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Pendleton 911 One of Five Counties To Earn Level Three Accreditation

By Stephen Smoot

As waves of new technology continue to shape and change how 911 operates both locally and nationwide, local systems must work to maintain what they have historically done well. They must also continue to address needs on a regular basis to keep pace with the expectations of regulators.

Pendleton 911 has accomplished this and also received recognition in Charleston for that accomplishment.

"We are proud of our 911 personnel for working as a team to make this accreditation happen," shared Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County Emergency Services coordinator. He added that "this is a recently implemented program of accreditation and . . . Pendleton was one of five West Virginia counties to receive any of the levels of certification."

The awards came during a West Virginia 911 Council meeting held at Kanawha County Metro 911. That facility earned a Level Two certification with Level One the highest level to achieve.

Gillespie praised "our E-911 Center director Diana Mitchell and our dedicated 911 personnel for working hard to achieve WV-911 Council Accreditation Level Three."

Mitchell discussed the im-



Diana Mitchell, director of Pendleton 911, and Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County Emergency Services coordinator, were recognized as one of only five counties in West Virginia to achieve certification.

portance of accreditation in a rapidly changing landscape of technology and expectations from both government and the public. Earned accreditation status can give the public confidence that the center has a certain level of response and assistance capability.

She shared that the process of earning accreditation brings up the standard of service and helps to enhance public trust in the system. Since a 911 facility must stay abreast of changes, improve-

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Friends of the Library Celebrate Year of Success at Annual Dinner

By Stephen Smoot

As couples started preening and planning for a lovely Saint Valentine's Day weekend, a different kind of love brought together the Friends of the Library last Friday night.

Speaking of saints, every year this annual dinner celebrates three different aspects of the legacy of Saint Lawrence of Rome. St. Lawrence was condemned by Rome in part for hiding the archives and intellectual works of the early Roman Catholic Church from destruction.

The patron saint of books and libraries also earned the patronage of comedians. It was truthfully recorded that as Roman executioners (well known for creativity in their work) slowly roasted him on a metal



Tom Craig welcomes all to the fun of the Friends of the Library annual dinner.

patron saint of comedians, cooks, and chefs.

If three things permeate a Friends of the Library annual dinner, it is the love of books, a lot of hearty laughter, and wonderful food brought in for the famous potluck dinner.

Rhonda Nash, the president of the Friends organization, welcomed all as the festivities opened. She urged attendees to mingle and select a complimentary book. Already, four tables full of hors d'oeuvres, snack food, dinner options, and desserts were joined by fresh coffee, the famous Friends of the Library punch, and other drinks.

Nash invited Jay Puffenbarger to rise and lead the assemblage with the Pledge of Allegiance, which was appropriate as he served the cause of his nation and freedom in the Vietnam War. Tom Craig offered the blessing, praying, "Thank You for the dedicated hands and hearts."

Nash identified some special guests, including Paula Waggy who served on the board of trustees. She explained that Charlie Burgoyne had a good reason for missing the dinner as it was his anniversary. Then she shared that "Mr. Tom Firor is with us." As she described his many years serving on the board and as treasurer, he good naturedly piped up, "Too many!"

She also introduced Linda Hedrick, interim director, and Wendy Putz, veteran staff member, and then shared "to our current board members, I have to give a real word of thanks." Later, Hedrick praised staff member Destiny Keplinger, who could not make the occasion, as the library's artist. From the library windows to decorated gift bags for kids, Hedrick described her caring touch.

Of Putz, Hedrick said, "Wen-

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Community CALENDAR

Lenten Lunches Begin Today

The annual Lenten Lunches hosted by the Pendleton County Ministerial Association began at noon today at Walnut Street United Methodist Church in Franklin.

A meal, consisting of soups, sandwiches, desserts and drinks, will be served at noon. A Lenten message will be delivered at 12:30 p.m.

This week's meal will be provided by Friends Run and Smith Creek Churches of the Brethren. The message will be delivered by David Morris, pastor of the Smith Creek and Friends Run Churches of the Brethren.

Next week's meal will be provided by Circleville and Seneca Rocks churches. The message will be delivered by Gary Cecil.

All donations will support the mission of the ministerial association as it seeks to serve those in Pendleton County.

Family Support Center To Host Tax Preparation Sessions

The Pendleton County Strive to Thrive Family Support Center on Main Street in Franklin is holding two free tax preparation sessions.

The sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Saturday and on March 21. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 304-538-7711.

PDC To Host Planning Meeting

The Region 8 Planning and Development Council invites Potomac Highlands community leaders to participate in planning the region's future by helping the council update its regional development plan.

A meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 26 at Mullin's 1847 Restaurant in Moorefield. A light lunch will be provided.

Reservations are needed by Feb. 25 by calling Carla Dent at 304-257-2448 ext. 9241 or emailing her at cdent@regioneighth.org.

Wen-

Continued on Page 2



Kris Warner praised Pendleton County first responders, 911 telecommunicators, and citizens who rendered him aid near Judy Gap.

Secretary of State Praises Area First Responders and Residents For Helping After Vehicle Accident

By Stephen Smoot

West Virginia Secretary of State Kris Warner had a slate of activities scheduled for last Friday, but could only attend one. As he traveled in his vehicle on U.S. Route 33 and turned to go up North Mountain at Judy Gap, Warner lost control of his vehicle and flipped it on its side.

The accident triggered an SOS from his cell phone that went to one of the staff in his Charleston office, Jarrod Summers. Summers then coordinated with Pendleton 911 dispatcher Terry Ryan to locate Warner. Meanwhile, as Warner described on Facebook, Chris Kimble stopped and also called Pendleton 911 to send help.

Warner added that "my faith was renewed by the fact not one vehicle passed by without stopping to make sure I was okay and those that stopped would not leave me by myself until emergency responders arrived to make sure I was okay."

He thanked "Sam Heinzman and his friend who interrupted their fishing trip to make sure I was okay." Appreciation also went to "the dynamic duo" of emergency responders,

Amberley and Stacie Bennett, "who checked my vitals in the back of the ambulance along-side Rt 33 at Judy Gap." Jimmie Bennett, county commissioner, also stopped to check on Warner and assist, if needed.

"I apologize I do not remember all of those that stopped to help," he posted, but invited any who did to message him on Facebook so he could thank them personally.

Thanks also went to Delmas Bennett "for clearing debris and picking up personal items at the crash site, Isaac Bennett "for your help loading the Suburban on the rollback," and Tiffany Warner. He said of Tiffany Warner, "Sorry I didn't get to meet you in person, but I understand you directed traffic on the upper side of the accident."

Warner noted the "professionalism" of West Virginia State Trooper Kevin Raymond and also Brett Raines and Josh Dempsey, Pendleton County sheriff deputies.

"Lastly, thank you to towing company owner Carl Warner, no relation out of Circleville, for towing the Suburban and for completely cleaning out and bagging up personal belongings while I was at my speaking engagement," Warner stated.

Secretary of State Honors Centurion Businesses in Pendleton County

By Stephen Smoot

West Virginia Secretary of State Kris Warner had a schedule planned out to promote voter education at Pendleton County Middle/High School and also recognize businesses that have operated in the county for a century or more. A road mishap pre-empted the former, but not the latter as he helped the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce recognize establishments in business for 100 years or more.

Those honored were the Harper's Old Country Store, Pendleton Community Bank, and The Pendleton Times. While PCB was inducted last year, the remainder served as part of the inaugural class of honorees.

Festivities opened with a check presentation by Pendleton Community Bank to the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce to support Trout Fest. Dayne Davis, representing PCB, stated "the 100 years we've been around, the community is in our name. That's the epitome of what we are."

Jared VanMeter, executive director, responded and said "Pendleton Community Bank has always been a huge supporter of the chamber and Trout Fest."

Warner, a little roughed up by his accident but cleared to continue by Pendleton County Emergency Rescue, first shared his unique connection with the venue hosting the establishment, Historic McCoy House. Interestingly enough, his family lineage ties him not to the Warners of Pendleton County, but the McCoys.

Additionally, one of the businesses honored, The Pendleton Times, was carefully and lovingly operated and published for generations by the very same McCoy family and it endeavors to carry on that family legacy as well as is possible.

Then came the award presentations. Warner explained the importance of the West Virginia Centurion Chamber of Commerce, describing it as "the most prestigious award . . . of the West Virginia business community." Since 2019, the West Virginia Secretary of State's office has honored long-established businesses thus.

After the presentations, he shared an important update. Due to irregularities in some states in recent election cycles, the United States Department of Justice ordered states to



Looking none the worse for wear from his accident at Judy Gap, West Virginia Secretary of State Kris Warner addressed the audience at the McCoy House in Franklin.

provide voter roll information. Secretary Warner replied that both West Virginia state law and the United States Constitution prevent him from legally turning over the information.

Warner then praised county clerks across West Virginia, naming Elise White, Pendleton County Clerk, by name. He shared that their diligent work had erased hundreds of thousands of names that should not be on the rolls, then added that the same officials had led an effective charge to register as many eligible voters as possible.

