, Maci Raines and Kylan Shriver;

4A (Griffin) — Madison Borror, Abigail Cayton, Mia Dudley, Mason Mowery, Adara Plaugher, Nathanael Vincell, Leah Wheeler and Colton Whetzel;

4B (Eye) — Mattox Ayala, Lola Brooks, Sloane Donnelly, Hunter Hedrick, Urban Jones, Kaci Keller, Maddie Nesselrodt, Rosalyn Nesselrodt and Emmett Sisson;

5A (Triplet) — Greysen Eckard, Greyson Gilbert, Gracie Hedrick and Sunny Milstead;

5B (Plaugher) — Sicily Flanigan, Stella Halterman, Luke Kimble and Adelynn Miller;

6A (Cook) — Ella Dudley, Bella Kimble and Gracelyn Mongold; and

6B (Nine-Miller) — Tinley Basagic, Raelynn Bergdoll, Bristol Bowers and Connor Raines.

AB Honor Roll

1A (Ruddle) — Sylvie Donnelly, Mason LaFollette, Easton Simmons and Marlee Simon;

1B (Nicely) — Alessandra Christian, Catherine Eye, Colt Mallow, Oliver Mowery, Adalysia Turner and Bryer Wood

2A (Mowery) — Jaylyn Hedrick, Kaleigh Kidwell, Colin Kirk, Macie Kirk and Evelyn White;

2B (George) — Silas Flanigan, Hallie Hedrick, Harper Hedrick, Mason Hinkle, Makinley Simon and Gia Verdoni;

3A (Kimble) — Anasen Bishop, Wyatt Calhoun, Kane Gill, Lane Nesselrodt, Alastor Propst, Evealynn Severance, Jonah Seymour and Madelyn Trenton;

3B (Dove) — Hendrix Bogan, Liam Cooper, Harlyn Hartman, Mackenzie Mallow and Devlan Purcell;

4A (Griffin) — Hailey Ferris, Dani Hoover, Paisley Jackson, Madison Mongold and Baylee Ours;

4B (Eye) — Keylan Bailey, Josiah Botkin, Madalyn Griffin, Finley Harper, Chandler Mauzy and Ryan Thompson;

5A (Triplet) — Isaiah Botkin, Luke Gilley, Dallis Hull, Remington Kimble, Eowyn Propst, Branson Purcell and Jaedynn Severance;

5B (Plaugher) — Lukas Baldwin, Krislee Hammer, Shayleigh Landon, Landon Mallow and Ava Rose;

6A (Cook) — Olivia Caplinger, Harper Dempsey, Hyrum Hartman and Paxton Traub; and

6B (Nine-Miller) — Michelina Browder, Russell Eckard and Wyatt Hott.

Citizenship

KA (Flanigan) — Jeremiah Botkin and Emery Griffin;

KB (Bennett/Keplinger) — Colson Bland and Naomi Harvey;

1A (Ruddle) — Charlee Hoover and Mason LaFollette;

1B (Nicely) — Colt Mallow and Olivia Seymour;

2A (Mowery) — Colin Kirk and Macie Kirk;

2B (George) — Carlea Hedrick and Hugh Moyers;

3A (Kimble) — Zoe Souza and Cash Varner;

3B (Dove) — Bryer Moyers and Maci Raines;

4A (Griffin) — Adara Plaugher and Nathanael Vincell;

4B (Eye) — Rosalyn Nesselrodt and Emmett Sisson;

5A (Triplet) — Leah Puffenbarger and Branson Purcell;

5B (Plaugher) — Stella Halterman and Luke Kimble;

6A (Cook) — Ella Dudley and Hyrum Hartman; and

6B (Nine-Miller) — Tinley Basagic and Julian Jackson.

