

THE PENDLETON TIMES

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Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia 26807

Thursday
December 4, 2025



Last year's toy drive at the Pendleton County Family Support Center in Franklin provided toys for families unable to purchase items for their children. Edna Mullenax shared that they encourage and welcome more toy donations through the end of this week.

Pendleton County Family Support Center Offers Full Month of Holiday Activities

By Stephen Smoot

For many families with children, the holidays serve as a special time to gather, enjoy each other's company, and celebrate their faith. Others, however, face challenges. The onset of cold weather can catch families unprepared to dress warmly. The desire to provide a good Christmas experience for children can place stresses on families as well.

In West Virginia, Family Support Centers provide myriad means of support and assistance for those families with children in the most need.

Franklin's Family Support Center, formerly Family Resource Center, opened its doors two years ago and has emerged as a vital means by which families can get help, advice, or sometimes, just a place to relax and socialize.

The FSC currently serves families at its facility on 22 Main Street in Franklin.

During the Franklin Town Christmas parade, the FSC will provide a warming station during the day's festivities, as well as for the evening parade.

At 9:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of every month, including December, the FSC holds the "Grounds for Discussion" forum at the FSC office in Franklin. Local parents, grandparents, and others who care regularly for children have a standing invitation to come, enjoy fellowship, drink coffee, and share experiences, advice, and support.

Attendees can provide a listening ear, the benefit of their own experience, and hear ideas on the joy and work of raising children.

On social media recently, the Franklin's FSC

announced the welcome news that "our Saint Nick's Toy Chest has been blessed with lots of toys." Donations to the program ended on Monday.

Though stocked, FSC still welcomes donations of toys to make the Christmas season as bright as possible. "We hadn't got as many as last year," noted Edna Mullenax, executive director of the Family Support Center. Their goal lies in having enough to provide each child two toys. Seneca Rocks-Spruce Knob Telephone Company employees will deliver toys collected on the North Fork this week, but FSC still welcomes donations.

Families can come in next week for Saint Nick's Toy Chest. On Dec. 9 and 11 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., families with children from birth to 12 can come in, choose from the large selection, and even wrap presents to take home and place under the tree.

"Warm the Children has been doing wonderful," shared Mullenax. The FSC has enough to cover \$150 towards winter necessities for each child in the program. "We got a very good amount," she added.

If that tree lacks for hand crafted ornamentation, the FSC has planned a Christmas Craft Making session from 3 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 16. Attendees can make ornaments for the tree, decorations for the home, or even homemade gifts to give to others. Light refreshments will help to fuel the fun and fellowship.

December's events culminate in a grand Christmas party from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Dec. 20. Santa will greet the children and help to hand out free books and other gifts.

Why Do Gas Prices Vary So Much From Town to Town Or Even Nearby Locations?

By Stephen Smoot

For some, it serves as a frustration. For others, it feels more like a game of finding the best value. For almost all it's a mystery why gas stations in different towns, and sometimes even the same town have different pricing. What sets gasoline prices for an individual shop, a chain, or in a local area?

Aggravation turns into resentment when the same communities see much higher prices than others. For well over a year of more, gasoline prices in Franklin, Moorefield, and Petersburg have hovered around \$3.19 and \$3.29. In the Keyser area, prices have stayed in the \$2.80s and \$2.90s in New Creek, while gas stations closer to and in the city of Keyser charge significantly more.

One could categorize factors that contribute to why gasoline prices are what they are into two categories.

"Macro" reasons reflect the global economy and how the federal and state governments each have myriad regulations governing gasoline at all stages of production and distribution. A number of states have differing laws with California's being the most notorious in bringing the people of its state extra cost per gallon.

The United States Energy Information Administration explains how global, national, and even state actions

affect the prices each person pays for gasoline. It explains the movement of the average cost of gasoline in the United States as a baseline and, in general, serves as the nonpartisan statistical and analytical branch of the U.S. Department of Energy.

Four major factors go into the national gasoline price average — the cost of crude oil, the cost of refining it into gasoline, marketing and distribution costs, and taxes charged at every level.

As an example, the U.S. EIA offers a comparison between the price of gasoline between 2014 and 2023, when gasoline averaged \$2.85 a gallon, and 2023 itself when the average rocketed to \$3.52 a gallon.

Between 2014 and 2023, refining costs made up 15.3 percent of the price, but that leapt to 18.7 percent in 2023. Companies spent 15.1 percent on distribution and marketing between 2014 and 2023, but 14.3 percent in 2023. Federal and state governments took 17.3 percent in taxes from 2014 to 2023, but that dipped to 14.3 percent in 2023.

The price of oil remained the major factor, 52.3 percent between 2014 and 2023, and 52.6 percent in 2023.

"What really moves up or down gasoline prices is crude oil," T. Mason Hamilton, a senior petroleum markets

Beckstrom, Wolfe National Guard Tribute held in Webster Springs



Webster Springs High School has held several vigils to honor the sacrifice of their graduate, Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, and to pray for fellow victim, Sergeant Andrew Wolfe. As of Monday, Gov. Patrick Morrisey shared optimistic news about Wolfe, a Martinsburg native.

By Stephen Smoot

When America sends its fighting men and women to far-flung areas of the world to do battle and protect freedom, casualties all too often result. Those service men and women receive recognition through monuments or statues that commemorate their service and demand permanent remembrance of their sacrifice.

After the United States Civil War, Northern and Southern courthouse lawns alike featured the statue of a single Union or Confederate soldier to represent the loss and its legacy.

Someday, visitors to the Webster County Courthouse in Webster Springs may see a solemn reminder of the murder of West Virginia Army National Guard Specialist Sarah Beckstrom.

"My baby girl has passed to Glory," her grieving father, Gary Beckstrom, posted to social media.

Hopefully, Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe of Martinsburg will not need to have a similar monument at the Berkeley County Courthouse, as he still battles for his life.

On a National Public Radio Broadcast, West Virginia State Senator Jason Barrett shared his thoughts and prayers, then added "it's certainly something baffling to me . . . why anyone would want to just go and . . . have a vicious and unprovoked attack on two people who are there merely and solely to protect others."

"When I heard that some of our guardsmen were going to be deployed, I said a prayer for them, too," related Nicolas Diehl, chief ad-

ministrator of the Eastern Regional Airport that hosts the 167th Airlift Group.

Beckstrom joined the National Guard to build a foundation that, as the New York Post reported, would likely have helped her achieve her dream of a career at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

While the rest of the nation responded in shock at the shooting that took place just before the Thanksgiving holiday, Webster County remembers and mourns the 2023 Webster County High School graduate. A number of national and international press outlets ran a photo of her in red graduation garb, smiling in happier times.

"There are no words big enough for this loss," West Virginia Metro News quoted the Webster County Veterans Auxiliary as expressing.

She joined right after graduation, entering service in June of 2023 and serving in the 863rd Military Police Company 111th Engineer Brigade. That unit operates from the Glen Jean Armory. Her full time job lay in working at a center that treats people with mental illness

Severely wounded, but still battling, Wolfe, 24 years old, serves with the Force Support Squadron, 167th Airlift Wing, West Virginia Air National Guard.

A week prior to their mission, the United States Army published an article on the impact of "DC Safe and Beautiful," under which Wolfe, Beckstrom, and other Guard service men and women served in the Nation's Capital.

Continued on Page 5

Franklin VFD Responds to Structure Fire

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, Engine 22, Engine 23, and Tanker 25 responded to a structure fire on the 800 block of Simmons Mountain Road near Moyers.

The call came in at about 9:46 p.m. and when crews arrived, according to the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department Facebook page, they "found a large equipment garage fully involved with several exposure buildings nearby."

