

THE PENDLETON TIMES

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Kelson Thorne showcases his latest project honoring first responders at South Branch Potomac Lanes in Moorefield. New works of his will grace Seneca Rocks and Franklin later this year.

Petersburg-Based Muralist to Work On Pendleton County Tourism Project

By Stephen Smoot

During the past few years, towns and cities of the Potomac Highlands have seen rich infusions of color, spectacle, area culture, and tradition gracing the sides of buildings. These murals represent the effort of Kelson Thorne to bring to bold colors the aspects that make each of these unique places and people so special.

"As I've gotten older," he shared, "I've wanted to create something for the area, something that people can resonate with and be proud of." Many of his pieces have a dual purpose to instill pride in the people for their community while showcasing the place's best and most interesting aspects to visitors.

Like many young people, Thorne moved away to pursue his art dreams and then had to return. He shared that "when I moved back, I thought my art career was over," but it was from the muses of people, the scenery, the history, and the culture of what was familiar to him all of his life that he drew, and draws, his inspiration.

His current project has slowly come to life during the past few weeks on the wall of South Branch Potomac Lanes in Moorefield. Where once a blank wall greeted bowling alley patrons, over time figures of law enforcement, fire fighters, and emergency medical services slowly emerged. Determined expressions sternly face the danger of a wildfire billowing behind a fire engine.

This mural, and another in Petersburg depicting emergency responders, conveys vividly a powerful, yet recently created set of historical memories. In multiple recent years, the quick proliferation of fires in dangerous conditions brought out every emergency responder who could take up the fight to protect lives and property. Those men and women's hard and brave work is remembered in these unique works that will remain in place long after those alive at their creation has passed.

"People started to get into it," he related, adding that vision has expanded into providing other local artists opportunities to share

Continued on Page 3

Maple Days Reveals That Local Markets Have Helped Boost Area Production



Brandon Kimble operates the most modern technology in crafting an ancient culinary art, transforming maple sap to maple syrup.

By Stephen Smoot

Maple Days has the effect of bringing large numbers of visitors into the area to sample the best of what Pendleton County producers promote.

The event's intent, however, lies in boosting the business side of maple from the taps all the way to value-added maple products for sale locally and across the region. In both areas, Maple Days has been a success as local producers have had to ramp up operations to meet a fast-growing demand.

Mark and Sarah Kimble of M&S Maple Farm in Upper Tract have truly seen the dynamic at work. Mark Kimble explained that "any time you can sell from your sugar shack and not have to haul it to a festival, it's a plus."

The West Virginia Maple Producers, with assistance from the West Virginia Department of Agriculture statewide as well as Future Generations University and the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau locally, use Maple Days to put a spotlight on the entire Mountain State maple industry, upstream, midstream, and downstream.

Participants from producers like M&S Maple Farm to those who take in-house

maple to create other products, as Mountain Cajun Getaways does, to shops and restaurants such as Elevated Grounds and the Orange Cat Café get marked on a map. Carloads of maple enthusiasts and those who just want a reason to see the area come in steady streams to listen, ask questions, and chow down.

While Mark Kimble and his son, Brandon, tended to the evaporator and other devices used in production, Sarah Kimble greeted visitors from a small dining area. Guests could serve themselves a hearty breakfast of sausage and sausage gravy, pancakes, coffee, and sample the different tiers of syrup produced on site.

One of the bottles on the table featured the amber variety. "We just made that the other day," remarked Sarah Kimble. At the dining table sat visitors from as close as Franklin and as far away as Romney. The travelers from Romney noted that they learned of the event when they received an email from the Grant County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Sarah Kimble explained the different varieties of syrup made there, from the lightest in color and gentlest in flavors to the most robust

Continued on Page 7

Pendleton, Hardy County Based Partners Join Up to Preserve South Branch Stockyards



Travis Hinkle of Hinkle Trucking in Riverton served as the final piece of the puzzle to keep the East Coast's most respected stockyards exchange in operation.

By Stephen Smoot

Potomac Highlands livestock producers received a shock in recent weeks. One of the most respected livestock exchanges in the Eastern United States, South Branch Livestock Exchange, would go up for auction after about nine decades. With processes prioritizing health and care of animals and guardianship of more-than-three-century-old lines of cattle genetics, the stockyards earned a national reputation for both quality and quantity of cattle sold there.

All can breathe easier. The "largest and oldest sale barn in the state of West Virginia" will remain in familiar hands dedicated to continuing a legacy of excellence.

Gary Vance steered the ship for about a quarter century and also served as an auctioneer for more than a half century. Now a consortium of three, Brandon Neely, Dave McGee, and Travis Hinkle, will take over operations with the goal of maintaining the services and processes that producers and buyers have come to rely on. As the industry evolves, the stockyards will continue to work to make processes as efficient and as beneficial as possible.