Top 5 Accelerated Readers

1A (Ruddle) — Liam Kesterson (46 points), Brielle Mauzy (25 points), Arlo Brooks (20 points), Rose Latif (16 points) and Sylvie Donnelly (14 points);

1B (Nicely) — Olivia Seymour (26.6 points), Rhett Hott (23.8 points), Alessandra Christian (22.2 points), Amelia Spillars-Auville (19 points) and Oliver Mowery (16.2 points);

2A (Mowery) — Macie Kirk (76.4 points), Jada Verdoni (38.4 points), Kaleigh Kidwell (36.7 points), Mikaylie Hedrick (34.1 points) and Colin Kirk (27 points);

2B (George) — Silas Kain (26.4 points), Hallie Hedrick (25.8 points), River Gilley (21.1 points), Makinley Simon (18.2 points)

and Alby Nesselrodt (16.5 points);

3A (Kimble) — Wyatt Calhoun (35.9 points), Jase Mitters (33.5 points), Bryson Rexrode (23.5 points), Micah Botkin (22.1 points) and Evealynn Severance (20.9 points);

3B (Dove) — Eve Hott (20.3 points), Emma Humphrey (20 points), Kylan Shriver (19.9 points), Maci Raines (17.5 points) and Kinley Minor (14.3 points);

4A (Griffin) — Nathanael Vincell (37.6 points), Adara Plaugher (32.5 points), Colton Whetzel (27.8 points), Mia Dudley (23.8 points) and Chase George (22.1 points);

4B (Eye) — Urban Jones (98.4 points), Maddie Nesselrodt (34.2 points), Hunter Hedrick (27.5 points), Sloane Donnelly (21.2 points) and Rosalyn Nesselrodt (18.8 points);

5A (Triplet) — Sunny Milstead (119.2 points), Gracie Hedrick (36.4 points), Greyson Gilbert (28.1 points), Jaedynn Severance (23 points) and Eowyn Propst (20.7 points);

5B (Plaugher) — Adalynn Severance (35.9 points), Adelynn Miller (26.8 points), Luke Kimble (25.3 points), Stella Halterman (23.8 points) and Krislee Hammer (23.4 points);

6A (Cook) — Olivia Caplinger, Harper Dempsey, Chloe Landon, Graysen Alt and Gracelyn Mongold; and

6B (Nine-Miller) — Bristol Bowers, Tinley Basagic, Connor Raines, Wyatt Hott and Raelynn Bergdoll.

Storybook Hero Club

PreKA (Simmons) — Tucker Hedrick, Colton McLane, Asher Morgan and Marley Schell;

PreKB (Bailey) — Victoria Cook, Caroline Hebb, Ivy Latif, Kamryn Raymond, Greydon Verdoni and Cora Wimer;

KA (Flanigan) — Cora Bowers, Emery Griffin, William Hedrick, Myles Huffman, Andrew Melton, Kendall Schell, Brayden Shepherd and Magnolia Warner; and

KB (Bennett/Keplinger) — Colson Bland, Samuel Crites, Liam Dove, Jace Eckard, Ryder Evans, Allyssa Fidell, Preston Forbus, Naomi Harvey, Ruby Herb, Ethan Humphrey, Kaysen Kidwell, Ryker Lambert, Remi Pike, Scarlette Plaugher, Gabriel Verdoni and Alaric Zaychenko.



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PCMHS Honor Roll Released for First Nine Weeks

Ali Judy, Pendleton County Middle/High School counselor, has released the following honor rolls for the first nine week's grading period.

Principal's Honor Roll

All A's (First Nine Weeks)

Seventh grade — Landon Bowers, Eli Boyer, Isabella Cooper, Skye Dahmer, Ava Davis, Tori Heavner, Alaina Hedrick, Alexandria Jameson, Breymann Keeseecker, Madison Kirk, Emma Nesselrodt, Doyle Plaugher, Roscoe Pownell, Elaina Raines and River Zutaut;

Eighth grade — Beckett Aumann, Allison Barbour, Kinley Bennett, Anthony Bowman, Mackenzie Day, Vaylee Harper, Daisy Hartman, Cayden Hensley, Alayna Huffman, Kallie Keyser, Miley Kimble, Noah Kobetic, Carmella Paugh, Journey Rowe, Lainey Simmons, Branson Smith and Aniyah Spencer;