Three hose lines ran from Engine 22 to contain the fire and prevent spread to the nearby structures. Tankers ensured that sufficient water remained available to douse the blaze completely. Additionally, crews had to perform "extensive overhaul to remove metal siding so all areas of fire could be extinguished."

At that point, Engine 22's deck gun came into play to finish putting out the fire.

Several area agencies responded in support. These included South Fork Volunteer Fire Department, VFDs from McDowell and Highland County in Virginia, and Pendleton County Emergency Rescue. Upper Tract VFD moved a tanker to Franklin in case it was needed. Circleville VFD was initially dispatched, but returned to service.

The call ended a little after 1 a.m. after approximately



Another successful call means that no member of the many hard-working crews in response got hurt and the fire did not spread.

15,000 gallons were poured onto the blaze to put it out. Buildings not involved in the initial fire remained undamaged and, most importantly, no injuries occurred.

The call came as the FVFD and the emergency response community continue to mourn the passing of Franklin firefighter Brian Sites. His battle with cancer ended earlier this month, but not before he enjoyed the blessing of the birth of his "greatest accomplishment," his son, Jared.

Pendleton County's Office of Emergency Management posted on Facebook "Rest easy, Sir. Your brothers and sisters have it from here."

Community CALENDAR

Post 9666 To Meet

VFW Post 9666 will meet at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 11 at the post home in Sugar Grove.

Post 30 To Meet

American Legion Pendleton Post 30 will meet at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Star Restaurant in Franklin.

Jam Session To Be Held Saturday

A jam session with the Snowy Mountain Boys and Friends will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Clinton Heddick Community Building in Riverton.

Everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy some bluegrass and gospel music.

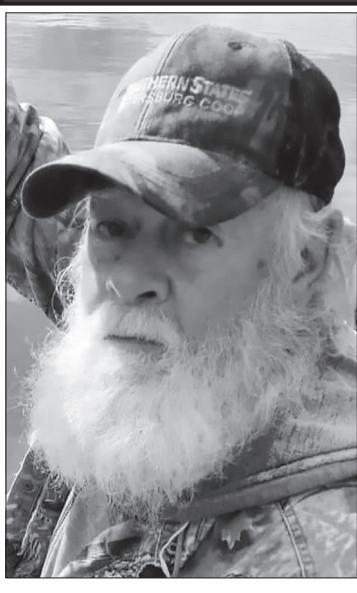
New Valley Four Quartet To Sing At Christ Central

A Christmas concert will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday at Christ Central Community Church in Upper Tract. The concert will feature The New Valley Four Quartet, along with a few members of the original Valley Four Quartet.

Everyone is welcome!

Continued on Page 5

OBITUARIES



Gary William Day

Gary William Day, 71, of Franklin passed away on Nov. 25, 2025, at Sentara RMH Hospital in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

He was born on Jan. 15, 1954, in Washington, D.C., the son of the late John and Dorothy (Sweeney) Day.

Mr. Day attended Bunker Hill Elementary School in Washington, D.C., and was a Catholic by faith.

He loved fishing and was quite the prankster with an amazing sense of humor.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory a son, Joseph Day (Saprena) of Franklin; a sister, Cheryl Day of Maryland; a brother, Bernie Day of Maryland; two grandchildren, Autumn Jones and Lailah Kalb; and his "furry friends," Kaili and Daisi.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Johnny Day.

In honoring his wishes, his body has been cremated.

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

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



Thomas Reon Kline

Thomas Reon Kline, 90, of Franklin passed away on Nov. 25, 2025, at his home due to complications from pulmonary fibrosis.

He was born Nov. 13, 1935, in Franklin, the son of the late Reon Howard "Red" Kline and Selma Grace Hinkle Kline.

A 1953 graduate of Franklin High School, Mr. Kline began working as a mechanic and Pontiac dealer alongside his father for several years at Kline Motor Sales until enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1958. He was assigned to Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, for basic training, Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, and to the U.S. Army base in Wurzburg, Germany, where he was assigned to the 82nd Corporal Missile Battalion. He received his honorable discharge from the military in September of 1960 at the rank of SP4. Following his military service, he returned to Franklin and the family business.

He was a charter member of the Franklin Ruritan Club, and a member of the American Legion Post 30. He was a lifelong member of the Franklin Presbyterian Church, where he served as deacon, ruling elder, and trustee.

He and his wife enjoyed

their time and friendships formed while square dancing with the Treasure Mountain Swingers western square dance club in the 1970s and 80s.

On Sept. 3, 1955, at the Mt. Zion UM Church in Deer Run, he married the former Lula Belle Hevener, who preceded him in death on July 19, 2021.

Surviving are a daughter, Kimberly Sue Kline of Franklin; a son and daughter-in-law, Jon Thomas and Amy Bisceglia Kline of Morgantown; a grandson, Carter Jon Kline of Morgantown and Naples, Florida; a granddaughter, Courtney Jean Kline of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; a brother and sister-in-law, Charles Conway and Sue Teter Kline of Fulshear, Texas; a few cousins; and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by his older brother, Waldo Eugene Kline, in 2005.

A funeral service was held on Monday at the Franklin Presbyterian Church in Franklin with Pastor Deborah Beam officiating. Burial was at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Franklin with military honors accorded by the West Virginia Army Honor Guard.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Franklin Presbyterian Church, PO Box 486, Franklin, WV 26807 or Pendleton County Emergency Rescue, PO Box 727, Franklin, WV 26807.

The family gratefully appreciates the care received from Grant Memorial Hospice, Kim Bowers and Leana Davis during his final days.

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

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin.



Managing Stress During the Holidays

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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Raleigh County Circuit Judge Rules in Favor of Public School Vaccine Exemptions

By Stephen Smoot

Two years ago, the West Virginia State Legislature passed the Equal Protection for Religious Protection Act of 2023, joining 45 other states that allow various waivers for vaccinations in schools.

Ever since, through the executive orders of Governor Patrick Morrisey, then bureaucratic and legal counterattacks by the West Virginia Department of Education, the right to seek an exemption has remained suspended. A decision last week in Raleigh County Circuit Court resulted in a permanent injunction "in favor of granting religious exemptions from compulsory vaccine requirements."

While those who oppose exemptions tend to categorize opposition as stemming from a lack of education in the science of vaccines, two of the world's major religions see conflicts between the composition of some vaccines and their faith.

The Roman Catholic Church has expressed concerns about vaccines whose original lines contained stem cells from aborted fetuses. Under the direction of Pope Benedict XVI, the Holy See's Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith issued Dignitas Personae, which offers guidelines to the faithful in situations where aborted fetus tissue is used for scientific research or has been used to manufacture lines of vaccines.

It reads, "For scientific research and for the production of vaccines or other products, cell lines are at times used which are the result of an illicit intervention against the life or physical integrity of a human being. The connection to the unjust act may be either mediate or immediate, since it is generally a question of cells which reproduce easily and abundantly."

It goes on to state that "all of this gives rise to various ethical problems with regard to cooperation in evil and with regard to scandal. It is fitting therefore to formulate general principles on the basis of which people of good conscience can evaluate and resolve situations in which they may possibly be involved on account of their professional activity."

In the question of whether a child may use a vaccine from those lines, the congregation explains that the question of sanctity of life must be balanced between the illicit origins of a vaccine and a present danger to the life of the child.

"Thus, for example, danger to the health of children could permit parents to use a vaccine which was developed using cell lines of illicit origin, while keeping in mind that everyone has the duty to make known their disagreement and to ask that their healthcare system make other types of vaccines available," reads the document. Each Roman Catholic parent has the responsibility to make that choice based on their best assessment of the potential for danger for the living child versus the violation of the rights of the aborted child.

Furthermore, the statement gives the Catholic faithful the moral obligation to express their moral concerns over such vaccinations.