"It's a big step," shared Neely.



Brandon and Jackie Neely join former long-time owner Gary Vance as they administer a sale.

The three new owners will still rely on many who have been key to the exchange's success during the decades. Said Neely, "Roger Pratt has been here since he was 13 years old and he was one of the owners

Continued on Page 7

Pendleton County Commission Recognizes National FFA Week in Rare Evening Meeting



Pendleton County FFA officers, Ty Heavner, Katie Keyser and Sam Eason, attended the Pendleton County Commissioners meeting. Carl Hevener, president of the commission, signed the proclamation declaring this week as National FFA Week for Pendleton County. Ron Hudson, FFA advisor, expressed special thanks to the county commissioners.

By Stephen Smoot

For their second meeting of the month of February, Pendleton County Commissioners convened at 5 p.m. instead of their customary 9 a.m. time. The change of schedule was temporary because commissioners wished to hold the public 911 fee meeting in the evening to give citizens a chance to offer input.

"We just thank you very much for the beautiful day," prayed Roger Dahmer, commissioner, during the customary invocation. In the tradition of God, then country, commissioners then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Carl Hevener, Pendleton County Commission president, started the meeting by announcing, "We'll jump around a bit to help everybody." His intent lay in allowing those who had business before the commission to get that done first so they could leave before county business started.

From the Pendleton County High School Future Farmers of America came Ty Heavner, vice president, Katie Keyser, sentinel, and Sam Eason, treasurer. They attended in recognition of National FFA Week, honoring the contributions of that historic education to the development of the next generation of farmers and others supporting agriculture.

FFA, according to the proclamation read by Dahmer, "provides a strong foundation for leadership, personal growth, producing a steady supply of young professionals."

Next came Luke Taylor-Ide and Bill Loving to speak on the merger between the Pendleton Community Foundation and the Tucker Community Foundation. They emphasized that Pendleton County funds within the broader structure will only be used in Pendleton County.

One fund will be established solely for the benefit of emergency medical services in Pendleton County.

Dave Cooper and Mike Moore, part of TCF's leadership team, also came to discuss what has changed and how it will benefit Pendleton County going forward. Angie Pase, development director, shared ways that the community could contribute to a faster growth of the fund for Pendleton County's benefit.

In the coming weeks, details will come out as to how those in the community can apply for grant opportunities, or contribute to agencies or projects benefiting from the foundation.

Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County Emer-

Continued on Page 7

Community CALENDAR

Family Support Center Sponsors Spa, Skincare Night

The Pendleton County Strive to Thrive Family Support Center on Main Street in Franklin is hosting a spa and skincare night by McKenzie Arbaugh for ages 13 - 19. The event will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. March 5, and dinner will be provided. For more information, call 304-538-7711.

Lenten Lunches Continue 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 Circleville and Seneca Rocks churches. The message will be delivered by Gary Cecil. Next week's meal will be provided by Franklin and Ruddle Presbyterian churches. The message will be delivered by Deborah Beam. All donations will support the mission of the ministerial association as it seeks to serve those in need in Pendleton County.

OBITUARIES



Sandra Romero Narvaez

The Lord called His servant Sandra Romero Narvaez home to her final peace, to be reunited with her beloved husband, Benjamin, her faithful brother, Jose, and her sister and childhood companion, Sonia.

This remarkable woman's remarkable life took her from Brooklyn in New York City to Ridgeley and finally Purgitsville with her much-loved daughter, Regina Smoot.

Mrs. Narvaez's early life was as dedicated to the world of entertainment as it later was to her husband and children. She grew up in a family that included George Romero, Cesar Romero, and Raul Julia.

At the age of 16, she and her husband commenced a classic American love story. They met, fell in love at first sight, and held each other tight until his untimely passing in 2017.

Ben Narvaez was a session player in the New York City music scene in the 1970s and 80s. She was a Solid Gold dancer, but also enjoyed watching him back up acts such as Reuben Blades and Tito Puente. An eclectic group of friends, including Andre the Giant and Hulk Hogan, found their way to the Narvaez's door often.

Her journey took her to West Virginia, where she raised her family and then returned in the final years of her life. In Purgitsville, she was surrounded by the love of her family, human, canine, and feline alike.

Though she struggled mightily against the illnesses that sent her home to the Lord, the family hopes that all will consider the words 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

She is survived by a sister, Nancy Romero Grupinski; a brother Jimmy Romero; two daughters, Regina Smoot and Sandie Mongold; grandchildren, Michael, Matthew, Lucas, Joseph, Emily, Jared, Dez Marie, Jessica, Mia, Alaina, and AJ; and a great-grandchild, Violet. She also loved completely and also considered as her own children or grandchildren close family friends, Amber Richardson, Melissa Mullenax, and Kaleb, Kaden, Kylie and Michael Hall.