Ninth grade — Tatum Aumann, Laney Bowers, Cohen Hiett, Isabella Jameson, Ziva Jones, Abigail Judy, Carolina Kimble, Mason Miller, Evie Nulph, Jude Propst, Elijah Ruddle, Lauren Williams and Jackson Wimer;

Tenth grade — Chesnee Colaw, Sam Eason, Dylan Eye, Alena Fertig, Mason Harper, Katie Heavner, Katie Keyser, Chloe Kisamore, Candace McQuain, Phoebe Pownell, Ben Puffenbarger, Albert Ramos-Rivera, Allison Reuss, Jonah See, Lauren Sisson, Kaylee Teter and Danielle Warner;

Eleventh grade — Alex Adams, Olivia Gonshor, Cole Harper, Spencer Hartman, Ty Heavner, Callie Judy, Gabriella Trail, Susan Vincell and Brennan Wyatt; and

Twelfth grade — Breanna Bowers, Landen Champ, Corbin Dove, Kiera Heavner, Gena Lambert, Orrin Merrick, Jaiden Mitts, Leah Nesselrodt, Chase Owens, Jonas Turner and Carolyn Varner.

Regular Honor Roll

3.0 Average (First Nine Weeks)

Seventh grade — Cambree Alt, Sadie Armentrout, Chloe Barkley, Braxton Beachler, Emily Boggs, Olivia Botkin, Kenden Champ, Owen Champ, Adalycia Davis, Emma Graham, Nickolas Harper, Hayden Hartman, Alexis Hedrick, Chelsea Hedrick, Cambri Hiett, Addy Huffman, Alaska Kimble, Callen Kisamore, Garrett Lambert, Madison Mallow, Leigha Maxson, Tucker Minor, Jackson Moyers, Nolin Neddedog, Chevelle Noble, Loralei Price, Cooper Roberson, Marion Williams, Bentley Wimer and Levi Wimer;

Eighth grade — Jada Alt, Cali Alt, Reagyn Atkins, Weston Boyer, Carly Braham, Kya Brogan, Paizley Bussard, Eulaila Dahmer,

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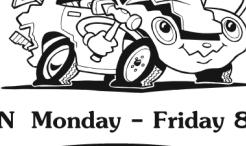
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Day.

Poinsettias are native to Mexico. The ancient

Aztecs used poinsettias to make red dye, and

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Virginia, in Deed Book 140,

at Page 359, Phyllis A.

As Winter Comes to the Monongahela National Forest, a Few Things Need To Be Remembered

By Stephen Smoot

Winter brings its own kind of beauty and glory to the Monongahela National Forest in the winter time. That comes with more opportunities to enjoy its majesty, but only if those who go understand the special dangers that extreme weather can create.

Those who enjoy a very old-fashioned Christmas, complete with harvesting one's own tree, can obtain a permit.

On recreation.gov, those looking for their own tree can apply for a permit to harvest from the Greenbrier, Marlinton, or Gauley districts. One may only harvest from the district for which they receive a permit.

Unlike the United States National Park System, national forests have private property holdings within their bounds. The United States Forest Service states unequivocally "do not trespass onto private property when cutting your tree" and that "private property is shown as white on the maps."

The forest service also

has specific guidelines for tree selection, first and foremost to select an evergreen and not a deciduous tree. "Select a tree with needles," it states, "do not cut any hemlock trees or hardwood trees, such as oak or maple."

Other rules include to select a tree growing within a stand, as opposed to by itself out in the open. This will "give remaining trees space to grow." This rule should remind all that this program serves the need of managing the forest, as well as spreading a little Christmas cheer.

Both the United States Forest Service and also the Pendleton County Office of Emergency Management urge anyone driving into the forest road network to plan ahead before going.

For example, as a recent OEM Facebook post reminded, "Roads to Spruce Knob and Reddish Knob are not plowed or treated" during snowfalls and other extreme weather events. "The conditions on these high elevation mountain roads can, and will, be hazardous from now until spring."