Jewish and Muslim groups have expressed concern over porcine products used to manufacture a number of common vaccines. The Book of Leviticus in the Jewish Bible states of pork, "you shall not eat of their flesh, and you shall not touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you." In the Muslim Holy Book, the Koran, it says in 16:115, "He has only forbidden to you dead animals, blood, the flesh of swine, and that which has been dedicated to other than Allah."

The Raleigh County case was brought by Miranda Guzman, mother of a child who, at the time of the filing, was four years old. In the filing, it read "Plaintiff maintains profound religious objections to injecting her four-year-old child . . . with the vaccinations required . . . Defendants prohibit (the minor child) from attending any Raleigh County Schools unless she received all CVL-mandated vaccines."

The filing went on to cite how states bordering West Virginia deal with unvaccinated children during an outbreak of illness. It added that "the overwhelming majority of states have for decades recognized the compelling interest in respecting their citizens' religious freedoms and have allowed for a religious exemption."

Governor Patrick Morrisey noted that "As a Christian, Miranda is raising a number of objections to state-mandated vaccines that run counter to her deeply held religious beliefs." He added that "As governor, I fully support Miranda's ability to seek a religious exemption."

He also urged the West Virginia Legislature to act in the upcoming session to secure protections for those seeking exemptions for their children.

Christmas Coloring CONTEST



CONTEST RULES/DEADLINES

- 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 Thursday, December 11, either by drop off at the office or mail.

Mail to PO Box 906, Franklin, WV 26807.

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Entry Form (Must Accompany Colored Picture)

Name _____ Grade _____

Address: _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone _____

Cattle, Sheep and Goat Inventory Surveys Due Soon

By Stephen Smoot

Starting on Dec. 30 and extending through Jan. 12, 2026, the National Agriculture Statistics Service of the United States Department of Agriculture will issue preliminary surveys to gather information about cattle, sheep, and goats.

The most recent "Mountain State Reporter" newsletter from NASS shared that "questionnaires will be mailed to producers in the sample on December 20, 2025; they can respond via mail or electronically." Additionally, "enumerators from the Eastern Mountain Region Office will collect data on cattle, sheep, and goat inventories."

Questions for cattle farmers will cover topics such as milk and beef cattle numbers, replacement heifers, steers, cattle on feed, milk production, and cash crop. Those raising sheep and goats can expect queries on breeding and market sheep and goat numbers, lamb and kid crops, 2025 wool and mohair production, and fatalities.

The Mountain State Reporter also included a QR code for photo submissions. NASS invites all West Virginia farmers to use the code and submit fun, scenic, interesting, or unusual, but appropriate, farm pictures for display in the NASS annual bulletin or one of its other publications.

Another survey may come to some at the end of January. At that point, many farmers will receive the full questionnaire for the Census of Agriculture, a report released every five years on the status of farming and related endeavors in the United States. The process opened in January 2024 with the "National Agricultural Classification Survey," a questionnaire that seeks to "identify potential agriculture operations in the United States."

The report will come out in 2027. It contains agricultural economic and business information not gathered by the United States Census Bureau and reported in its "County Business Patterns Data."

The United States Department of Agriculture uses different criteria to establish identified "agriculture operations," or more plainly put, farms. Officially, a farm need not be of a certain size and the category includes everything from massive operations utilizing thousands of acres and



The USDA NASS is requesting fun, educational, scenic, or other farming pictures of interest from West Virginia to include in their online Mountain State Reporter newsletter. They release newsletter reports on local, state, and national agriculture trends.

generating millions in revenues to hobbyists with a small number of, or even no, acres and limited commercial application of them.

"A farm can also be a city rooftop used for honey production," shared Shareefah Williams, USDA statistician for Delaware and Maryland. "The USDA defines a farm as any place where \$1,000 worth of products will be sold, or normally sold, within any given year."

This definition, established for the 1974 Census of Agriculture and after, also represents the sales threshold at which West Virginia agricultural producers can take advantage of certain property tax breaks.

Operations that meet the legal standard of an agricultural operation may receive the full questionnaire.

In the 2022 Census of Agriculture, it was reported that Pendleton County had 18,924 cattle and calves, 2,928 sheep and lambs, and 1,132 goats.



Lois Carr, center, was honored at the WV Association of Conservation District awards banquet. The award was presented to her by Jane Cain, WVACD director, left, and John Pitsenbarger, WVACD president. Photo courtesy of Davin White, WV Conservation Agency.

Carr Earns Conservation District Supervisor Award

Lois Carr of Seneca Rocks was presented the 57th annual Carroll Green Award on Oct. 23 at the West Virginia Association of Conservation District awards banquet in Flatwoods.

Carr is a Potomac Valley Conservation District supervisor and the WVACD's second vice president.

The Carroll Greene Award is presented annually to a conservation district supervisor. This award recognizes Carroll Greene's service and dedication to soil and water conservation. From 1949 to 1979, he served as executive secretary to the West Virginia Soil Conservation committee. Much of what is seen today in West Virginia is thanks to his conservation efforts. To receive this award, a recipient must demonstrate a strong commitment to conservation and agriculture, ensuring that their efforts benefit future generations.

Carr remains actively involved in various activi-

ties, including serving with the farm bureau, her local church ministry, and the county farmland protection board. She has also served on local school improvement councils. In addition

to all this, she manages the

family farm, where she has been implementing conservation practices on her own operation, which includes cow/calf pairs, breeding ewes, and hay production.

Five Generations Gather



Five generations of the Neva Rexrode family met at Pendleton Manor in Franklin. Pictured are Rexrode (97) of Deer Run; and back row, from left, great-granddaughter Laikyn Hanna (17) of Franklin, granddaughter Heather Hanna (45) of Franklin, son Eldon Rexrode (69) of Franklin, great-great-granddaughter Emery Ours (15 months and daughter of McKenna Hanna) and great-granddaughter McKenna Hanna (21) of Fort Seybert.



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TIMES PAST

30 Years Ago

Week of November 30, 1995

2,241 Bucks Killed First Week In Pendleton County

Deer hunters killed 2,241 bucks last week in Pendleton County during the first week of the annual two-weeks bucks only hunting season.

Last week's kill was 474 higher than was the kill during the first week of the previous year when 1,754 were taken.

This year's kill continues a rebound from the 1993 harvest of only 1,485 which was the lowest in a number of years, but it still is considerably short of the high recorded in 1992 when 2,747 bucks were checked the first week of the season.

Pendleton Times Circulation Hits 5,501

Pendleton Times ads are reaching more than 22,000 people every week. Times ads are working harder than ever with an all-time high circulation of 5,501.

This is good news for business people. Call the Times today to arrange an advertising schedule that will be both effective and economical.

40 Years Ago
Week of December 5, 1985

Temporary Housing Sought for Flood Victims

HOUSING TO BE AT 10 LOCATIONS

Requirements for at least 125 temporary housing units have been identified in Pendleton County, Bob Tuckerman, director of the Pendleton County Emergency Services, announced today.

Tuckerman said state agencies assure us that they are moving as rapidly as possible to establish the temporary housing in group sites at approximately 10 locations in the county. The sites, according to Tuckerman, are to be prepared by the State Department of Highways for water and sewage disposal. Actual date of availability will depend upon the weather and ground conditions. As projected dates are known, they will be published.

DAHMER

This year is the first time in the memory of the writer that apples lay out under the trees and never froze until December 2nd.

The effects of the November 4 flood are still keenly felt by those living along the major water courses in Pendleton County. But life must go on.

60 Years Ago
Week of December 2, 1965

Brushy Run Post Office Discontinued

The Brushy Run Post Office located on Route 220 north of Upper Tract in Pendleton

County was discontinued yesterday upon the resignation of Byron Shreve who has served as postmaster for the post office for a number of years.