She was preceded in departure by her husband, Benjamin; a son; Michael; a sister, Sonia; and a brother, Jose.

As Regina wants everyone to know, "Mommy was everybody's Nana. Everybody called her Nana."

She loved her family, loved teaching her family to cook (especially her family recipe rice and beans!), and also loved a good cigarette. Her family misses her, loves her dearly, but is content to see her finally at peace with her beloved husband.



Brenda T. Simmons

In loving memory of Brenda T. Simmons June 2, 1956 – Feb. 21, 2026

With heavy hearts, the family announces the passing of Brenda T. Simmons of Circleville.

Mrs. Simmons found her greatest joy in the beauty of nature. She felt most at home beneath open skies, whether tending to her garden, walking along quiet paths, or simply sitting outdoors and taking in the world around her. She treasured the changing seasons and had a special gift for noticing life's smallest blessings — blooming flowers, birdsong at sunrise, and the warmth of sunshine on her face. Nature was not just something she admired; it was where her spirit felt most alive.

Known for her sweet and kind heart, she had a gentle presence that made others feel safe and loved. She listened with patience, gave without hesitation, and treated everyone she met with compassion. Her warmth and sincerity left a lasting impression on all who knew her.

Her legacy lives on in the kindness she showed, the love she gave, and the appreciation for life's simple beauty that she instilled in those around her. Though she will be deeply missed, the family finds comfort in imagining her surrounded by the peaceful natural beauty she cherished so dearly.

She had worked 19 years for the Pendleton County Board of Education.

Above all, she was a devoted wife, mother, and grammie. Her family was her greatest treasure, and her love for them was constant and unwavering.

She is lovingly remembered by her husband, Mark Simmons; her daughter, Jessica Simmons, and son-in-law, Eli Kahan; and her beloved grandson, Bennett Kahan, who brought her immeasurable joy. Also surviving are sisters, Linda Rexrode (her twin), Ann Thompson, and Sarah Fowler; and a brother, John Thompson.

Her memory will forever be carried in one's heart — in every blooming flower, every gentle breeze, and every act of kindness done in her name.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor Mike Loudermilk officiating. Interment was in the Blue Grass Cemetery at Blue Grass, Virginia.

Memorials may be made to Walnut Street United Methodist Church.

Memorials and words of comfort may be made at www.basagic.com.



Charles "Larry" Bland

Charles "Larry" Bland, 77, of Ft. Ashby died peacefully on Feb. 8, 2026. His life was long, steady, and rooted in work, family, and the places he called home.

Mr. Bland was born Aug. 14, 1948, in a small house atop Spruce Knob, the highest point in West Virginia. He was the son of the late Charles Coy Bland and Bertha (Thompson) Estep.

The mountain was his beginning. To those who loved him he was Larry; in business he was Chuck. He finished Circleville High School in 1967 and soon left the mountains for Prince George's County, Maryland, where he started out in retail management and began building his adult life.

In 1971, he entered the fire protection industry as an apprentice with High Point Sprinkler Company.

After earning his fire protection license and rising to head engineer, in 1982, he founded Eastern Sprinkler Design. For more than 50 years, he designed fire protection systems for federal, state, and private buildings throughout the Washington, D.C., region and Pennsylvania. He believed in doing work that mattered and in doing it well.

Though he began on a mountain, he was pulled by the horizon of the coast. He lived along the Severn River, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and later near Bethany Beach, Delaware. He liked cruises, long days by the ocean, crab feasts, and football Sundays spent rooting for the Washington Redskins. He had a fondness for small dogs and for the squirrels he liked to watch and feed. He valued time with family, good conversation, and simple pleasures.

On Jan. 30, 1970, he married Mary Booker, his wife and partner of 56 years, who survives.

Also surviving are daughters, Jennifer Bland Lester and Hollie (Bland) Pailthorp; grandchildren, Ann Lester, Kathryn Pailthorp, and Tyler Pailthorp; siblings, Charlene (Bland) Sepulveda, Linda Johnson, Jerry Phares, and William Estep; and many extended family members and friends.

He was also preceded in death by brothers, Randolph Bland and Gary Judy; and grandparents, Sadie and Jason Thompson.

Viewings will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. March 4 and from 11 a.m. to noon March 5 at the Fort Lincoln Funeral Home located at 3401 Bladensburg Road in Brentwood, Maryland. Funeral services and burial will follow at noon March 5, with a reception afterward.



Sandra Lynn "Sandy" Bible Bennett

Sandra Lynn "Sandy" Bible Bennett, 70, passed away at her home on Feb. 22, 2026.

Born on Aug. 13, 1955, in Petersburg, she was the daughter of Shelby Jean Rexrode Bible and the late Vestyl "Peck" Bible.