His visit to Pendleton County Middle/High School, which will be rescheduled, was part of that effort to enroll young people in larger numbers.

Warner also touted a bill that would open

working in polling stations to qualified 16-and 17-year olds.

OBITUARIES



Catherine L.
'Cathy' Dowdy

Catherine L. "Cathy" Dowdy, 70, of Franklin passed away on Feb. 13, 2026, at the Pendleton Manor in Franklin.

She was born on Jan. 10, 1956, in Baltimore, Maryland, the daughter of the late Joe Veston and Velma Catherine (Herrick) Dahmer.

Mrs. Dowdy was a 1974 graduate of Franklin High School and had worked for 27 years at Hanover Shoe Company.

She had attended Franklin United Methodist Church and Friends Run Church of the Brethren. She was the custodian of the Franklin Presbyterian Church for 17 years. She was a past member of the Franklin Rescue

Squad and Franklin Ruritan Club.

She had a tremendous love for animals and enjoyed feeding the ducks and watching the deer. Cruising around in the side-by-side was also one of her favorite past times.

On July 22, 1978, she married the love of her life, Earl Lee Dowdy, who survives.

In addition to her husband, she leaves behind to cherish her memory a sister, Patricia "Patty" Simmons (David) of Franklin; a sister-in-law, Margaret Dahmer; two brothers-in-law, Donald Dowdy (Mary), Dale Dowdy (Judy); and several nieces, nephews, and extended family in Virginia.

She was also preceded in death by a brother, Stanley Dahmer.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor Tony Tiilley officiating. Interment was in Cedar Hill Cemetery at Franklin.

Memorials may be made to Franklin Volunteer Fire Department, and Pendleton County Rescue Squad, PAWS, or charity of the donor's choice.

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



Willis Lee Knott

Willis Lee Knott, 88, of Bridgewater, Virginia, passed away on Feb. 11, 2026.

He was born on Sept. 2, 1937, in Mt. Solon, Virginia, and was a son of the late Robert A. and Bessie B. (Moyers) Knott.

Mr. Knott was a 1954 graduate of North River High School and continued his education at Woodrow Wilson Technical School. He began his career in the automotive industry at Barton Motors in Staunton, Virginia, and later worked at both the Dodge and Ford dealerships in Harrisonburg, Virginia, concluding his career as service manager at the Ford dealership.

He had a love for antique cars and enjoyed attending parades with his grandchild.

He was also a longtime and faithful member of Emmanuel Church of the Brethren in Mt. Solon, Virginia.

On May 1, 1974, he was united in marriage to A. Sue (Miller) Knott, who survives. They were blessed with 62 years of marriage.

Also surviving are a foster sister, Betty Jones; two children, Tamela "Tammy" (Sean) Jones, and Patty (Roy) Gray; and four grandchildren whom he adored, Ethan (Abby) Jones, Katelyn (Lydia Hearn) Jones, Jacob Gray, and Kelsey Gray.

He was also preceded in death by an infant sister, Evelyn May Knott.

A memorial service celebrating his life was held Sunday at Emmanuel Church of the Brethren in Mt. Solon, Virginia, with Pastors Tom Williams and Tim Ball officiating. Burial was private.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bridgewater Rescue Squad. In honor of his memory, his family encourages everyone to attend a car show, enjoy a scoop of ice cream, and take in a good gospel sing.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at johnsonfs.com.

Arrangements were entrusted to Johnson Funeral and Cremation Service in Bridgewater, Virginia.

Marianna Hartman Smith Spielman, 92,

Marianna Hartman Smith Spielman, 92, of Martinsburg passed away Feb. 2, 2026.

Born March 9, 1933, she was the daughter of the late Charlie and Martha Simmons Hartman.

Mrs. Spielman grew up in Franklin and attended Franklin High School.

She loved her cats.

Her husbands, David Smith of Sugar Grove and Jerry Spielman of Berkeley County, preceded her in death.

Surviving family members include Dianna Hartman Coleman, Charles Hartman and Angela Hartman Rexrode, as well as her friend, Frances Conrad Morgan.

In honoring her wishes, her body was donated for science research.

Pendleton County Board of Education Holds RIF Hearing

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, the Pendleton County Board of Education held a special hearing to consider a Reduction In Force, or RIF, request from a staff member who received notice. While multiple staff members received notices, only Tanya Wehrle from Franklin Elementary School requested a hearing.

In the worst case scenario, an RIF notice indicates that the recipient of the message will be laid off. However, that is not always the case. In some cases, it indicates that an individual's role or the category in which their job is placed will change, but that they will not be out of their job. With a number of regulations and rules governing especially grant and federally supported positions, RIFs help school systems rearrange the chairs on the deck to suit rule makers and keep the school system within its budget.

J.D. Wilkins, Pendleton County's Board of Education president, opened the meeting with a statement. He explained that "employees of Pendleton County Schools are the only reason that we can teach to students." Wilkins explained that the "students are the most important" aspect of the system. "We absolutely have to be able to have the employees to help them out," he said.

Much of the meeting centered around the hearing request by Wehrle. She has held two different roles as a media specialist in the school library and also a parent coordinator. Jason Long, who facilitated the hearing, asked if Wehrle preferred an open or closed door hearing. "Open is fine," she responded.

Pendleton County Schools officials took pains to express their admiration and appreciation for the amount of work in different areas and projects that Wehrle undertakes for FES. They explained that the RIF notice was nothing personal, nor was it a reflection of her work.

First, Nicole Hevener, superintendent, received an opportunity to discuss the reason for the RIF notice. She stated that Wehrle has two separate "extracurricular contracts" that combined to form her job. These do not involve coaching or athletics, but other work activities outside of teaching and the classroom.

Hevener stated that "the position of media specialist is on the (RIF) list because it was not correctly printed for what the purpose is." Because it was wrongfully posted and, therefore, wrongfully filled, it must be removed. That said, Hevener said of the parent coordinator role that Wehrle also fills that they "would like to continue that and even expand it."

When asked later by Wilkins if they could adapt the parent coordinator role to provide her sufficient time to perform the work she does now, Hevener stated, "We'd change the parent coordinator job, so she has the time."

The change in status would result in a reduction of two hours per week from Wehrle's work schedule. Wehrle wanted to address that reduction in her part of the hearing.

Wehrle described a significant list of tasks and accomplishments that she has been able to perform in the service of the school and students. One lay in modernizing the nonfiction section of the library, leading to expanded use of the books there by students. She also helps to put together the school yearbook. All lauded the number of different jobs that Wehrle completes with time as a very limited resource.

She explained that the loss of two hours per week of time would have an impact on what she could do for the students. One casualty could be the popular art show that she puts together for FES to show off student art talents.

The board will consider the recommendations of the superintendent and act on them in March.

Friends of the Library

Continued From Page 1

dy always does her thing and she does it very well!"

Introductions also covered board members and officers including Boyd Lucas, vice president, and Becky Puffenbarger, treasurer. Of course because her name was mispronounced as "Bucky" the first time mentioned, she was assigned the dubious moniker the remainder of the evening. Nash explained that Jayne Germaine had assumed the office of secretary with Craig currently engaged in other work.

Other board members include Darlene Bokelman, Hayley Craig, Madeline Hoover, and Mary Jane Santelli.

One of the important tasks to undertake in between the food and fun lay in the business meeting. All officers and board members were confirmed for another year of service. Nash also thanked "our buddy" Bruce Holderman for his professional work on the Friends' newsletter.

The business meeting also highlighted the success of both the Friends and the library as a whole. They celebrated their first ever grant award of \$1,000, establishing a near-impromptu poetry group after a highly successful celebration of World Poetry Day. Budget cuts also could not stop the popular History Alive! Program, featuring JoAnn Peterson as social worker Frances Perkins.

After business and vittuals were concluded, Jennifer Taylor-Ide made an announcement concerning the highly anticipated performance of the Pendleton County Hot Mess.

She said, "Sometimes we're hot! Sometimes we're a mess!" Taylor-Ide then smiled and shared how they had to revamp the planned musical performance with one group member out sick. That didn't prevent them from playing to their usual high standard or keep the gathering from enjoying the performance.

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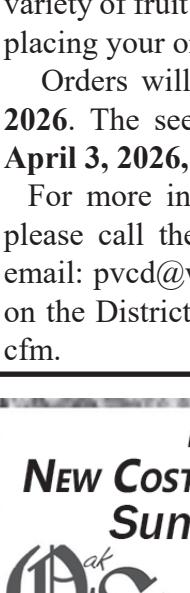
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NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

March 1st is the last date the discount of 2-1/2% on all Second Half 2025 taxes can be allowed. Interest at the rate of 9% has been accumulating on all unpaid First Half taxes since October 1, 2025.

Office Hours:

8:30 - 4:30

Monday through Friday

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to gain access to the Sheriff's Office

BRADLEY D. KIMBLE

Sheriff, Pendleton County

NFES Students Deserve Academic Recognition

The staff at North Fork Elementary School has released the following academic honors for the second nine-weeks grading period and the first semester.