DAHMER

It was the writer's pleasure to visit all the elementary schools in Pendleton County and Blue Grass too and the total number was 1,326 pupils. This work was completed November 16, 1965 by giving every pupil a dime, nickel and tootsie roll.

EDITORIALS

100 New Jobs ---

One hundred job opportunities exist in Franklin today which did not exist at this time last year, according to the lead story on page one. Not only are these job opportunities benefitting those who have secured employment, but the \$5,000 weekly payroll which the workers are receiving also is breathing new life into the local economy.

Besides providing employment for 100 persons, the two firms which are contributing importantly to the area are the newly established Franklin Garment Company and the revitalized Max Ruddle Lumber and Flooring Company.

Pendleton Industries, Inc. has displayed an unusual amount of skill and a surprising degree of persistence in its efforts to bring employment to the people of this area.

70 Years Ago
Week of December 1, 1955

Nine Out of Ten Working People Now Covered By SS

Today about 9 out of 10 people who work for a living can look forward to retirement benefits under the Federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance program.

EDITORIALS

The History of My Life ---

In every far-flung reach of this country, millions of people look forward each week to the appearance of their local small-town papers. These papers are the running histories of the communities and regions they serve, and there is nothing that can take their place.

Now and then some old-time reader troubles to tell the editor just how he feels about the local paper. That pleasant experience happened the other day to the editor of the News, of Hemet, California. The correspondent was a woman who had lived in the Hemet area for more than half a century. She wrote: "I have many fond memories of your newspaper and the people who have been connected with it. Not long ago—it occurred to me that in the files of your paper is the history of my life.

"Your paper recorded my birth, my childhood parties, and

my graduation from high school and later from college, my marriage, the arrival of each of my four children and the death of one of them—and now, in more recent years your columns have been recording the arrival, one by one, of my grandchildren. Is it any wonder that your paper means so much in our home and that we look forward eagerly to receiving it each week?"

The country paper is an intensely personal thing, close to the lives and work and thoughts and aspirations of all who read it. And it's a certainty that no medium of communication and opinion has so large a proportion of loyal, beginning-to-end readers.

Holidays Are Hazard Days ---

Turkeys are not the only creatures that experience a drop in life expectancy during the holiday season.

The Christmas-New Year holiday season also is the most hazardous single period of the year for homo sapiens—that's us.

The holiday season coincides with many winter traffic hazards.

Family get-togethers impel people to drive long distances regardless of weather. Shopping draws more people into the streets. And, of course, there is more drinking than at any other time of the year.

It is a season of gaiety, to be sure, but gaiety to be enjoyed only if you resolve to protect yourself from accident and to "Be Your Brother's Keeper."

80 Years Ago
Week of November 30, 1945

PEARL HARBOR: 'Climb Mt. Niitaki'

Code message ordering the attack on Pearl Harbor, these fateful words were relayed to a Japanese task force of four carriers and escorts on December 5, 1941, when it was between 800 and 1,000 miles off Hawaii, testimony at the congressional inquiry into the greatest naval disaster in American history revealed.

Gleaned from captured Nipponese documents and questioning of prisoners, and presented to the investigating committee by Rear Admiral T. B. Inglis, the disclosure of enemy war plans showed that the surprise assault had been planned as early as January, 1941, by Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, who later told officers that though Japan did not want to fight the U. S., she would have to if America continued to aid China and block off oil shipments.

As it was the enemy's low-level torpedo assault by 351 planes that sank 4 battleships, 1 medium cruiser and 1 auxiliary vessel; heavily damaged 3 battleships and 1 light cruiser and 1 auxiliary vessel, and lightly damaged 3 battleships, 1 light cruiser and 1 auxiliary. In addition, 188 U. S. aircraft were destroyed. Against this toll, the enemy lost 27 planes and five midget submarines.

Week of December 7, 1945

SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CLOTHES NEEDED

If you have any children's clothing that you do not need because your children have outgrown them, please bring them to the county superintendent's office in Franklin at your convenience for distribution to needy school children.

There are quite a number of school pupils of all ages who are badly in need of shoes, shirts, underwear, coats, trousers, sweaters, etc., etc.

Whatever you can do to help these children will be very much appreciated by them.—I. L. Bennett, superintendent of Pendleton County schools. 11-30-2c

FRANKLIN HI LIGHTS

A CHALLENGE

Teachers have a challenge to face—a most difficult challenge. It is the challenge to restore faith and purpose and significance to life—to lay the foundations of a global order in which life, love, truth, justice and goodwill shall be exalted. We teachers can only do this by believing that such an order is desirable and possible.

SIX-WEEK EXAMS

Examinations for the second period of six weeks were given November 28 and 29. These tests are not needed to determine matters of promotion. The teacher who knows his or her pupils and the quality of the work of each already knows what pupils are entitled to promotion. If the review and the study and the organization purposes were eliminated, examinations could not justify their existence.

105 Years Ago
Week of December 10, 1920

SCHOOL REPORT

• Report of the Oak Flat School for the first month beginning Oct. 18, ending Nov. 16, 1920.

• Number of pupils enrolled this month—12 boys, 8 girls; average daily attendance this month—boys 12; girls 7.

• Those neither absent nor tardy this month—Roscoe Bolton, Curtis Hartman, Stanley Eye, Curtis Eye, Harry Eye, Roy Pope, George Pope, Alva Temple, Ronald Moyers, Edgar Walker, George Walker, Ella Bagby, Myrtle Eye, Elsie Hartman, Theda Moyers, and Thelma Pope.

Claude Mitchell, Teacher.

SHORT NOTES

Herman Evick has sold his house and lot on back street at the price of \$1000.

We have just received a nice line of BOX PAPER, CHRISTMAS CARDS, MANICURE SETS, FLASH LIGHTS, and BOOKS. Johnson's Pharmacy, Franklin.

About half of our last week's issue was printed and mailed

several days late on account of our being out of print paper. We had a large shipment at Petersburg but were unable to have it delivered on account of the bad roads. We are now supplied with a sufficient supply to carry us through the winter months and we hope there will be no more delays.

The Board of Education District met the last Saturday in November to receive bids for a new building at Circleville. Only one bid was received and it was rejected. The Board will meet again the last Saturday in December to receive bids again, specifications and plans can be seen at W. S. Dunkle's store. Come on carpenters, don't be afraid to bid.

TUBERCULOSIS IS CURABLE AND PREVENTABLE BUT

1. More than 2000 lives are destroyed by tuberculosis every year in West Virginia.

2. Tuberculosis kills producers one third of the men and women who die between the ages of 18 and 45 years.

3. The economic waste alone to the state of West Virginia by death from tuberculosis is more than \$10,470,000 every year.

4. More than 30,000 men, women and children in West Virginia have tuberculosis in active form.

5. For every active case, 15 other persons are liable to infection.

6. Tuberculosis menaces every individual.

7. The average community has about nine times as much tuberculosis as it thinks it has.

8. This insidious and communicable disease is spread largely by ignorance, carelessness and neglect.

9. Tuberculosis strikes silently and often has been long at work before it is discovered.

The fight against tuberculosis is financed chiefly by the sale of Christmas Seals and Health Bonds.

BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS And Help Stamp Out TUBERCULOSIS

CIRCLEVILLE

Butchering seems to be the order of the day.

Dr. Hummelshine landed at Riverton last week and is preparing to do any kind of dental work.

Jimmie Cook is building an auto shed for Roy Phares.

Hon. B. H. Hiner was in our town the other day.