The best strategy lies in checking internet information or in calling the area district ranger station to determine if the road is maintained in winter or not. As the OEM warns, "You are literally taking your life in your hands to travel these roads. And, once you have had your accident, you jeopardize the lives and safety of first responders tasked with helping you."

When the chill of winter dissipates into spring breezes, visitors may notice other changes as well. To ensure the maintenance of the forest's most popular sites, the Monongahela National Forest passed fees to enhance the revenues needed to protect the sites and keep them in top condition.

"Revenue is reinvested," says a release "into forest recreation sites in the form of extra trash pickups at highly visited campsites . . . septic and toilet pumping, painting, renovation of campsites through installation of ADA accessible amenities, and improving surfaces of camping spurs and paths." It will also help to fund better ranger presence at key sites.

These fees apply to various campsites throughout the National Forest. Many single site fees rose to \$10 or \$15. Double site fees went to \$20 or \$30, all depending on site. Group picnic area fees rose up to \$50 while large group camping sites may now charge between \$50 and \$100.

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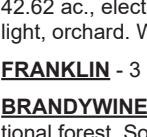
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The holiday season can be filled with joy, and it can be exhausting. Here are some tips for managing stress and finding the joy of the season.

- Set a budget and stick to it.
- Drawing boundaries — If you're asked to do something you do not want to do, you can say no.
- Dealing with grief — Instead of trying to avoid thinking about those you've lost, you can honor and celebrate them by getting together with other family members and friends and treasuring their life stories.
- Listen to music — Music is associated with stress reduction, and reducing stress will help ease burnout.
- Get outside — Exposure to sunlight and fresh air can be beneficial.

If you need extra support during this season, please speak with your doctor your concerns.

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Pendleton County Board of Education Discusses Fate of Closed School

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, the Pendleton County Board of Education held its opening meeting of the month of December. Snowy and dangerous conditions had forced the closing of school that day, then again on Friday and this Monday.

J. D. Wilkins, president of the Pendleton County Board of Education, offered the invocation, praying, "Bless us through this winter . . . bless our meeting tonight."

To kick off the meeting, Nicole Hevener, Pendleton County superintendent, lauded the success of Pendleton County Middle/High School varsity sports during the fall, including "all three teams advancing to state level competition." She congratulated their players and coaching staffs.

Additionally, the golf and cross country teams both sent competitors to states, making the fall highly successful for the Wildcats overall.

"Well done!" added Wilkins.

Hevener then recommended approving the posting of open positions for tutoring help at both Brandywine and Franklin elementary schools.

J. P. Mowery delivered the financial update, which included the welcome news that for the "first month ever with over \$4 million" in the combined current balances for Pendleton County Schools. He went on to report that the drop in interest rates overall had moved PCS from 14.29 percent to 14.09 percent, but that still left \$11,847.63 in interest to PCS for the month of October alone. From the opening of the fiscal year, PCS has earned just under \$46,600 in interest benefit.

Mowery then shared highlights from bills charged. One of the biggest came from the Board of Risk, which manages liability insurance for the school system. The quarterly payment made came to \$46,292. Mowery stated, "I remember when those payments were about \$50,000 per year."

As he explained in previous months, though Pendleton County had very low exposure to liability issues, the rest of the "pool" in which PCS participates had significant issues. This resulted in "a substantial increase over the last four or five years," not PCS misuses.

Bus maintenance and reliability woes continue to bedevil area school systems, Pendleton County included. Transmission problems led to a major expense in that department. Mowery noted that "too many buses have that problem." While repairs are pricey, the state reimburses PCS for 95 percent of the cost.

A new addition to the PCMSHS athletic department's stable of equipment should create some smiles from the outdoor sports squads. Derek Lambert, principal at Pendleton County Middle/High School, discussed the Turf Tank Field Striping device. As he explained, with "the push of a button," the robot will line a baseball or softball field or also do the lines and

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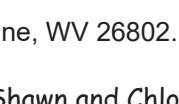
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