A Honor Roll - Second Nine Weeks

First grade — Noah Goldizen, Takota Kimble, Wyatt Malcolm, Shepard Pysell and Skylar Sponaugle;
Second grade — Jason Thompson;
Third grade — Braxton Barkley, Makenna Bell, Oakley Dahmer, Benaiah Glover, Benson Harper, Ellie Huffman, Marley Kimble, Blake Long and Delaney Thompson;
Fourth grade — Jace Ours, Vera Selmon and Kinsley Shane;
Fifth grade — Taylor Arbaugh, Derek Greathouse, Noahjo Nededog, Andelyn Vance and Haley Warner; and
Sixth grade — Declan Shane and Sadie Wimer.

A/B Honor Roll - Second Nine Weeks

First grade — Haleigh Hedrick, Noziah Nededog, Brody Nelson, Elijah Pysell and Russell Warner;

Second grade — Waylonn Bell, Cambrie Ours, Mason Simmons, Jayden Swain, Gracie Thompson and Timber Tingler;

Third grade — Hurikane Cross, Gavin Hedrick, Hunter Kimble, Israel Martin and Allison Nelson;

Fourth grade — Karlee Arbaugh, Oliver Cook, Leland Dove and Hannah Sponaugle;

Fifth grade — Brooklyn Vint; and

Sixth grade — Aaliyah Martin, Kai'zekial Michael, Emilee Morris-Hedrick, Kimberly Sponaugle and Allison Warner.

Perfect Attendance - Second Nine Weeks

Kindergarten — Benson Phares and Lynleigh Glover;
Second grade — Jayden Swain;

Third grade — Makenna Bell, Benaiah Glover, Benson Harper, Gavin Hedrick, Ellie Huffman, Hunter Kimble, Marley Kimble, Blake Long and Allison Nelson;

Fifth grade — Andelyn Vance; and

Sixth grade — Kimberly Sponaugle and Tommy Waybright.

Faithful Attendance - Second Nine Weeks

Kindergarten — Isaiah Hedrick, BrantLee Vint, Adalynn Grapes, William Huffman, Wyatt Haddix, Braxton Long, Tuff Heavner, Josiah McAbee, Haleigh Sponaugle and Gabriella Roberts;

First grade — Haleigh Hedrick, Ivy Huffman, Takota Kimble, Wyatt Malcolm, Noziah Nededog, Brody Nelson, Shepard Pysell, Samantha Sponaugle, Skylar Sponaugle and Russell Warner;

Second grade — Waylonn Bell, Aniah Hedrick, Cambrie Ours, Mason Simmons, Gracie Thompson, Jason Thompson and Timber Tingler;

Third grade — Braxton Barkley, Hurikane Cross and Oakley Dahmer;

Fourth grade — Karlee Arbaugh, Oliver Cook, Leland Dove, Kaden Kimble, Isaiah Marlow, Jace Ours, Vera Selmon, Hannah Sponaugle and Layla Warner;

Fifth grade — Taylor Arbaugh, Derek Greathouse, Noahjo Nededog, Haley Warner, Eli Nelson, Brooklyn Vint and Daniel Thompson; and

Sixth grade — Levi Arbaugh, Aaliyah Martin, Kai'zekial Michael, Emilee Morris-Hedrick, Declan Shane, Allison Warner and Sadie Wimer.

A Honor Roll - First Semester

First grade — Noah Goldizen, Haleigh Hedrick, Takota Kimble, Wyatt Malcolm, Shepard Pysell, Skylar Sponaugle and Russell Warner;

Third grade — Makenna Bell, Benaiah Glover, Benson Harper, Ellie Huffman, Marley Kimble, Delaney Thompson and Israel Martin;

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

Fifth grade — Taylor Arbaugh, Derek Greathouse, Noahjo Nededog, Andelyn Vance and Haley Warner; and

Sixth grade — Declan Shane and Sadie Wimer.

A/B Honor Roll - First Semester

First grade — Ivy Huffman, Noziah Nededog, Brody Nelson and Elijah Pysell

Second grade — Waylonn Bell, Cambrie Ours, Mason Simmons, Jayden Swain, Gracie Thompson, Jason Thompson and Timber Tingler;

Third grade — Braxton Barkley, Hurikane Cross, Oakley Dahmer, Gavin Hedrick, Hunter Kimble and Allison Nelson;

Fourth grade — Leland Dove and Hannah Sponaugle;

Fifth grade — Eli Nelson and Brooklyn Vint; and

Sixth grade — Kai'zekial Michael, Kimberly Sponaugle and Allison Warner.

Perfect Attendance - First Semester

Second grade — Jayden Swain;

Third grade — Makenna Bell, Benaiah Glover, Benson Harper, Gavin Hedrick, Ellie Huffman and Hunter Kimble; and

Sixth grade — Tommy Waybright.

Faithful Attendance - First Semester

Kindergarten — Lynleigh Glover, Isaiah Hedrick, Benson Phares, Gabby Roberts, Haleigh Sponaugle and BrantLee Vint;

First grade — Haleigh Hedrick, Ivy Huffman, Shepard Pysell and Samantha Sponaugle

Second grade — Waylonn Bell, Aniah Hedrick, Cambrie Ours and Jason Thompson;

Third grade — Hurikane Cross, Oakley Dahmer, Marley Kimble and Allison Nelson;

Fourth grade — Karlee Arbaugh, Kaden Kimble, Jace Ours, Vera Selmon, Hannah Sponaugle and Layla Warner;

Fifth grade — Taylor Arbaugh, Derek Greathouse, Noahjo Nededog, Haley Warner, Eli Nelson, Brooklyn Vint and Andelyn Vance; and

Sixth grade — Levi Arbaugh, Aaliyah Martin, Kai'zekial Michael, Kimberly Sponaugle and Allison Warner.

Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Business Opening in Franklin

By Stephen Smoot

As the new year brought new leadership into place at the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce, the organization celebrated the opening of a new business on South Branch Street in Franklin.

The business name may sound quite familiar, how-

ever.

Hailey Haynes had previously operated Blown Away Hair Studio on Main Street in Franklin from May 2023 until February of the next year. During that time, she built a reputation as a stylist who could perform a number of stylish cuts, including Brazilian Blowouts, razor cuts, custom

color work, and more.

Haynes relocated to Seward, Alaska, temporarily before making her way from the Last Frontier back to the friendly confines of the Mountain State. She started taking on customers again in late 2025 and the ribbon cutting marks the business's return.

According to a statement from the chamber, "her return brings not only talent and experience back to the community, but a fresh, stylish energy to downtown Franklin." Additionally, "the new space is absolutely stunning, beautifully designed, with a modern, hip vibe that instantly makes clients feel comfortable."

Haynes was joined by Dayne Davis from the Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority, Scott Rightsell, co-chair of the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce, and Jared VanMeter, executive director of the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce.

VanMeter was selected to serve as executive director in December, replacing Elizabeth Scott, former executive director. VanMeter and his wife, Katie, operate bed and breakfast establishments, a laundry, and Historic McCoy House LLC, as well as apartment rentals. They are also active with the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau.



Chesapeake Bay Trust, Town of Franklin, Thrasher Hold Stormwater Solutions Meeting

By Stephen Smoot

Throughout the second half of 2025, the increasingly parched skies and lands in and around Pendleton County almost made some forget the relentless rains that drenched the region from January till July.

The Town of Franklin, and those who saw the worst of the troubles, have not. One primary problem emerged with the Pendleton Senior and Family Services building in Franklin. It saw on two occasions problems with flooding water. Waters came up through the sewage system and also threatened to come through the doors.

Janice Lantz, executive director, went to the Town of Franklin and the Pendleton County Commission to find relief. The troubles faced by her center raised concerns about both stormwater flows through town and also the continually rising riverbed. While federal and state regulations hamstring the ability of local authorities to correct the South Branch River's bed issues, stormwater mitigation should help to reduce many of the issues.

Michelle Connor, assisted by her husband, John, helped to facilitate the meeting. Also present were Bob Horan, mayor, Keelie Smith, council member, Frank Wehrle, town administrator, Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County Emergency Services coordinator, and a number of others present to share concerns and also ideas on further projects.

Connor officiated as the Mon Forest Towns representative for Franklin. She explained the mission of the Mon Forest Towns, "to bring projects and opportunities that connect people to the Mon Forest." The close connections to the lands and waters of both the Monongahela National Forest and the Chesapeake Bay watershed provide opportunities

Franklin also serves as the first municipality on the South Branch of the Potomac, which includes it in the regulatory regime of the Chesapeake Bay Region. While, as Connor stated, this "makes things a little tricky," she explained that it also opens funding opportunities. Stormwater has the potential to wash pollutants off of hard surfaces, such as roads, parking lots, and rooftops, into the streams. Reducing the speed, flow, and impact of stormwater serves the purpose of improving Town of Franklin conditions, as well as those of the area's streams and rivers.