THE PENDLETON TIMES
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Michael Showell, Publisher

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Prevention Team and
Search Institute

MENU
Pendleton
Senior & Family
Services

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5
Swiss Chicken
Beets, Peas
Jello w/Fruit

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8
Broccoli Soup
Grilled Cheese
Cucumbers
Strawberries, Brownie

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9
Brunch @ 10 AM

Potato Bowl w/Sausage,
Cheese & Gravy, Biscuit
Baked Apples & Juice

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10
Beans, Stewed Tomatoes
Cabbage, Cornbread
Grapes

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11
Spaghetti, Salad
Garlic Bread
California Blend
Banana

89th Birthday
Card Shower
MARY JUNE BENNETT
December 15

Meal times are from 11:45 to 12:45. All meals served with 2% milk & bread.

Reserve your meals.

Reservations served first.

Menus are subject to change.

304-358-2421

December 15

Cards may be sent to her at
2808 16th Ave.

Vienna, WV 26105

HAPPY 89TH BIRTHDAY

December 15

Call me for a quote

Your local agent for home & auto

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Agent

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Franklin, WV 26807-0280

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Cell: 304-668-2217

jim@jimbrowninsurance.com

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL

State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL

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State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

Seasonal Chill Paves the Way for Holiday Festivities

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

Bitterly cold wind whipped through the hills during the weekend, driving away the summer like temperatures of yesterday. It wailed through the treetops like a lost soul seeking a place to rest, rattling the windows with icy fingers. Scattered snowflakes danced in the air, landing on the ground, which in some places was too warm to preserve them. The long, lovely fall season is gone, to be replaced by frigid temperatures and swirling snowflakes as winter arrives in these hills.

Christmas looms closer and the shopping malls are busy with people pushing carts filled to overflowing with all manner of merchandise.

As a youngster, the writer and her siblings would pore over the Sears and Roebuck catalog for many weeks preceding Christmas. Most of the toys pictured were the old standbys of the generation — wagons, tops, dolls, bicycles and books. Christmas was the only time we could hope for a bought toy. The rest of the year was a time to play with homemade toys, board games, and vivid imaginations. The button box was a great place to pick out large flat buttons to make "hummers," with a piece of twine threaded through the buttonholes. Spinning the button around and around found one to pick up enough speed by moving the hands back and forth making the button literally hum. One hasn't lived unless one's hair wound up in one of those!

Wooden sewing spools were saved to make tops, with a stick inserted in the hole and the bottom half whittled into a V shape. The insides of an old alarm clock provided lots of whirligigs, and springs to fashion other toys.

Nothing was wasted. Empty containers were used in countless ways. Wire could be run through the box, adding some lids for wheels, and trucks or cars were made. These cardboard boxes provided hours of play as castles, houses, boats, dollhouses, or caves.

That is why Christmas toys were so special.

Life's little instructions include the following:

1. Contribute to a Salvation Army bell call.
2. Listen to the seasonal songs.
3. Reflect on the satisfactions and achievements from the past year.
4. Pray for peace in this confused and divided nation and world.
5. Enjoy the cardinal perched on a barren tree branch.

Sunday was a day filled with ice, sleet, snow, and rain. A chilling day it was. Temperatures never got warmer than 39 degrees in this section of the county. Look for the Dec. 4 Cold Moon. It will be the last full moon for the year 2025.

Thank You For Reading The Pendleton Times

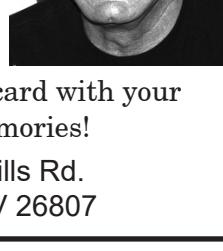
Have you heard the big news?

Are you ready?

Guess, who's turning 80...

That's right, it's EDDIE!

Help us celebrate
Eddie's 80th Birthday
On Dec. 11



By sending him a card with your favorite memories!

7 Buffalo Hills Rd.
Franklin, WV 26807

A Special Thanks

We would like to extend a big heartfelt thank you to all who, in so many different ways, honored and celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. We were really surprised and greatly touched by each act of kindness.

God awesomely bless everyone of you, as you have so wonderfully blessed the two of us.

Donald and Linda Mallow

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Email: sjamison@pendletonmanor.org

Are you ready to make a difference?

Quotes for the week are as follows:

"May and October, the best smelling months? I'll make a case for December; evergreen, frost, wood smoke, cinnamon." — Lisa Kleypas

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

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

"I wish you a beautiful new month from the first day of this month to the last day." — J.K. Rowling

"December is a simple wish that brings spectacular moments." — Unknown

Sitting by the fireside is the best place to enjoy the "Talk of the Grove."

What do Thanksgiving and Christmas have in common more than any time of the year? A huge dinner table! The local residents had family to be seated around the dinner table, which was laden with all delicious foods. Conversations hinged around memories of the past.

Tom and Paula Mitchell enjoyed the Thanksgiving time spent with their family and friends in their home — Jennifer, Tim, Morgan Hoover of Bridgewater, Virginia, Damian and Allison Morris of Fulks Run, Virginia, Janelle, Jace, and Destiny Sroka of Charlotte, North Carolina, Brandon, Cara, Macie, Carson, and Carly Mitchell, Donna and Roger Hoover of Franklin. Natalie and Robert Humes of Brandywine, Cynthia Hughes of Harrisonburg, Virginia, and John Hughes of Mineral, Virginia.

Saturday, Evelyn Varner enjoyed having 23 family members to gather around her Thanksgiving table. Her daughter, Judy Costello of Verona, Virginia, spent several days with her this past week.

Rhonda Nash made a brief trip to Georgia and Florida for the wedding of her "honorary" nephew, Clayton Galloway, and his bride, Jordan. Clay is the son of Rhonda's best friend, Bonnie Hill Galloway and husband, Greg of Woodbine, Georgia. Although the visit was far too short, Rhonda delighted in reconnecting with the Hill/Galloway clan and celebrating the newlyweds. While she was away, Helen Nash enjoyed a visit from daughter, Vickie Nash of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and son, Todd Nash of Kinston, North Carolina.

Willard and Judy Rader and C. J. Eckard enjoyed visiting and having a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner at the home of Benny and Linda Custer in Verona, Virginia.

This week's clickety-clacks for the chin wagers are as follows:

- The famous song "Frosty the Snowman" was written by Walter E. "Jack" Rollins who was born in Keyser.
- Alabama was the first state to recognize Christmas.
- Spider webs in a tree are good luck.
- Candy canes are shaped like a shepherd's hook.

National Guard Tribute

Continued From Page 1

One photo showed "U.S. Army Spc. Ayden Holbert . . . and Pfc. Daniel Tippett, both assigned to the West Virginia National Guard, conduct(ing) a presence patrol in the Dupont Circle area.

The presence has a two-fold objective: to deter high crime and promote a sense of citizen safety while also participating in an effort to remove debris from the streetscape. As the Army reported, "Service members assigned to Joint Task Force-District of Columbia have supported the mission through daily patrols, site cleanups, and logistical assistance alongside civilian partners."

U.S. Army Col. Larry Doane, in command of the task force, said, "People have told me they didn't realize how tense they felt just walking home before. Now they feel safer and more at ease. These improvements send a message that this capital belongs to everyone - and we take pride in its care."

Statistics show that the mission had success where it counts, total crime down 40 percent during the same period last year. Carjackings dropped 52 percent, robberies by 60, and violent crime 48 percent.

U.S. Army Command Sgt Major Scott McKennon shared, "When I walk alongside the troops and see the pride they take in making this city safer, it reminds me why this mission matters."

Wolfe and Beckstrom were part of a group patrolling near the Farragut West Metro Station, less than 1000 yards from the White House, when they were allegedly ambushed by a handgun-wielding Afghan immigrant with ties to the Central Intelligence Agency and its efforts in that country's war.

"Those two West Virginia heroes were serving our country and protecting our nation's capital when they were maliciously attacked," Governor Patrick Morrisey said.

He added that "their courage and commitment to duty represent the very best of our state" and requested that West Virginians everywhere pause at 2:15 p.m. Friday, the time of the attack, to pray for and remember the wounded and the fallen.