Mrs. Bennett grew up in a loving home alongside her sisters, Carolyn and Amy, and was blessed with the close presence of her grandparents, Raymond and Myrtle Bible and Lon and Mary Rexrode, and her aunt and uncle, Genevieve and Jim Bible.

As a young girl, she was active in 4-H, earning recognition as a 4-H All-Star and winning a trip to Jackson's Mill. She was a proud 1974 graduate of Franklin High School, where she played the flute in the band and served as a majorette.

On July 20, 1973, she married the love of her life, Sherman Bennett. Together they built a life centered on faith and family and were blessed with two daughters, Renee Lynn and Krista Beth. She devoted herself to supporting her girls in every activity from cheerleading competitions and games to twirling performances and marching band events and was always a faithful supporter of the Franklin Panthers.

She served as a co-4-H leader for the Pendleton Pioneers 4-H Club alongside Harriet McCoy, and often chaperoned events such as Chicago Club Congress and trips to Jackson's Mill. Her encouragement and presence left a lasting impact on many young lives.

A longtime member of Smith Creek Church of the Brethren in Franklin, she faithfully served as church clerk and as a delegate to district conference in Bridgewater, Virginia. She and her husband attended regularly when health permitted and were dearly loved by their church family.

Her early employment began at the Ben Franklin Store in Franklin when it first opened. She later worked as a dental assistant for Dr. R. M. Hoover and Dr. Kenneth Kelsey. The majority of her career, more than 33 years, was dedicated to serving Pendleton County as a magistrate assistant, working under magistrates Ben Hiner, Wayne Hartman and Leland Propst. Her professionalism, kindness and steady presence were appreciated by coworkers and the community alike.

For more than 40 years, she also enjoyed being an Avon representative. She delighted in sharing new products, visiting friends, and celebrating her achievements as a member of the Avon President's Club, attending numerous awards ceremonies during the years.

A true caregiver at heart, she lovingly supported elderly family members during times of illness, providing meals, transportation, companionship, and comfort during hospital stays. Her love language was expressed through food, thoughtful gifts, and acts of service.

She treasured time spent with her daughters and their families, especially cheering on her grandchildren, Krislyn, Conrad, Camden and Cassandra, at sports, cheer and dance events. She enjoyed dining out, shopping, watching movies, caring for her beloved dog, Carly Lynn, and tending to the flowers that brightened her home each spring.

She loved organizing celebrations and family gatherings, including reunions and special events. She previously assisted with secretarial duties for the Waggy reunion. After retirement, she looked forward to regular gatherings with her former courthouse coworkers — their laughter, friendship and love meant so much to her.

She was a wonderful daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and friend. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Her devoted husband, Sherman Bennett, survives.

Also surviving are daughters, Renee Sager (Jack) and Krista Walls (Wes); her mother, Shelby Bible; grandchildren, Krislyn Walls, Conrad Sager, Camden Walls and Cassandra Sager; sisters, Carolyn Sponaule (Bill) and Amy Berg (Tim); aunt, Genevieve Bible; uncle, Jim Bible (Vada); sister-in-law, Scarlet Bond; many beloved nieces and nephews; and her fur baby, Carly Lynn.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday in the funeral home chapel with Pastor David Morris and Pastor Jerry Smith officiating.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:7

Memorial contributions may be made to Smith Creek Church of the Brethren, c/o Nancy Scott, 182 Goshen View Road, Franklin, WV 26807.

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



Timothy Bass Ferris

Timothy Bass Ferris, 35, departed this life on Feb. 19, 2026, at Grant Memorial Hospital in Petersburg.

He was born on April 19, 1990, in Baltimore, Maryland, the son of Eileen (Heberle) Stinefelt of Baltimore, Maryland, and Troy Lee Ferris, Jr. of Eastern Shore, Maryland.

Mr. Ferris attended North County High School in Glen Burnie, Maryland, and was a Christian by faith.

His life was centered around his family and he loved fishing, camping and having cookouts with them. The memories he has created with his loved ones will forever leave an imprint on their hearts.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his companion and love of his life of 15 years, Brittany Satterfield of Franklin; three daughters, Julianna Ferris of Bedford, Pennsylvania, Katelynn Girard of Baltimore, Maryland, and Hailey Ferris of Franklin; two sons, Timothy Ferris, Jr. and Jordyn Ferris, both of Franklin; his grandparents, Margie Ferris, Troy Lee Ferris, Sr. and Virginia Lee Herberle; five sisters, Brittney Nicklas and Cheyanne Stinefelt, both of Baltimore, Maryland, Samantha Stinefelt of Michigan, and Olivia Ferris and Natalie Ferris, both of Eastern Shore, Maryland; and two brothers, Daniel Stinefelt of Baltimore, Maryland, and Owen Ferris of Eastern Shore, Maryland.

In honoring his wishes, his body has been cremated.