Attendees also learned that the community engagement aspect of planning stormwater mitigation was 100 percent grant funded. Phase one came in a social media survey with the meeting serving as phase two of the engagement process. Focus lay primarily on public spaces, because as the Thrasher representatives informed, "We're certainly not going to tell people how to use their property."

A Thrasher representative then shared a presentation that discussed different aspects of stormwater mitigation infrastructure. These included rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavement, rooftops covered with small plants, constructed wetlands, and more. Each object has two goals, to capture

or at least slow the movement of rainwater during heavy storms and also to increase the aesthetic beauty of the area. He noted that "chains" of best management practices in choosing infrastructure could work well in Franklin.

One example of a public space plan lay in the Town of Franklin Park's lot. The representative shared that the dirt and gravel had compacted together to form a much less permeable surface than the surrounding grounds. In this example, use of paving stones that allow stormwater to seep into the ground through them rather than a flat surface slows water movement. The lot can be built in such a way as to use bioswales to help to channel the remaining flowing water into a rain garden.

These best management practices use the natural filtration of soil and water to clean it prior to getting into the river. Additionally, rain gardens are designed to use native plants to make the infrastructure look both more natural and more beautiful. Use in areas such as Berkeley Springs has shown their utility in reducing stormwater impacts.

Attendees saw multiple plans to address some of Franklin's most significant stormwater problems, including stormwater flowing down Dogwood Street, increasing problems with the channeling of water around Pendleton Senior and Family Services and the Town Park softball field, and others. The town's parking lot bordering the Franklin Innovation Hub was also cited as a place that accumulated stormwater and caused surrounding buildings problems.

Representatives at the meeting noted that a number of funding sources could come together to fund the projects foreseen for Franklin. One said, "Part of our job is to make sure the public is educated."

With some projects envisioning improvements along and in Franklin streets, Wehrle cautioned all by saying ownership by the West Virginia Division of Highways could create some complications. While "it mitigates some of the maintenance costs," DoH ownership "in practice . . . causes complications."

Sam Urban from Trout Unlimited also shared some necessary points, such as that any "green infrastructure" installed would require regular maintenance. This includes regularly "mucking out" channels for water, replacing mulch in the gardens, cleaning debris such as cigarette butts from between permeable pavers.

"There are long term maintenance concerns with all of these," he explained.

Wehrle also shared that Franklin has the opposite problem of many municipalities. Most have issues with sewage getting into the sanitary town stormwater drainage system. He explained that stormwater shoves its way into the systems feeding the sewage treatment plant.

After the presentation, the public was invited to take part in a question and answer session.

</

TIMES PAST

10 Years Ago
Week of February 11, 2016

Historically — Chocolate Is More than Just Food

Many cannot resist chocolate, that beloved creamy, sweet confection derived from cocoa beans, milk and sugar. All over the world people love to indulge in chocolate, especially come Valentine's Day.

According to data from Leatherhead Food Research, Switzerland consumes more chocolate per capita than any country in the world. Ireland, the United Kingdom, Austria and Belgium round out the top five.

Despite its apparent popularity in Europe, chocolate was first popularized among the Olmecs of Mexico, who used the cocoa beans more than 3,500 years ago. However, it wasn't until the last 200 years that chocolate turned into the sweet treat that is known and loved today.

While chocolate is now used primarily as a food, over the years it has had many other uses — some of which are quite unique.

• Money: The Mayans once used cocoa beans as a form of currency, as did the Aztecs.

• Dental health: Arman Sadeghpour, a researcher at Tulane University, says an extract of cocoa powder could be an effective alternative to using fluoride.

• Fuel: Chocolate has been used to feed bacterial that produce hydrogen, which can be used as a clean power source.

• Medicine: Chocolate is full of antioxidants, which serve all sorts of disease-fighting benefits in the body. Dark chocolate provides the greatest number of health benefits, as it contains flavanols, which stimulate the brain and support the circulatory system.

• Fashion: Designers and chocolatiers worldwide collaborate to make sweet outfits for fashion shows.

• Special effects: Before the days of computer-stimulated effects, movie-makers had to employ other methods to produce realistic results.

• Skin care: Cocoa butter, a component of chocolate, has long been used to moisturize and soothe dry skin.

• Perfume: Chocolate produces more than 400 distinct smells and has been used to make perfume more fragrant.

• Mood enhancement: Chocolate may help to improve mood, as it is a mild stimulant and can affect serotonin levels.

• Postage: In 2013, Belgium's post office sold limited-edition stamps that were varnished with 40 percent of a cocoa product. The stamps smelled

and tasted like chocolate.

Chocolate has been tempting taste buds for thousands of years.

20 Years Ago

Week of February 16, 2006

SUGAR GROVE

It's a Sick Bird That Can't Carry Its Own Feather

There was a time when certain words were used and since they were never used in a spelling bee and teachers never spoke them, one would almost think they were invented by the user.

Words, such as dawdle, lollygag, 'deed and double' and dilly-dally, didn't sound like dictionary words. Rambunctious was another word. Being rambunctious, obstreperous and cantankerous usually meant that one was persnickety, having a hissy or conniption fit, or cutting some monkeyshines. If one wasn't racing around like chicken with its head cut off or a bat out of hell, one was slower than molasses in January.

Ears could get pretty dirty — dirty enough to grow potatoes in them. Should one ever swallow watermelon seeds, they'd surely grow in one's stomach. Not being hungry would be quite interesting — reminders that an empty sack won't stand up would be forthcoming.

When a coat was not worn during cold weather, it was not unusual to hear, "It's a sick bird that can't carry its own feather!" Faking sickness in order to miss school never worked. Reading the mind by putting a hand on the forehead to "check the temperature" was quickly followed with "You're okay, go to school. And don't dilly-dally!"

To not know the meanings of those certain mentioned words meant a person was "wet behind the ears," or a barely qualified beginner.

Many newly born animals, wet from liquids in the womb, are slow to become fully dry. Some places like the indentations behind the ears, take the longest to dry because of the lack of air exposure. The fur of animals, like kittens, holds moisture and stays damp until they become active. Thus, a youth or an adult who knows nothing about a subject or planned event is as helpless as an infant, or still wet behind the ears.

The Appalachian language is flamboyant in many ways. In many ways, it is downright peculiar even though it makes sense to those who live here.

30 Years Ago

Week of February 15, 1996

Girl Scouts Visit Nursing Home

Junior Girl Scout Troop 511 of Upper Tract visited Pendleton Nursing Home during the Christmas season. The scouts made cards and fruit baskets at the December meeting which were passed out to several residents. The girls took time to visit with each person that received their gifts. At the request of one resident, the scout troop sang Christmas carols.

Indian Profile...

Coach on Brian Vance: Brian is averaging 7.4 points and 4.5 rebounds per game. He's shooting 43% from the floor.

Brian gained some valuable experience as a freshman that has enabled him to start fast this season.

He is the son of Ronnie and JoAnn Vance of Seneca Rocks.

Indian Profile...

Coach on Johnny Turner: Johnny has scored at a 2.5 rate per game. He has 30 assists and 16 steals to date.

This young man has a lot of quickness and power. As Johnny gains confidence in his abilities, his play will elevate.

Johnny is the son of Craig and Brenda Turner of Seneca Rocks.

Indian Profile...

Coach on Adam Huffman: Adam is averaging 2.6 points per game. He has 18 assists, 16 steals and is shooting 57% from the free throw line.

He's an extremely hard worker and a very tough young man. He leads the team in taking charges. Defense is his strength.

Adam is the son of Dan and Liz Huffman of Seneca Rocks.

Week of February 22, 1996

200 Students to Work Here with Habitat for Humanity

In the coming months nearly 200 students will be working with the Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Circleville, a host affiliate for Collegiate Challenge: Spring Break '96. Between February 16 and March 23, high school and college students will be helping with construction and flood relief work in the Circleville area.

Students will work primarily in the flood damaged area of Big Run, doing home repairs, cleaning up the debris left by the flood and repairing damaged wells in the area.

Kimble and Shanholtz Are Panthers of Week

Ryan Kimble has been named this week's Fox's co-player of the week. He is a 5'7", 145-pound sophomore guard. Ryan is another hustler, produces great speed and determination.

This is his first season as a varsity player and it has played a vital role in reserve

action. Ryan came off the bench against Circleville in an earlier win and picked up 10 points and five steals.

Ryan's playing time will greatly increase in the coming years. He is another three-sport athlete where he participates in football, basketball and baseball.

Ryan is the son of Richard and Jeannie Kimble of Upper Tract.

Jeremy Shanholtz has been named this week's Fox's co-player of the week. Jeremy is a 6'1", 150-pound reserve junior guard. He has seen limited action this year, but with lots of work in the off season his playing time could increase in another year.

Jeremy possesses a good jump shot with three-point capabilities. Jeremy also was a member of this year's football team and last year's baseball team.

He is the son of Mike and Teresa Shanholtz of Brandywine.

40 Years Ago

Week of February 20, 1986

Franklin Historic District Listed In National Register

The Franklin Historic District and three other Pendleton County sites have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places, the West Virginia Department of Culture and History announced today. The Franklin Historic District was entered in the register January 15.