President Donald Trump called the attack "a heinous assault" and "an act of evil."

DON'T STALL. Schedule Your Winter Car Check Today.

Trouble could be right around the corner if you're not prepared for winter driving. Bring your vehicle to us for expert automotive repair and maintenance services, and travel through winter with peace of mind.



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Body Shop

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~24-Hour Wrecker Service~

"Serving the area for more than 45 years"

• In the late 17th century, people used fruits like apples, pears, and oranges to decorate Christmas trees.

Concerns are for Mike Adams, the George Adkins family, Charles Anderson, Alfred Armstrong, Joan Ashley, Roger Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Dave Basagic, Allen Beachler, Bobby Bodkin, "Bo" Boggs, Larry Byers, Doreen Calhoun, Joyce Calhoun, Marie Cole, Stanley Dahmer, Kim Davis, Tommy Davis, Phil Downs, Steve Durham, Jennifer Erett, Isaac Eye, Mary Eye, Carl Gant, David Gillispie, Nan 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, 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, Dennis and Jamie Mitchell, the Mary Lea Hahn McCoy family, Gary McDonald, Rose Miller, Bruce Minor, Carroll and Dottie 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, the family of Bobby Propst, Mike Propst, Sheldon Propst, Eldon "Butch" Puffenbarger, Tom Rader, Willard Rader, Jason Rexrode, Jimmy Rexrode, Linda Fay Rexrode, Vesta Ruckman, Bernie Sasser, Annie Simmons, Erin Simmons, Eva Simmons, Greg Simmons, Judy Simmons, Nelson Simmons, Tonya Simon, the Brian Sites family, 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.

Gas Price Variations

Continued From Page 1

analyst with the U.S. EIA, explained to the blog "How Stuff Works."

These percentages only tell a sliver of the story, that the main inputs of the gasoline industry shift often and sometimes in unpredictable ways. Additionally, every step of the process from finding the oil reserves in the first place to operating a gas station must include enough profit to provide an incentive to continue operation.

Like most situations, however, the higher levels can appear neat and clean-cut while things look much more complex as they get near "the ground."

Dr. Carrie Whitney offered an explanation for some regional and local issues in the blog How Stuff Works. She stated that gas stations of a certain "brand," such as Sheetz, "buys its own contracted brand of gasoline, which boasts a special recipe." That enables the companies to make specific claims on the performance of their gasoline, but also makes prices for such chains higher.

Independent gasoline stations that are not contracted to purchase a certain type of gasoline have the freedom to price gasoline on the open market. That includes not only "mom and pop" operations, but also Walmart's gasoline stations. The downside to this lies in the lack of a guaranteed supply in times of shortages.

This explains the peculiar dynamic in New Creek up in Mineral County where Walmart regularly sells for 20 or more cents per gallon less than Sheetz only a few miles away.

But that's not all.

Another important factor lies in transportation costs. Different gasoline stations may employ different firms to truck the product. Major chains may operate their own fleet of trucks and distribution system.

"Routes from rig to pump," explains Whitney, may vary, but each must factor in the transportation price. If Franklin gasoline prices consistently rank at a dime higher than Petersburg or Moorefield stations, that may reflect the added cost of the rig getting to Franklin and then on to its next stop.

The U.S. EIA notes that stations closer to an oil refinery tend to have better prices. For example, customers in the western part of the Mountain State with access to oil from Marathon's Ashland, Kentucky, refinery should offer better prices.

Another important set of factors lies in the costs of the individual station and the value of its other revenue streams, as well as cost of local taxes, labor, rent, utilities, and other normal costs of doing any business.

Selena Maranjian in the Motley Fool shared a more controversial component of gasoline prices. Some companies use "zone pricing" to pad profit margins. Zone pricing identifies neighborhoods or other areas seen as "affluent," for example, they may have very high home values. This boosts prices sold in those areas by sometimes as much as 30 or 40 cents per gallon.

Experts also note that the presence of competition can have a strong effect. The U.S. EIA explained that "prices at gasoline stations are often highest in locations with fewer gasoline stations. Even stations located close together may have different traffic patterns, rent, and sources of supply that influence pricing."

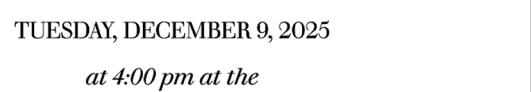
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Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority

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Franklin Innovation Hub



The celebration will take place on

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

at 4:00 pm at the

Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority Franklin Office

58 Walnut Street

Franklin, WV 26807

Good Knights End Wildcats' 2025, Set Stage for Success in '26

By Stephen Smoot

Coaches hate the term "good losses" and would prefer that their program see no loss as "good." Objectively speaking, however, when young teams contend with opponents with more size, strength, and experience, one can reflect on lessons learned and challenges well met within what otherwise, was a loss on the field.

"That's a great football team," Zac Smith, Pendleton County head coach, told West Virginia Metro News. He added, "They're well-coached and they have plenty of talent. That's hard to compete against in Single A."

With a number of young players up front on both sides of the ball, the Wildcats have found the laws of physics as their opponent often this year. Younger players with less size, less time clocked in the weight room during their high school career, and less experience have had to find a way to overcome those deficits, make key plays, and take advantage of luck as they crafted a brilliant 10 and 2 season.

Though a 43-20 loss on the final scoreboard, neither side would say that the game was a blowout.

Pendleton County opened play in conditions much colder than they had experienced for most of the year. The kickoff popped high in the air, came down at the 30, but Wheeling Catholic brought it to the 50.

The Maroon Knights have a capable passing game, but rely heavily on their workhorse Kade Koroneos, who amassed more than 1,500 yards rushing this year. Not a back with blazing speed or overwhelming size, Koroneos finds holes well, blows through arm tackles, and keeps his legs churning.

Tony Caridi, Voice of the Mountaineers, once described such a runner as like "trying to tackle a rolling bowling ball."

He is one of those backs that a defense has to hit as he runs laterally because, like Mountaineer legend Adrian Murrell, once he turns up field, his strength and shiftiness make it tough for a single tackler to bring him down.

On second and five near midfield, Colton Roberson came up from his safety position and made just such a stop to force third and long. After Cameron Wyatt tracked down and defended a deep pass attempt, the Knights punted. This served as yet another weapon for the home team as their punter proved adept at putting the Wildcats deep in their own territory over and over again.

PCMS Wildcat Wrestling Schedule

Dec.	8	East Hardy	.... 6:00	(H)
	16	Frankfort	.... 6:00	(A)
	22	Frankfort	.... 10:00	(H)
Jan.	3	Warm Springs	TBA	(A)
	7	Tri	.... 6:00	(H)
	8	Petersburg	.... 6:00	(A)
	10	Keyser	.... 11:00	(A)
	15	East Hardy	.... 6:00	(A)
	28	Keyser	.... 6:00	(H)
	31	Petersburg	.... TBA	(A)
Feb.	4	Petersburg	.... 6:00	(H)
	10	Keyser	.... 7:00	(A)
	14	PVL Championship	.... 10:00	(H)
	24	Tri	.... 6:00	(H)

PCHS Wildcat Wrestling Schedule

Dec.	10	Moorefield	.... 6:00	(A)
	13	Keyser	.... TBA	(A)
	16	Frankfort	.... 6:00	(A)
19/20	Jefferson	.... TBA	(A)	
	27	Grafton	.... TBA	(A)
Jan.	3	East Hardy	.... TBA	(A)
	7	Match	.... 6:00	(H)
	8	Petersburg	.... 6:00	(A)
16/17	Open (Tom Strong Duals)	.... 3:00	(A)	
	24	Keyser (PVC)	.... 8:00	(A)
	28	Moorefield	.... 5:00	(H)
30/31	Petersburg (Viking Smash)	.... TBA	(A)	
Feb.	4	Petersburg	.... 6:00	(H)
20/21	Regionals	.... TBA	(A)	
	24	East Hardy	.... TBA	(H)
March 5	State	.... TBA	(A)	