Memorials may be made in his memory 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.

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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
Call **304-358-2214**
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Petersburg Muralist

Continued From Page 1

their talent at South Side Depot in Petersburg and also bringing high school students into community projects.

A Thorne mural opens with a “scribble grid.” He said with a laugh that “people think it looks like graffiti.” Marks that appear random to the untrained eye actually help the artist to map out proportions as he or she uses technology to help to translate their vision from a sketch to the surface selected for painting.

From there, the artist brings a vision that will last for generations into full living color. And that takes the story to the next iteration of “Ars longa, vita brevis,” that of the development of the master craftsman.

“Every project that I do, I take something away that I didn’t know previously,” Thorne explained. With every project, he seeks out ways to incorporate something new, whether it be a technique, technology, or some other facet. Thorne quantified that at least four percent of every new project will incorporate something he has not done before.

One example lay in the mural he created at Pilgrims, now the largest mural by a single artist in the state of West Virginia. Thorne usually applies paint with brushes and other typical tools of the trade, but not this time. He used devices to precisely apply the paint, just one example of Thorne “adding tools to my toolbox.”

“I like experimenting with new methods and building on what I already know,” he stated, adding that the importance for him was “so I can continue to grow and challenge myself.” He has eyeballed using ultraviolet reflective paints on his next project to create different color effects.

As he continues to develop his art and brings unique works throughout the Potomac Highlands region, Thorne has taken advantage of opportunities to try new media and also help others who want to follow his path.

The project comes from a collaboration between West Virginia University and Mon Forest Towns. It envisions taking the kind of canoes that one might take for a sojourn on area rivers and repurposing them as practical, useful, but beautiful art. “We’re repurposing canoes into kiosks,” shared Thorne. He explained “they will be painted for each town.” Though Petersburg will get the first finished product, Thorne stated, “Seneca Rocks and Franklin are part of the project.”

Credit for the final project will not go to Thorne alone. He will cover the “shell” of the underside of the canoe while aspiring artists from local high schools will paint the door into the kiosks and other surfaces for those placed in their counties.

Annie Humes, Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau executive director, added that students at WVU studying to become art instructors will take part in the project as well. Also “the Pendleton County Arts Council provided support.”

“Finding places to put them is my job,” Humes shared.



Kiss the Pig Fundraiser Winner



Mrs. Hevener



Hevener Wins Contest, Kisses Pig

After several weather-related delays, the winner of Franklin Elementary School’s Kiss the Pig fundraiser was announced. The race was close with only a \$1.27 difference. Kimberlee Hevener, assistant principal, was the winner and bravely kissed the adorable little piglet. The piglet, named Wilber by Lori Moore, principal, was so irresistibly cute that he ended up getting lots of extra kisses, too. The kids especially loved seeing their teachers kiss the little piggy. The fundraiser benefited the school’s positive behavior support program.

Make It Shine Spring Cleanup Applications Available

Applications are being accepted for the 2026 West Virginia Make It Shine Statewide Cleanup. This annual event is sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection’s Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan Program.

The cleanup will be held April 6 through April 19. The Make It Shine program will provide resources such as cleanup materials, waste hauling, and landfill fees to community groups volunteering to conduct litter cleanups in state streams or on public lands.

Applications must be received by March 6. This event is completely dependent on volunteers. Apply online by visiting dep.wv.gov. Once a project is approved, REAP staff will coordinate delivery of cleanup supplies, waste hauling, and disposal.

For more information, contact Chris Cartwright at christopher.j.cartwright@wv.gov or by phone at 304-389-8389.

During last year’s cleanup, more than 3,800 volunteers from 143 groups removed 98 tons of litter

from 99 acres of public land and 53 miles of streams. Volunteers also collected 692 tires and remediated 89 illegal dumps.

REAP, whose motto is “Keeping WV Clean and Green,” was created in 2005 and strives to clean up West Virginia and rid the state of litter. The program empowers citizens to take ownership of their communities by providing technical, financial, and resource assistance in cleanup and recycling efforts.



We are seeking additional housing for our Moorefield, WV facility

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Duke Dunkle
304.703.7407
Larkin.Dunkle@pilgrims.com

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EOE, including disability/vets

10 Years Ago
Week of February 18, 2016

Former Astronaut Visits Franklin Elementary School

Former astronaut and West Virginia native, Jon McBride, paid a surprise visit to Franklin Elementary School on Feb. 10. McBride was visiting the county to tour the Sugar Grove Navy Base which was placed on the General Service Administration's online auction site last week.

SUGAR GROVE

Phrases Still Used Have Historical Significance

Many phrases which are common in daily English conversation originate from a wide variety of sources such as mythology, literature, folklore, history, superstition, old customs, the language of other countries and many more.