Other Pendleton County structures that have been entered in the register are the Old Propst Church at Brandywine, the McCoy Mill three miles south of Franklin and the Pendleton County Poor Farm on US Route 220 at Upper Tract. They were admitted to the register January 14.

50 Years Ago

Week of February 19, 1976

17 Complete Red Cross Course to Qualify for Rescue Squad

Seventeen residents of Pendleton County were presented certificates of completion of the Advanced Final Aid and Emergency Care Course at the first meeting of the class February 2 in the community room of the Pendleton County Bank.

The 60-hour course began early in December and was given to qualify the members of the class for membership for the rescue squad to be organized in Pendleton County.

Members of the class were Mrs. Viola J. Riddleman, Mrs. Glenn (Barbara) Bennett, Mrs. Merle (Barbara) Bennett, Bruce Minor, Allen Sisson, Paul Mallow, Andrew Walker, Merle Bennett, Hal Hevener, Glenn Bennett, Stephen Roberson, Berlie Sponaugle, John Bryant, David Basagic, Larry Dove, Rev. Lynn Wilbur and Dr. John Harman.

John and Estella Dahmer do

Scholarship Fund Honors Pendletonians

Some of the children of the late Miles Flynn have organized and established an educational loan and scholarship fund to assist those who are preparing for a life of Christian service in any college.

Mr. Flynn was a native of Pendleton County. One of his sons, C. E. Flynn, served as principal of Circleville High School several years ago, and one of his daughters, Mrs. Sam Thompson, lives at Riverton.

Cut Branches To Force Bloom

Late January and the first of February are good times to cut branches of flowering plants such as pussy willow, forsythia, crabapple, cherries and plums to force them into bloom.

Place the branches in luke warm water and store in a cool, dimly lighted room until the buds begin to swell. When swelling appears, place the branches in the main part of the house.

60 Years Ago

Week of February 17, 1966

New Thinking in Math To Be Studied

Mrs. Marsha Plybon, Franklin High School mathematics teacher, will be in charge of an in-service modern mathematics program which is sponsored in Pendleton County by the West Virginia State Department of Education. Tentative plans are being made for an enrollment of thirty to forty teachers.

This program is expected to provide an overview of the newer thinking in the field of mathematics to help teachers realize the importance of the concepts they develop, and to indicate how the concepts fit into the total program of elementary mathematics. It is not intended to be a method course for any particular grade; however, some time will be spent on the use of teaching aids in mathematics instruction.

CAVE

The Branch people came through the bad spell of weather with snow, which amounted to 30 inches, and the thermometer at zero for about 10 days. The snow has melted except for some deep drifts, when the weather got warmer last Wednesday. We had some rain Saturday night and Sunday which put water in the river for it had been frozen. People's wells, cisterns, springs and ponds now have water again which they are surely thankful for. When the snow melted, most of the moisture went into the ground where it was badly needed.

DAHMER

Prayer thought: "Dear God, please help me to draw near to You instead of pulling away. I need Your daily guidance to keep me on the right path."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for Feb. 9 through Feb. 15, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: Feb. 9 - 42°, 1° (40°, 31°, .02°), Feb. 10 - 58°, 25° (39°, 29°), Feb. 11 - 50°, 30°, .02° (32°, 28°, 4.5° snow), Feb. 12 - 36°, 26° (36°, 27°, .06°), Feb. 13 - 39°, 20° (50°, 27°), Feb. 14 - 52°, 23° (28°, 19°) and Feb. 15 - 40°, 34°, .33° (27°, 12°, 1.5° snow).

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Smith Creek/ Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

It's that time of the year when the afternoons are nice and warm, but when the sun goes down, so does the temperature. This helps out the maple trees where the plastic tubes are connected and the juice flows to the buckets. In another month, the Maple Festival will be held in Highland County, Virginia.

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, Neal Eye, Ruth Bauer, Rick Waggy, Gloria Moats, Jim Fawley, David Berg, Ruthalene Judy, Jessie Simmons, Minny Rhoads, Larry Rexrode, Troy Bennett, 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, Phil Downs, Bruce Lambert, Sherry Chambers, Kaylee Bennett, Paul Mallow, Kristin Bodkin, Bonnie Mitchell, Donald Burns, Wayne Simmons, Glenn Sites, Earl Smith, Genevieve Bible, Jennifer Scott, Brian Calhoun, Bobby Bodkin, Shirley Bland, Robin Gery, Nancy George, Grace Hammer. Paul Borror and the family of Cathy Dowdy.

Prayer thought: "Dear God, please help me to draw near to You instead of pulling away. I need Your daily guidance to keep me on the right path."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for Feb. 9 through Feb. 15, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: Feb. 9 - 42°, 1° (40°, 31°, .02°), Feb. 10 - 58°, 25° (39°, 29°), Feb. 11 - 50°, 30°, .02° (32°, 28°, 4.5° snow), Feb. 12 - 36°, 26° (36°, 27°, .06°), Feb. 13 - 39°, 20° (50°, 27°), Feb. 14 - 52°, 23° (28°, 19°) and Feb. 15 - 40°, 34°, .33° (27°, 12°, 1.5° snow).

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and tasted like chocolate.</p

Self Sufficiency and Simplicity Proved Vital to Homesteads

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

Generations ago, most settlers in this community lived on self-contained homesteads. As time passed, they developed a diet centered on available foods that were nourishing and easily prepared. Homegrown dairy products, meats, vegetables and fruit arrived on the table, but the over worked cooks had little time to make them into fancy dishes. As a result, the foods that were prepared became known as "honest foods."

These mountain folk have always been a versatile group of people. They had to be in order to survive. With little more than a double-bitted axe, a trusty flintlock rifle, and a great deal of determination and hard work, they learned to depend upon their own resources. There was nothing wasted, or scorned as being too humble to put to use.

These folk were brought up with the old adage, "Eat it up, wear it out, make it do or do without." There were no turned up noses at the supper table, or short order cooks for those who didn't like anything that was presented. From the wild greens picked early in the spring to the wild game and fish, all were learned to eat and relish.

New clothes were never bought. Garments were worn as long as they held together, and then passed on to the next in age. Mom made the girls' dresses and shirts sewn on the old treadle sewing machine. Shoe lasts repaired shoes. Nothing went to waste. When garments became too old, buttons were clipped off, before relegated to the ragbag. There was a button box that allowed countless hours of sorting, arranging, and counting the contents.

Going through hard times made more self-reliant, and stronger people.

February has brought about the pancake



Following the worship service at St. John Lutheran Church in Moyers, attendees enjoyed a potluck meal and the "Oldiewed Game." Game participants, host, judges were, from left, front row, Tom Mitchell, Mike Jamison, Lisa Jamison, Angie Nelson, Brandon Mitchell and Carly Mitchell; and back row, Liam Gumm, Paula Mitchell, Everly Gumm, Kent Simmons, Jennifer Simmons, Bill Nelson, Carson Mitchell and Macie Mitchell.

suppers, along with the crueler supper where sassafras tea is enjoyed. The native tribes of the eastern United States used sassafras for various ailments. The rural doctors administered the tea to treat high blood pressure, to promote perspiration in colds, a blood purifier and spring tonic.

The recipe for sassafras candy follows:

Make a very strong tea with 2 cups of sassafras bark and 6 cups of water. It must be deep reddish-brown and full flavored.

One should have at least a quart of tea. Strain out the bark pieces, add 4 cups sugar, 1-1/4 cups of light corn syrup, and 1 tablespoon of butter. Cook to hard crack stage (300-310 degrees on candy thermometer). Pour out on a well buttered cookie sheet and crack into pieces when cooled. Enjoy!

Life's little instructions include the following:

1. Leave a sticky note with a compliment on the bathroom mirror.
2. Wash one's car.

3. Speak kindly to others.
4. Be polite. Use one's manners.
5. Encourage. Praise. Respect.

This has been quite the winter, almost similar to the "old time" winters. Temperatures have been steadily noted around the twenties and thirties, with the snow slowly melting. The sleet slides may take some lengthier time to melt! Sunday found the community attending worship services with rain showers commanding the day. Promises of warmer temperatures await everyone this coming week. Perhaps slowly, life will return to a normal beat.

Appearing together in the sky on Feb. 28 will be all the planets in the solar system. Should the skies be clear, this will be awesome to witness.

This week's quotes are as follows:

"Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway." —Earl Nightingale

"Love is the beauty of the soul." — Saint

Augustine

"I have no desire to look back. I only want to look forward to the things that are still ahead of me." — Dionne Warwick

"There is only one happiness in this life, to love and be loved." — George Sand

"Love doesn't make the world go 'round. Love is what makes the life worthwhile." — Franklin P. Jones

Clickety-clacks for the chin wagers are as follows:

• Tuning into the last episode of "Friends" were 52.5 million people.

• A group of porcupines is called a Prickle.

• In 1911, the first Indy 500 was held.