PCHS Boys Basketball Schedule

Dec.	6	Hampshire	.... 6:00	(H)
	10	East Hardy	.... 7:30	(H)
	15	Pocahontas Co.	.... 7:30	(H)
	19	Tucker Co.	.... 1:00	(A)
	26	Petersburg	Tourney	.... 7:00 (A)
	27	Petersburg	Tourney	.... 6:00 (A)
Jan.	2	Tygart Valley	.... 7:30	(A)
	3	Frankfort	.... 2:30	(A)
	5	Pocahontas Co.	.... 7:30	(A)
	10	Moorefield	.... 7:30	(H)
	14	Tucker Co.	.... 7:30	(H)
	16	Petersburg	.... 7:30	(A)
	21	Harman	.... 6:00	(A)
	28	East Hardy	.... 7:30	(A)
Feb.	2	Harman	.... 6:00	(H)
	4	Moorefield	.... 7:30	(A)
	6	Petersburg	.... 7:30	(H)
	11	Tygart Valley	.... 7:30	(H)
	18	Lewis County	.... 7:30	(H)
	25	Union	.... 7:00	(H)

PCHS Girls Basketball Schedule

Dec.	9	Bath County	.... 6:00	(A)
	11	Elkins	.... 6:00	(A)
	16	Pocahontas Co.	.... 6:00	(H)
	19	Petersburg	Tourney	.... 7:00 (A)
	20	Petersburg	Tourney	.... 6:00 (A)
29/30	Invitational at	....	
		RCB	.... TBA	(A)
Jan.	6	Tygart Valley	.... 6:00	(A)
	8	Pocahontas Co.	.... 6:00	(H)
	13	Tucker Co.	.... 6:00	(H)
	15	Moorefield	.... 6:00	(A)
	23	Tucker Co.	.... 6:00	(A)
	27	East Hardy	.... 6:00	(H)
	30	Petersburg	.... 6:00	(H)
Feb.	5	Paw Paw	.... 7:30	(H)
	7	Notre Dame	.... 1:00	(H)
	9	Moorefield	.... 6:00	(H)
	12	East Hardy	.... 6:00	(A)
	17	Union	.... 6:00	(A)
	20	Tygart Valley	.... 6:00	(H)
	21	Petersburg	....	(Senior Night)

PCMS Girls Basketball Schedule

PCMS Boys Basketball Schedule



A barely open Britton Lough gets his hands on a precisely thrown pass by Colton Roberson in playoff action last week. Photo by Light in Motion.

a 55-yard touchdown run.

The kickoff pinned Pendleton County deep again. Roberson on first down connected with Owens at the 34 for an 18-yard pass play. Three plays later on third down and 10, Owens elevated at midfield and caught a pass as he fell backwards. At midfield, the drive stalled and the Wildcats had to punt with about 4:45 remaining in the first quarter.

Wheeling Catholic went to work on the ground, every run a solid surge behind a big line, systematically rattling off runs on power plays, gaining yardage and making their way downfield. They crossed the goal line after a drive of 10 plays covering 78 yards, all but one play a run.

Wheeling Catholic had seen enough of Wildcat receivers making big plays with precision and athleticism against their man-to-man coverage and moved to a zone. There, they could take full advantage of their 6'7' defensive back and try to take some of the speed and leaping ability of Chase Owens, Travis Owens, Britton Lough, and Wyatt off the table.

The Maroon Knights also used delayed blitzes to harass Roberson on passing plays, often timed to strike as he made a move in the backfield to run or pass. On the opening drive of the second quarter they forced an interception on a tipped ball. This time, Wildcat adjustments seemed to disrupt Wheeling Catholic. They punted on fourth and 20 and once again, backed the Wildcats to their own 10.

After a strong Braylon Willis run gave his team a first down, the Maroon Knights' height got the better of Roberson as he jumped over the receiver to take a clean interception. Three plays later, Wheeling Catholic scored again and took a 21-7 lead.

For the young Wildcats, gut check time came at five minutes remaining in the half. Could this team respond?

Travis Owens took the kickoff to the Wildcat 43 to set up the

offense in the best field position they had seen in some time. Willis ran quickly, but with shiftiness, on the first play to midfield to set up second and three. Then, Roberson ripped off a powerful run of his own to the opponents' 40.

On second and three, Roberson rolled out with Willis picking up a block in front. He found Wyatt on a nine-yard pass. Next, on first and 10 at the 25, Roberson appeared to use a scramble on a pass play to not find a receiver, but to set up a run, which he took to the seven. After throwing the ball away in the face of suffocating coverage, on the next chance, Chase Owens took a short toss for a touchdown. The kick put the score at 21-14 with under a minute left.

The Wildcats got the ball back to open the third and went right to work on their best drive of the game in many ways. Wheeling Catholic had halftime to rest and adjust, seeing that Pendleton County seemed poised to take momentum despite having a difficult first half.

From his own 25 on third and 10, Roberson found a receiver at the 34. Typically against zones, Roberson plays with patience, finding receivers cutting or angling in front of the zone or scrambling one way or the other to try and confuse the defense. Instead of taking the whole yardage at once, the quarterback turns into a slicing and dicing surgeon.

Willis took the ball on first and 10 and galloped to the 47 on one of his timeliest runs of the year. Roberson then followed Willis off the left side and scampered down the sideline to the 34. Seven plays later, Roberson threaded the needle over the middle from the opposing 27 to the one-yard line. Lough made the big catch in traffic.

Though pushed back to the 11 by solid defensive plays on the quarterback, Roberson fired a pass on second down to Travis Owens in the endzone. Wheeling Catholic preserved a slender lead, 21-20, by blocking the kick.

Those covering the game on the broadcast pounced on the block as a key point in the game and a momentum shifter, but it mattered very little. Wheeling Catholic's size and experience up front, which included multiple starters returning to the team for the first time in several games, continued to ram against Wildcat resilience.

Wheeling Catholic scored on their next possession, tacked on a two-point conversion, and took a commanding nine-point lead without looking back. Pendleton County gave it everything they had from top to bottom. Within this loss, they rebounded over and over until the experience, size, and strength of the other side took over.

Pendleton County came just as far last year and also saw their dreams end with a big loss on the road. That said, the loss to Wheeling Catholic looks much different than the 2024 setback to Tucker County. The Wildcats threw their best punches and connected often enough to make a solid impression in 2025 against a more complete opponent in the Maroon Knights.

Senior Laden Wildcats Ready to Make Move in West Virginia Class A Basketball

By Stephen Smoot

On Monday, the 2025-26 Pendleton County Wildcat basketball squad took to the floor for the first time, well, six of them at least. The remainder of the roster must, by rule, wait until they have accumulated enough practice time to play.

Those players helped to fuel the drive of the football squad deep in the state playoffs.

"First off, give full credit to the football team," said Jeremy Bodkin, head coach. He added, "I'm glad to have them back in basketball even though they can't play tonight."

Bodkin, however, has had a chance to work closely with players who will manage the ball for him. He will rely heavily on a trio of ball handlers, of whom he said that "these guys worked really hard."

Senior Jaydon Hess was a mainstay at the guard position last year. He showed the calm demeanor of a game manager bringing the ball up, but also made plays as a high energy and athletic slasher, able to elevate and score around the basket.

Tony VanMeter appeared in games last year as a defensive sparkplug, but will take on more of a role this year as a ball handler and a long-range shooter. His play, reminiscent of former West Virginia University point guard Marsalis Basey, sees him able to handle pressure while handling the ball, but he's also relentless on defense.