"Above board" means something that is honestly done without concealment. The whole expression was originally a gambling term when playing, one was expected to keep one's hands above the board (table) to avoid suspicion of cheating.

"All at sea" refers to being bewildered, unable to understand.

"Gone to pot" is anything that has gone to ruin, not functioning. The allusion is to the cutting of meat into pieces ready for the cooking pot.

"Tom, Dick, or Harry" is a term used for any ordinary person. The names have no significance other than being common names chosen at random.

"As old as Methuselah" is about one who is extremely old. Methuselah was an Old Testament patriarch known as the grandfather of Noah and the oldest man in the Bible, living to be 969 years old.

"Apple pie order" is a complete and perfect order.

"At one fell swoop" is done with a single effort; all at once. A swoop is a sudden descent, like the pouncing of a bird of prey on its victim. "Fell" is an old adjective meaning "savagely."

"At the drop of a hat" means immediately. This expression is said to have come from the American frontier practice of asking someone to drop a hat as a signal to begin something, such as a fight or a horse race.

"At the eleventh hour" happens at the very last moment.

"At the end of one's tether" means at the end of one's endurance. A tether is a fixed rope or chain to which an animal is tied, thus enabling it to move or graze within a limited area but preventing it from straying.

"Axe to grind" — ulterior and selfish motive. Learn to be cautious about the motives behind people's smooth talk.

30 Years Ago
Week of February 25, 2016

Local Farmers Market Gears Up For Third Season

Plans for the 2016 Pendleton County Farmers Market are now officially underway. Last week's organizational meeting was attended by nearly 20 prospective vendors. "About half (of the attendees) were new and the other half have sold with us before," commented Rosey Santerre, market coordinator.

Santerre spearheaded the formation of the market three years ago with the guidance of Pendleton County extension agent, David Seymour. She also credits Eli and Irene Miller of Brandywine for being instrumental in the formation of the local event.

As the push for locally grown produce continues to take hold nationwide, Santerre notes that business has steadily increased each season.

The number of "local markets" in the United States skyrocketed from 2006 to 2012 and then leveled off in 2013 and 2014. According to USDA data, there was a 2.5 increase in locations in 2015 with nearly 8,500 markets registered across the 48 contiguous states. West Virginia alone had 87 documented farmers markets last year.

SUGAR GROVE

Leap Year Traditions Started Over 2000 Years Ago

Leap Day, February 29, has been a day of traditions and folklore ever since Julius Ceasar first introduced Leap Years over 2,000 years ago.

Seventh Grade Wildcats Sweep PVL Championship

The Pendleton County Middle School seventh grade boys' basketball team defeated Warm Springs, VA, to take championship honors in the recent PVL tournament held at Moorefield Middle School. The seventh grade team defeated Moorefield in the first round of the tournament.

20 Years Ago
Week of February 23, 2006

Pendleton Leads State In Child Care

Pendleton County is a good place to raise a family.

In fact, if studies and statistics are truly meaningful in relation to a county with a small population, the 2005 Kids Count data book shows that Pendleton is the best county in which to raise a child in the entire state.

The annual Kids Count study focuses on early literacy practices, as well as statistics relating to infant deaths, teen births, teen violent death and juvenile delinquency.

30 Years Ago
Week of February 29, 1996

Little Old Ladies To Entertain

'Little Old Ladies in Tennis Shoes' prepare for opening night March 1 in the Smith Creek Playhouse near Franklin. Sue Hall, Kendra Rightsell and Roberta Riggle will be joined in the production by Paulette Roberts, Carole Hartman, Marcia Warner, Kenneth Fox, Anthony Steele and Mickey Fox in the comedy.

DAHMER

Tom Kline appears to be a leader in feeding birds which have so far consumed around 400 pounds of mixed feed. Dr. C. J. Sites appeared disappointed because the birds were not very numerous at his feeder this year. Jim Eye probably fed to birds more fat and beef tallow than anyone in Pendleton County. Even Mary C. Rexrode, during her recuperation from surgery, asked others to put feed in her feeder.

200 Area Farmers Mull Flood Damages to Land

FARMERS FEEL LEFT OUT OF RECLAMATION EFFORTS, SET GOALS TO SEEK REMEDIES

Two hundred flood-scarred farmers and landowners from Pendleton and adjoining counties crowded into the Clinton Hedrick Community Building at Riverton last Thursday night to discuss damages to farm land caused by the January 19 flood and to seek help in coping with their losses.

After being declared a disaster area by President Clinton, much assistance has been received from the Salvation Army, National Guard, FEMA and many other organizations and individuals. But damages to farm land has been all but ignored, especially along rivers and streams where miles of river banks and thousands of tons of silt were washed away.

Franklin Elementary School Wins \$3500 Grant For Playground Work

Each year the Tide Corporation sponsors a program "Tide Cleans Up America's Playgrounds Foundation." Tide awards twenty \$3500 grants per year to American schools that are in need of the building and repairing of their playgrounds.