• The world's largest Starbucks is in Chicago.

• Of all the United States presidents, John Quincy Adams, is estimated to have had the highest IQ.

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

Finally, after two weeks not in church due to weather, the St. John Lutheran worshippers gathered and made up for lost time with worship, a potluck meal, and the "Oldiewed Game."

The "Oldiewed Game" never disappoints as it brings lots of laughs. Thanks to the following couples for being good sports: Tom and Paula Mitchell, Kent and Jennifer Simmons, Mike and Lisa Jamison, and Bill and Angie Nelson. Brandon Mitchell served as host. and the youth group kept track of answers and the score. The winners were Kent and Jennifer Simmons. Love is patient, love is kind...kind of funny, that's for sure!

On Friday, Ed Rader of Davis visited with Willard and Judy Rader.

Monty and Chris Woods of Michigan spent Friday evening with Evelyn Varner. Other visitors were Janet Judy, Terry Harper, Eugene Varner, Geneva Varner and Judy Costello of Verona, Virginia. Judy spent the night with her mother before returning to her home.

FES Students Recognized for Academic Achievements

Franklin Elementary School has released the following awards for the second nine-weeks grading period.

A Honor Roll

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

1B (Nicely) — Cayde Ayala, Alessandra Christian, Layla Dudley, Catherine Eye, Rhett Hott, Colt Mallow, Keraun Niblins, Olivia Seymour, Amelia Spillars-Auville and Bryer Wood;

2A (Mowery) — Mikaylie Hedrick, Colt Hiett, Colin Kirk, Jada Verdoni and Genevieve Wimer;

2B (George) — Karma Calhoun, Silas Flanigan, Carlea Hedrick, Hallie Hedrick, Mason Hinkle, Addyson Horton, Alby Nesselrodt and Violet VanMeter;

3A (Kimbler) — Micah Botkin, Charli Hiett, Jase Mitters, Madelyn Trenton and Cash Varner;

3B (Dove) — Eve Hott, Kinley Minor, Braylee Propst and Maci Raines;

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

4B (Eye) — Mattox Ayala, Josiah Botkin, Lola Brooks, Madalyn Griffin, Hunter Hedrick, Urban Jones, Kaci Keller, Ariel Martin, Maddie Nesselrodt, Rosalyn Nesselrodt and Emmett Sisson;

5A (Triplett) — Greysen Eckard, Greyson Gilbert, Gracie Hedrick, Dallis Hull, Sunny Milstead, Eowyn Propst and Branson Purcell;

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

6A (Cook) — Olivia Caplinger, Harper Dempsey, Ella Dudley, Bella Kimble and Gracelyn Mongold; and

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

AB Honor Roll

1A (Ruddle) — Arlo Brooks, Mason LaFollette, Brielle Mauzy

MENU

Pendleton Senior & Family Services

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Ham, Sweet Potato Green Beans Pineapple Muffin



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Pork BBQ Cowboy Beans, Slaw Mandarin Oranges

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Taco Salad w/Tortilla Chips Corn, Baked Apples Cookie

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Tuna Noodle Casserole Broccoli, Collard Greens Peaches

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Creamed Chicken on a Biscuit Mixed Vegetables Beets, Grapes

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and Marlee Simon;

1B (Nicely) — Kynley Hedrick, Oliver Mowery and Connor Trenton;

2A (Mowery) — Raiden Boggs, Craig Bussard, Ruger Hartman, Jaylynn Hedrick, Macie Kirk and Richard Spillars-Auville;

2B (George) — River Gilley, Harper Hedrick, Silas Kain, Jordan Mongold, Waylon Ours, Makinley Simon and Gia Verdoni;

3A (Kimbler) — Anasen Bishop, Kane Gill, Layne Kimble, Bryson Rexrode, Evealynn Severance and Jonah Seymour;

3B (Dove) — Hendrix Bogan, Trenton Bowers, Charles Caplinger, Liam Cooper, Paisley Hott, Emma Humphrey, Bryer Moyers and Kylan Shriner;

4A (Griffin) — Brinleigh Bishop, Hailey Ferris, Chase George, Paisley Jackson, Jaycee Jameson, Baylee Ours and Kylie Raymond;

4B (Eye) — Victoriana Christian, Sloane Donnelly, Dylan Harper, Finley Harper, Chandler Mauzy, Karsyn Ruddle and Ryan Thompson;

5A (Triplett) — Isaiah Botkin, Luke Gilley and Jaedynn Severance;

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

6A (Cook) — Hyrum Hartman and Claira Kimble; and

6B (Nine-Miller) — Wyatt Hott and Brantley Propst.

Citizenship

KA (Flanigan) — Ezra Adkins and Jaycee Hedrick;

KB (Bennett/Keplinger) — Colson Bland and Preston Forbus;

1A (Ruddle) — Sylvie Donnelly and Brielle Mauzy;

1B (Nicely) — Cayde Ayala and Catherine Eye;

2A (Mowery) — Kaleigh Kidwell and Jaxson Rose;

2B (George) — Silas Flanigan and Hallie Hedrick;

3A (Kimbler) — Anasen Bishop, Wyatt Calhoun and Alastor Propst;

3B (Dove) — Eve Hott and Kinley Minor;

4A (Griffin) — Mason Mowery and Madison Mongold;

4B (Eye) — Madalyn Griffin and Hunter Hedrick;

5A (Triplett) — Luke Gilley and Gracie Hedrick;

5B (Plaugher) — Chase Bennett and Sicily Flanigan;

6A (Cook) — Conner Judy and Bella Kimble; and

6B (Nine-Miller) — Raelynn Bergdoll and Brantley Propst.

Top 5 Accelerated Readers

1A (Ruddle) — Liam Kesterson (95.5 points), Brielle Mauzy (43.5 points), Arlo Brooks (30 points), Rose Latif (27 points) and Mason Ruddle (23 point);

Tri-County Fair Annual Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 25 • 7 p.m.

Meeting Room at the Fairgrounds

Meeting will include

Election of a director for a three-year term from Grant, Hardy and Pendleton counties and review of the 2025 financial report

2026 Tri-County Fair Dates are July 25 - August 1

1B (Nicely) — Olivia Seymour (86.5 points), Rhett Hott (81 points), Amelia Spillars-Auville (45 points), Oliver Mowery (41 points) and Alessandra Christian (40 points);

2A (Mowery) — Macie Kirk (60.3 points), Jada Verdoni (23.9 points), Kaleigh Kidwell (23.6 points), Mikaylie Hedrick (23.5 points) and Genevieve Wimer (21.7 points);

2B (George) — Silas Kain (74.8 points), River Gilley (24.1 points), Karma Calhoun (16.8 points), Silas Flanigan (16.4 points) and Alby Nesselrodt (15.7 points);

3A (Kimbler) — Bryson Rexrode (57.4 points), Jase Mitters (51.1 points), Wyatt Calhoun (46.3 points), Micah Botkin (39.2 points) and Evealynn Severance (33.9 points);

3B (Dove) — Kinley Minor (37.6 points), Kylan Shriner (35.5 points), Eve Hott (34.5 points), Maci Raines (30.3 points) and Paisley Hott (29 points);

4A (Griffin) — Mason Mowery (78.6 points), Adara Plaugher (64.9 points), Nathanael Vincell (64.6 points), Abigail Cayton (52.1 points) and Colton Whetzel (46.7 points);

4B (Eye) — Urban Jones (136.8 points), Maddie Nesselrodt (72 points), Sloane Donnelly (52.8 points), Josiah Botkin (41.5 points) and Hunter Hedrick (39.8 points);

5A (Triplett) — Sunny Milstead (350.2 points), Adalynn Brown (214.8 points), Dallis Hull (71.3 points), Gracie Hedrick (61.3 points) and Greyson Gilbert (44.7 points);

5B (Plaugher) — Adalynn Severance (47.6 points), Krislee Hammer (38.3 points), Stella Halterman (35.8 points), Landon Mallow (33.8 points) and Adelynn Miller (32.1 points);

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

6B (Nine-Miller) — Tinley Basagic (80 points), Bristol Bowers (61.1 points), Connor Raines (45.9 points), Wyatt Hott (41.6 points) and Raelynn Bergdoll (40.5 points);

Storybook Hero Club

PreKA (Simmons) — Tucker Hedrick, Asher Morgan and Isla Raines;

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

KA (Flanigan) — Cora Bowers, Emery Griffin, William Hedrick and Magnolia Warner; and

KB (Bennett/Keplinger) — Colson Bland, Samuel Crites, Liam Dove, Jace Eckard, Ryden Evans, Allyssia Fidell, Naomi Harvey, Ruby Herb, Kaysen Kidwell, Ryker Lambert, Remi Pike, Scarlette Plaugher, Gabriel Verdoni and Alar

Wildcats Outpace Cougars in Baker: 69 to 36

By Stephen Smoot

As first-year coach Travis Heavner's girls' squad eyeballs the end of this regular season and prepares to challenge in the post, the lessons learned start to accumulate and the team itself take shape. Older players with playoff experience have helped to mentor the younger. Individuals have gained confidence and skill against an occasionally unforgiving schedule.