Braylin Hull, a 6'2" guard, has also taken a step forward, using his athleticism similarly to Hess to make plays on both ends of the floor. "He's my biggest surprise," said Bodkin, who added, "he took the biggest strides from last year to this."

Joining the squad this week among the guards are Chase Owens, Travis Owens, and Colton Roberson.

Senior Chase Owens brings high level of guard skills, but the strength and offensive postgame of a power forward. He has grown skilled at exploiting man-to-man mismatches when defended by less physically imposing guards.

Travis Owens brings the kind of length and athleticism that makes him particularly dangerous on the defensive end. This football season, his ability to elevate and battle for passes made

him one of the best wide receivers in the region as a sophomore.

Bodkin noted Roberson's strengths on defense, but his physicality could make him a post offensive threat as well. Expect all three of these guards to outfight their counterparts for rebounds, keeping possessions alive for the Wildcats.

The frontcourt will feature a combination of strength and experience, starting with senior Cashton Kisamore. Last year, the senior developed a repertoire of offensive moves on the post to complement his height and

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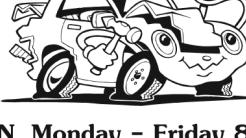
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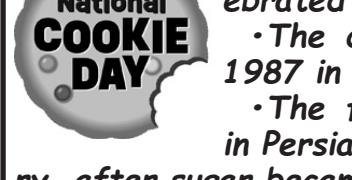
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• National Cookie Day is celebrated Dec. 4.

• The day was established in 1987 in the United States.

• The first cookies originated in Persia around the 7th century, after sugar became more available. They were originally small cakes baked to test the temperature of an oven, which would later be eaten or shared. These early versions were made with ingredients like honey, spices, and nuts.

• The word "cookie" comes from the Dutch word "koekje," which means "little cake."

• The first cookies were brought to America by the Dutch, with the word "cookie" being the Anglicized version of "koekje."

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11-20-4p

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11-20-3c Mike Kee

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Ordinance 130

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING

MUNICIPAL ELECTION:

CERTIFICATES OF ANNOUNCEMENT

FILING DEADLINES AND ESTABLISHING AN ELECTION DAY

WHEREAS, the Town of

Franklin desires to provide

for the necessary and ap-

propriate filing deadlines

for candidates for municipal offices and to set an election date in accordance with West Virginia Code § 3-1-31, which requires that all municipal elections shall be held concurrently with a regularly scheduled statewide primary or general election.

WHEREAS, the Town of Franklin desires to adopt, by reference, the election laws of the State of West Virginia as applicable to municipalities to provide for the efficient and orderly conduct of its municipal elections.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

ALL PERSONS ON WHOM

THIS NOTICE IS SERVED WHO

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OF THE WILL, THE QUALIFI-

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FILE THEIR OBJECTIONS WITH

IN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND OBJEC-

TIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER

BARRED.

The date of the first

publication of this Notice

is December 4, 2025.

Deadline for claims is

February 2, 2026.

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OF THE WILL, THE QUALIFI-

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ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND OBJEC-

TIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER

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The date of the first

BES Honor Roll Released

Ryan Lambert, principal at Brandywine Elementary School, has released the school's honor rolls for the first nine-weeks grading period.

Principal's Honor Roll

First grade — Malcolm Graham, Alexander Rawson, Brantley Marston, Cohen Propst, Gwendolyn Bodkin, Luke Eason, Isaiah Kobetic, Carly Mitchell, Liam Weaver, Hadley Reel, Alyssa Deavers, Elizabeth Perry and Wyatt Cook;

Second grade — Dylan Hensley, Braxton Kimble, Nathan Puffenbarger, Titus Simon, Bella Whitmore and

Demakleez Wood;

Third grade — Lucas Cruz, Wyatt Hevener, Nicholas Jameson, Geneva Mongold, Alani Shockley, Colton Turner, Ben Weaver, Bentley Whitlock, Cooper Wimer and Gaige Eye;

Fourth grade — Hunter Bowers, Carson Mitchell, Bethany Teagarden and Brody Whitlock; and

Sixth grade — Harley Bowers, Macie Mitchell and Addison Williams.

A-B Honor Roll

First grade — Rein Poff, Mia Mahoney and Kyler Kiser;

Second grade — Carter

Braham, Cayson Hevener and Wyatt Ruddle;

Third grade — Ella Hayes, Skylar Hottle, Annabelle Lockner, Carter Mahoney, Romeo Perez and Jacob Wheeler;

Fourth grade — Arianna George, Lucas Hanna, Venecen Rawson, Wyatt Reel, Chloe Simmons and Harper Spivey;

Fifth grade — Logan Bowman, Thomas Connor, Vianca Henderson, Trevor Redmond and Misty-Rayne Wood; and

Sixth grade — Bryce Kimble, Harper Marsh and Corina Simmons.

NFES Students Achieve Academic Honors

Allison Warner and Declan Shane.

A/B Honor Roll

First grade — Brody Nelson; Second grade — Waylawn Bell, Cambrie Ours, Mason Simmons, Jayden Swain, Gracie Thompson and Jason Thompson;

Third grade — Benaiah Glover, Allison Nelson, Gavin Hedrick, Israel Martin, Oakley Dahmer and Braxton Barkley;

Fourth grade — Matthew Decker, Jace Ours and Hannah Sponaugle;

Fifth grade — Taylor Arbaugh, Noahjo Nededog, Andelyn Vance and Brooklyn Vint; and

Sixth grade — Dakota Vandevander, Kimberly Sponaugle, Kai Michael and Levi Arbaugh.

Perfect Attendance

Kindergarten — Jamie Barr, Isaiah Hedrick and BrantLee Vint;

First grade — Haleigh Hebrick, Ivy Huffman and Samantha Sponaugle;

Second grade — Waylawn Bell, Aniah Hedrick and Jayden Swain;

Third grade — Ellie Huffman, Benson Harper, Makenna Bell, Hurikane Cross, Lyndi Clements, Marley Kimble, Delaney Thompson, Hunter Kimble and Nashalie Agosto-Clever;

Fourth grade — Karlee Arbaugh, Oliver Cook, Vera Selmon and Kinsley Shane;

Fifth grade — Haley Warner and Derek Greathouse; and

Sixth grade — Sadie Wimer,

Fifth grade — Derek Greathouse, Haley Warner and Brooklyn Vint; and

Sixth grade — Dakota Vandevander and Tommy Waybright.

Faithful Attendance

Kindergarten — Lynleigh Glover, Wyatt Haddix, Tuff Heavner, Benson Phares, Gabriella Roberts, Haleigh Sponaugle and Micah Vandevander;

First grade — Takota Kimble, Noziah Nededog, Brody Nelson, Shepard Pysell, Skylar Sponaugle, Russell Warner and Haven Wilson;

Second grade — Aurora Infante, Cambrie Ours, Gracie Thompson, Jason Thompson and Timber Tingler;

Third grade — Allison Nelson, Marley Kimble, Oakley Dahmer and Israel Martin;

Fourth grade — Oliver Cook, Matthew Decker, Leland Dove, Kaden Kimble, Isaia Marlow, Jace Ours, Kinsley Shane, Hannah Sponaugle, Braylon Warner and Layla Warner;

Fifth grade — Eli Nelson, Taylor Arbaugh, Noahjo Nededog and Andelyn Vance; and

Sixth grade — Levi Arbaugh, Aaliyah Martin, Kai Michael, Declan Shane, Kimberly Sponaugle, Allison Warner, Keaton Swick and Sadie Wimer.

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This report will not be mailed. A copy will be made available for review or your use upon request at the PSD office during regular business hours.

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