Rev. Neal Weltzin brought a newspaper article concerning the grants to the attention of PTO president Jodie Kiser who applied for a grant application.

Mrs. Dolly Nilsen faxed the application to Tide and on February 12 Franklin Elementary received the award notification that they were chosen to receive one of the twenty cash awards of \$3500.00.

This money is to be used specifically for the cleanup, repair, and building of the FES playground.

40 Years Ago
Week of February 27, 1986

Important Facts To Know Before Selling Woodlot Timber

Selling timber from a farm woodlot may not be as complicated as many landowners think.

The best way to protect yourself and your woodlot is to obtain the services of a forester.

The first thing to do is decide what to sell.

High grade, high-quality trees are good investments. They increase in value as they grow in size. So, they generally are a good hedge against inflation. The forester will identify the trees that should be cut.

Marking at the stump is recommended for each tree that is to be sold. It is strongly suggested that boundaries should also be clearly marked in the area where trees are to be cut.

A valid written contract is also needed for protection. The important thing is to get the full value of your timber from a responsible operator.

DAHMER

A chipmunk was seen scampering about before the recent cold spell set in and Sammy, the skunk, also was patting his feet in teasing the writer's little dog, Jackie, not to come to close or you will be sorry.

The results of the Christmas bird count held December 29, 1985, were released by coordinator of the bird count, Carolyn Ruddle. The count was limited to a ten mile radius from George Hammer. Census participants were Virginia Byers, Kathleen Finnegan, Lorraine Harper, Carolyn Ruddle, Chester Shaffer, Michelle Sites, Charles Waggy, Gretchen Waggy and Danny Walker. The bird count was up this year. The participants had to be very observant to find 61 species and especially to find four warblers in the winter time.

During the winter months is a splendid time to look through those old pictures and pick up those that would be of historical value that could be used in Pendleton County Pictorial History. The writer is trying to compile a list of post offices that no longer exist in Pendleton County. Following is that list of post offices. How many more can you add to this list?

Bethel District — Fame, Miles, Oak Flat; Circleville District — Cherry Grove, Dry Run, Hunting Ground, Mullenax, Nome; Franklin District — Bank, Cave, Dahmer, Rexrode, Ruddle, Zigler; Mill Run District — Branch, Brushy Run, Creek, Deer Run, Ketterman, Kline, Mozer, Smoke Holes, Shreve, South Mill Creek; Sugar Grove District — Hiner, Mitchell, Thorn, Tressel; Union District — Box, Brood, Key, Macksville, Simoda, Roaring, Shafter and Teterton.

50 Years Ago
Week of February 26, 1976

Franklin High to Adopt New Honor Roll System

Beginning the second semester of the 1975-1976 school year, Franklin High School will use a new system for determining the honor roll.

Under the new system there will be two separate honor rolls, the principal's honor roll, and the regular honor roll.

The principal's honor roll will consist of those students who have all As.

The regular honor roll will be made up of those students who have B average or above with no more than one C nor any grades below a C.

To be eligible for either honor roll, a student must carry at least four subjects. Vocational School will count as two subjects except for the secretarial course which will count as three subjects.

Pluses and minuses will not be factors in determining honor roll eligibility.

Under the present system, to make the honor roll a student must make at least one A and all other grades must be Bs or above.

The new system provides for special recognition for those students who earn all As and hopefully will result in a more equitable method of choosing other students to be recognized for their superior academic achievements.

60 Years Ago
Week of February 24, 1966

States Highest Point Slighted by Previous Measurements

Washington, D. C., — U. S. Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) said today that the U. S. Geological Survey is expected to prove this year what West Virginians have long suspected that they are in a growing state—so much so that the highest point has hit a new high.

"For many years, the official federal and state maps have indicated that Spruce Knob in Pendleton County has been the highest point in West Virginia with an elevation of 4,860 feet," said Byrd.

"However, when the Geological Survey produces its next set of maps for West Virginia, that peak may be set at nearly 4,862 feet." The existing maps for West Virginia date back to 1912 with some revisions in 1929 and are on a smart scale of one inch-to-about 6,000 feet," said Byrd.

Because of the great demand by industry, engineers and community developers for smaller scale maps, the state is now being surveyed on a scale of one inch-to-2,000 feet.

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Smith Creek Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

This is the last week of the shortest month of the year. In less than a month, spring will arrive. The writer is sure that a lot of folks will be happy about that.

Sandra Bennett passed away on Sunday, Feb. 22. The Smith Creek Brethren Church is going to miss a great lady who was a leader in the church. The community is going to miss her also.