East Hardy contested the opening tip, diving for the ball as it rolled toward the end line, but the Wildcats took the possession. Before the end of the first minute the Pendleton County press, courtesy of Jameigh Miller, had taken the ball and drawn a foul. Tia Heavner converted on both free throws to give her team a lead that it built fast and never relinquished.

When the season opened, coach Heavner had a number of guards with raw talent, but less experience running an offense. Miller provided help as a "point forward," using her ball handling skills and experience to manage the offense. This gave guards like Lexi Tingler and Tia Heavner an opportunity to grow into more game management responsibility and allow Miller to focus on scoring and rebounding.

Tia Heavner and Tingler also have developed badger-like belligerence on defense, harrying opposing guards up and down the floor. Tingler committed larceny on the Cougars nine times in the contest.

That intensity on defense helped to build the lead. Tia Heavner swiped a ball and took it in to double the score to 4-0 with just under seven minutes left in the first. Miller, 30 seconds later, made her first three-point shot to put the score at 7-0.

The next score came when Tia Heavner forced the Cougars into a turnover with stingy defense. Jessica Parker drove towards the basket, made a little stutter step to fool the defense, then dished the ball to Tingler for a 10-foot jumper and a 9-0 advantage.

Relentless defense created opportunistic offense the rest of the quarter as Pendleton County racked up a 21-2 lead with 1:31 left in the first. Then came the other byproducts of hard defense, fouls from plays of hustle and defensive aggression that allowed East



Light
in
Motion

Lauren Williams put in the work near the basket, gathering five rebounds in the game, four offensive ones. Photo by Light in Motion.

Hardy to increase its point total to six by the end of the stanza.

Leading 24-6, the Wildcats did not let up as the second quarter opened. East Hardy cut into the lead as officials whistled Pendleton County for infractions on defense, putting the Cougars on the line repeatedly to open the second. At the 5:30 mark, East Hardy had whittled the lead to 14. Leading scorer Susan Vincell

put her first points on the board by hauling down an offensive rebound and laying it back in for a score to give her team a 28-12 advantage.

Wildcat defenders collectively have improved on anticipating passes, jumping into the passing lanes in their man defense, and disrupting plays. Players like Olivia Gonshor, Shayne Clutter, and Laura Brogan's effort plays could not always be quantified into statistics, but in getting hands on balls, putting themselves in the way of plays, grabbing key rebounds, and in all the little things supported the winning effort of the team. Brogan fought hard under the basket while Gonshor and Clutter frustrated the opposition with their speed and agility.

Vincell asserted herself more as the game went on. With a second under three minutes in the first half, her layup put her team up 34-13. She remained a force under the basket, leading her team with 16 points, dominating in offensive rebounds with seven and adding five on the defensive end as well. Tia Heavner came in right behind with 10 rebounds on the night.

As the second quarter came to a close Lauren Williams, another player making huge strides in service to the team, wrested away one of her four offensive rebounds and scored right before the buzzer. The halftime score was 43-20.

In the third quarter, the two old hands did much of the scoring work. Miller continued to work from outside. She made four of eight from behind the three-point line and Vincell continued to do her blue collar work of keeping Cougars off the boards and adding to her team's lead underneath.

Pendleton County's lead continued to build. Katie Heavner took a fast break drive in for a layup near the close of the quarter to put her team up 59-20 with 2:18 remaining.

Pressure from Pendleton County eased in the fourth and East Hardy got the benefit of a strict whistle. Much of the scoring came from East Hardy long shots and free throws.

After Vincell's 16, Parker put in 14, Miller 12, Tingler 10, Tia Heavner eight, Lauren Williams five, and Katie Heavner four. Tingler led the team with eight assists while Parker and Miller each contributed four.

Wildcats Overwhelm Warriors in Franklin Contest: 85 to 28

By Stephen Smoot

As Pendleton County moves closer to the postseason, the boys' basketball squad has hit the meat and potatoes of a grinding schedule. Since a hard-earned win at Moorefield on Feb. 4, the Wildcats dropped an 80-54 loss to highly ranked Class AA Doddridge County, tangled with the always-dangerous Tygarts Valley and prevailed 54-40, then dropped a tough loss at East Hardy, 57-28.

Pocahontas County had to bear the brunt of Pendleton frustrations after the loss to the Cougars.

The Warriors tried to get in front early and forced a turnover only 30 seconds into the contest with a one-two-two zone defense. As the two teams felt each other out, scoring just did not take place until the 5:55 mark when Henry Warner hit a three-point shot and put his squad up for good in the game.

The Warriors scored a layup to cut the lead to one 10 seconds after Warner's bucket. Four seconds later, Chase Owens took the ball inside, then kicked it to his brother, Travis, on the perimeter for a three-point bucket and a 6-2 advantage. Pendleton County hustled into a tight press at every opportunity and the stout play of Wildcat defenders in it generated offense consistently until head coach Josh Owens mercifully lifted it.

Cashton Kisamore at 3:03 took an offensive rebound, his first of six in the game and nine total on the night, back up for a layup to set the score at 11-3. Not long after, a Chase Owens shot fell short, but Kisamore got into position to tap it back in. He collected nine points on the night.

Cameron Wyatt opened up a big night at the end of the first, taking a pass inside up for two of his 14 points on the evening with a 75 percent shooting percentage. Jaydon Hess also helped to make the end of the first stanza particularly frustrating for the visitors, garnering two steals on the press and scoring four points, all in the last 1:02.

Leading 19-5, Pendleton County entered the second quarter if anything, with even more intensity. They outscored Pocahontas County 26 to seven in the quarter. At 7:13, Hess repeated his favorite move, swiping the ball on the press and quickly scoring the ball. Chase Owens and Kisamore about 30 seconds later converged on a Warrior player and relieved him of the ball, leading to a quick foul putting Kisamore on the line.

Toward the end of the quarter, Dalton Rohrbaugh tied up a Warrior player and forced a turnover. Chase Owens hit a three to reward the effort and the half ended with the score 45 to 12.

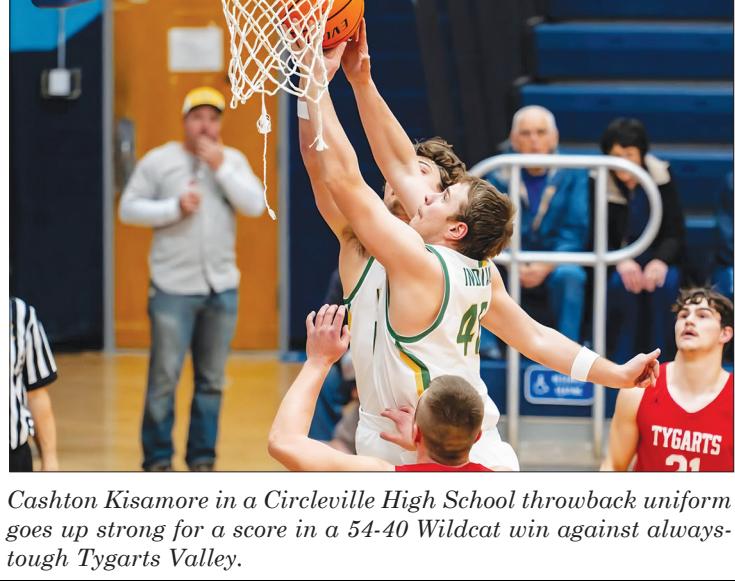
The fourth quarter gave Pocahontas County little relief. About two minutes in came the familiar refrain of a steal from the opponents leading to a score for the home team. This time Tony Van Meter took the ball and Ty Heavner benefited from the defensive effort by scoring a layup. Not long after, Cayson Armstrong fired a pass outside to Wyatt, who buried a three. With time winding down in the fourth, Knox Wright snagged an offensive rebound, made a turnaround move and put in a layup. Exactly 30 seconds later, Armstrong scored on his own offensive rebound.

On Monday, the Wildcats traveled to Tucker County and came home with a 62-51 win over the Mountain Lions.

Pendleton County has some tall orders coming up between now

and the end of the season, hosting Lewis County, traveling to Spring Valley, then hosting East Hardy. The season closes with the Wildcats hosting Union and Petersburg.

Always Wanting More



Cashton Kisamore in a Circleville High School throwback uniform goes up strong for a score in a 54-40 Wildcat win against always-tough Tygarts Valley.



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February Trivia

The first United States postage stamp was issued on Feb. 1, 1842.

The 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote, was passed by Congress on Feb. 27, 1923.

The odds of being born on Feb. 29 are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a Leap Day are sometimes called "leapers" or "leaplings."

The chickadee, a charming little bird, is perfect for representing February because it thrives in winter.

February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full Moon.

February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language.

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PUBLIC NOTICE NATIONAL FOREST GRAZING ALLOTMENTS OFFERED FOR PERMIT

The Greenbrier Ranger District P.O. Box 67, 7409 Staunton Parkersburg TPK, Bartow, WV 24920 is accepting sealed bids for livestock grazing for: Eller Sods, 230 acres atop Elle Ridge on the WV-VA line, Pocahontas County; Forinash, 35 acres south facing off Bickle Knob 8 miles east of Elkins, Randolph Co. Showings will be held March 26. Contact Hannah Scrifford for details at 304-718-2947 or the Greenbrier Ranger District Office Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Detailed prospectuses are available on request. Bids will be accepted until April 1, 2026, at 2:00 P.M.

2-12-2p

NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that a foreign will or affidavit has been filed before Pendleton County Commission at 100 S. Main Street, Franklin, WV 26807.

That no appointment of administration is being made pursuant to the provisions of law but that a foreign will or affidavit of heirs of the decedent has been filed with the Pendleton County Commission and is of record in the Pendleton County Clerk's

Office.

February 12, 2026

Claim Deadline Date: Monday, April 13, 2026

Decedent: Charles E. Harold, Rockingham County, VA Filed by: Nancy B. Harold, Spouse, Dayton, VA

Subscribed and sworn to before me on February 6, 2026.

Elise M. White, Clerk of the Pendleton County Commission 2-12-2c

Tariff Form No. 8 (RULE 23)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

NOTICE is hereby given that Mountaineer Gas Company (Mountaineer), a public utility, has filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA, a tariff containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing natural gas service to approximately 218,000 customers in Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming Counties in West Virginia.

The proposed increased rates and charges will become effective Thursday, March 5, 2026, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission, and will produce, on a total Company basis, \$26,793,000 annually in additional revenues, or an overall average increase in revenues of approximately 8.44%. The \$26,793,000 consists of an increase in base rates of \$43,764,000 and a decrease in the Company's Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program ("IREP") of \$16,971,000. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

	(\$)	INCREASE	(%)	INCREASE
Residential	\$ 9.63		10.57	
Commercial	\$ 14.23		4.09	
Large Commercial	\$ 1,058.29		1.31	
Industrial	\$ 378.26		1.69	
Resale	\$ 125.36		1.31	
Other	\$ -		-	

This increase incorporates the rate impact of the cumulative investment under the IREP that was placed into service as of September 30, 2025. As a result, the Company proposes to reduce the IREP component of its rates relating to that investment when the new base rates go into effect.

Resale customers of Mountaineer Gas Company include Canaan Gas Company, Cardinal Natural Gas Company, Hope Gas, Inc., Megan Oil and Gas Company, Inc., and City of Philippi.

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. (If a hearing is scheduled, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.)

Anyone desiring to intervene and act as a party in the case should file on or before May 5, 2026, a Petition to Intervene complying with the Commission rules on intervention in the Rules of Practice and Procedure, 150 C.R.R. 1, unless otherwise modified by Commission order. The Commission may establish a final deadline for intervention. Failure to timely protest or intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases or to participate in future proceedings. Anyone desiring to protest should file a written protest as soon as possible, although protests will be accepted by the Commission through the pendency of this proceeding. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention. All interventions may be mailed and addressed to Karen

Department of Motor Vehicles Warns Residents of Text Scam

West Virginia license plate.) Division of Motor Vehicles is warning citizens of text a little different; a person like a scammer claiming to be DMV. West Virginia DMV will never text citizens requesting payment. If it makes a person feel un-comfortable or never request a payment via text. Some common tactics scammers immediately concern, the sender is a scammer, not concerned that a text one has received may be a scam, the West Virginia DMV will answer any questions one might have. Everyone is welcome to stop by a local office, or call 800-642-9066.

Remember, if it is a text asking for payment, it is a scam. West Virginia DMV will never text a person requesting payment.

501 56th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304

A copy of this tariff is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25301.

2-12-2c

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RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

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- Electrical Certification (Required)
- Drivers License (Required)

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Pendleton County Centurion Businesses Recognized



West Virginia Secretary of State Kris Warner spoke of the history and importance of three of Pendleton County's oldest establishments, Harper's Old Country Store, The Pendleton Times and Pendleton Community Bank.

Pendleton 911

Continued From Page 1

and productively participating in West Virginia 911 Council meetings to resist institutional isolation and also to remain accountable.

Since the facility will have its accreditation reviewed every two years, as Mitchell shared, "We can't rest on our laurels." While a center could remain at Level Three, Mitchell has no plans to stand pat. Pendleton 911 does use a system of six different screens that populate vital information and helps the telecommunicator receive and share information effectively and efficiently. An added service that will soon help Pendleton 911 rise to the next tier will be the text to 911 option currently available in Kanawha County.

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One of the beneficiaries of Pendleton 911's regimen in keeping apace of mandates and needs last week was West Virginia Secretary of State Kris Warner.

Many people imagine 911 as it was, simply a phone call to a dispatch center with a relay to first responders. Pendleton 911's capacity helps to do more to ensure the best possible outcomes.

On his way to a series of events in Pendleton County, Warner lost control of his Suburban as he tried to turn the corner at Judy Gap to travel up North Mountain and flipped the car on its side.

As he described, "I have just learned Terry Ryan was the dispatcher that coordinated with Jarrod Summers (trained emergency responder and firefighter) in my office back in Charleston to identify my location on Rt. 33 who had heard the SOS call come in from my cell phone's emergency response system." Warner added in his Facebook post, "Thanks Terry and Jarrod."

WVDE Launches Governor's Schools Applications

The West Virginia Department of Education is accepting applications for the 2026 Governor's Schools of West Virginia. This program offers summer residential learning experiences at designated universities for high school students.

Founded in 1984, West Virginia Governor's Schools offer students unique experiential learning opportunities in the humanities and the arts, computer science, business communications, entrepreneurship, leadership and more. In addition to refining talents and workable skills, young scholars develop lifelong personal and professional networks and receive instruction from practicing professionals in their areas of interest.

The grade level is the grade the applicant currently holds. School name, location, grade level, application due date and school duration, respectively, are as follows:

- Governor's Computer Science Institute, West Virginia University Tech, 9/10, April 3 and July 6 – 12;
- Governor's Honors Academy, West Virginia University, 11, April 3 and July 11 – 25;
- Governor's School of Entrepreneurship, Marshall University, 9/10/11, March 13 and July 17 – 26;
- Governor's School for the Arts, West Virginia Wesleyan College, 10, March 6 and June 21 – July 11; and
- Governor's School for Tourism, West Virginia University with various travel destinations, 9/10, May 1 and June 20 – 29.

"Governor's schools take student learning to the next level, empowering them to recognize their potential and exceed what they thought was possible," said Michele L. Blatt, state superintendent of schools. "From experiencing the multi-disciplinary

impact of the arts to learning from industry-leading professionals and building elaborate business proposals, students leave these programs well-equipped for future success in their chosen career paths."

Host universities are planning events to celebrate America250. This initiative, spearheaded by the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, honors the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Each governor's school will embed a variety of activities to recognize the historic occasion.

Learn more about the West Virginia Governor's Schools program by visiting the WVDE website.

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Pendleton 911

Continued From Page 1

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One of the beneficiaries of Pendleton 911's regimen in keeping apace of mandates and needs last week was West Virginia Secretary of State Kris Warner.

Many people imagine 911 as it was, simply a phone call to a dispatch center with a relay to first responders. Pendleton 911's capacity helps to do more to ensure the best possible outcomes.

On his way to a series of events in Pendleton County, Warner lost control of his Suburban as he tried to turn the corner at Judy Gap to travel up North Mountain and flipped the car on its side.

As he described, "I have just learned Terry Ryan was the dispatcher that coordinated with Jarrod Summers (trained emergency responder and firefighter) in my office back in Charleston to identify my location on Rt. 33 who had heard the SOS call come in from my cell phone's emergency response system." Warner added in his Facebook post, "Thanks Terry and Jarrod."

BIRTHDAY PARTY
for
Elma Roberson
Sunday, March 1 • 2 p.m.
Pendleton Community Building
Franklin
Relatives and Friends Are Invited

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SGR401A Charming 2/3 bedroom, 1 bath, ranch style, with partial basement, on 0.16 ac, paved driveway, covered carport, with ramp to back entrance, detached 1 car garage, LP heat/hot water, some appliances convey. House is being sold AS-IS. Franklin Corp. \$179,000.00.

SGR400A COMING SOON! 5 Bed, 3 Bath home located in Franklin District on 2.5 acres offers privacy in peaceful, wooded surroundings while being near schools and all town amenities. Attached 2 car garage, partially finished basement, fenced yard, Heat Pump & Central AC, 3 Fireplaces, Well, Septic and Water Filtration system. **\$549,000.00**

SGR398A 2.07 Acres w/3 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin located in Riddle. LP and Propane Heat, Septic and Shared Gravity Fed Well. Furnished. Franklin District. Great buy at **\$159,000.00**.

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

SGR393A 14.5 Acres w/2 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin with very efficient use of space. Located on Dry Run Rd. 1900 gallon Cistern. Wood & Electric Heat. **\$249,000.00 REDUCED \$239,000.00**

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