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 Borrer, Danny Nelson, David M. Parkinson, Cleo Simmons, Tom Butterworth, Sherry Hedrick, Bobby Parsons, Robert Bennett, Rick Phares, Chuck Hiatt, 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 Borrer, Wayne Waggy, Holly Beachler, Cameron Beachler, Chris Ferris and the family of Sandra Bennett.

Prayer thought: "As He fills us with His joy and peace, we'll grow in the knowledge not only of Him but of His good work in us."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for Feb. 16 through Feb. 22, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: Feb. 16 - 54°, 33° (54°, 27°), Feb. 17 - 61°, 29° (28°, 19°), Feb. 18 - 61°, 35° (29°, 17°), Feb. 19 - 58°, 40°, .19" (27°, 15°, 1.5" snow), Feb. 20 - 68°, 43°, .69" (23°, 15°, 1" snow), Feb. 21 - 57°, 35° (30°, 14°) and Feb. 22 - 37°, 25°, .04" (44°, 7°).

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Kettles, Cauldrons and Pots Were Great Meal Time Vessels

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

During the pioneer days, cooking in a kettle was the cornerstone of meal preparation. The hearth was the primary source of heat for both warmth and food. Those kettles were versatile heavy-duty vessels used for stewing, boiling, and even baking.

There were several common types of kettles. The brass and iron kettle was a heavy vessel and a very prized possession. Sometimes the weight was up to 40 pounds and holding 15 gallons for making soups, stews, and porridges.

The Dutch Oven, or baking kettle, was a large round iron pot with a lid designed for baking. Cooks placed hot coals underneath and on top of the lid to ensure even heat for baking breads, cakes, and even meat pies.

The camp kettle was usually used by soldiers and travelers. They were smaller, and lighter in nature, often made of tin or copper, designed to be carried on one's back.

The "one pot meal" was a staple because it allowed a fire to be maintained throughout the day. Popular dishes were a cornmeal mush that was a common daily porridge, and soups and stews. The latter was often kept perpetually on the fire, with new ingredients added daily.

A typical home diet heavily featured roasted meat, such as venison, pork, beef, and wild fowl (turkey, duck), often cooked on a spit over a hearth. Meals were highly seasonal and regional, relying on boiled dishes, stews, corn-based foods (hasty pudding, bread), and salted, smoked, or preserved meats for longevity. Pork was usually a staple, often paired with vegetables or corn.

After the kettle's use, it was filled with water and hung over the fire until the boiling stage allowed the food to loosen. This was then scraped away with wooden spoons. The recipe for Johnny Cake follows:

- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1/2 to 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1-1/3 cups cake flour
- 2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg

Directions: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease an 8-inch square pan. Combine cornmeal and milk. Sift flour, baking powder, and salt. Stir together the egg and milk. Cream shortening, and blend sugar. Stir flour mixture and egg mixture alternately into creamed mixture. Blend in cornmeal mixture, Bake for 40-45 minutes. Serve hot with maple syrup.

Life's little instructions to make one's day much better include the following:

1. Give a firm handshake.



Pictured are Charlie Eckard (Aug. 29, 1892 - June 7, 1941), son of Jacob Howard and Martha Jane Smith Eckard, and his wife, Lou Emma Simmons Eckard (July 25, 1899 - April, 1989), daughter of James Harvery, Sr., and Lucinda S. Dove Simmons.

2. Share one's umbrella.
3. Hug one's kids every day.
4. Make sure the tooth fairy always arrives.
5. Turn off lights when leaving a room.

Lots to talk about when it comes to weather. Temperatures warmed up enough to melt the snow, thus causing the rivers to swell. On Sunday, snow squalls reigned in this neighborhood. However, other areas had snow, enough to have a 2-hour delay call for the school system. Once the warmth returns, look for the fifth season...mud!

- Clickety-clacks for the chin waggars are as follows:
- The first computer mouse was made from wood.
 - A chef's hat has 100 folds.
 - A single strand of spaghetti is called a spaghetti.
 - Baby rabbits are called kits.
 - The shoe that Cinderella left behind at the ball was her left.

Sitting by the fire to keep warm is where it is best to hear the "Talk of the Grove."

Dover Harper, the Emu has jumped fence, and made his way to where his "keeper," Jim Rexrode, lives. His winter adventure allowed him to cross stream and hills to finally reach his destination.

The monthly meeting of the Sugar Grove Lions Club was held in the home of Tom and Paula Mitchell. Mike Funkhouser, zone chairman, and wife, Ann of Wardensville, were also in attendance. A meal of cruellers (made by Evelyn Varner), gravy (made by Cara Homan), sausage, sauerkraut, fried potatoes and sassafras tea was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Quotes for the week are as follows:

"If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it. The more things you do, the more you can do." — Lucille Ball

"Beauty is how you feel inside, and it reflects in your eyes." — Sophia Loren

"The only disability in life is a bad attitude." — Scott Hamilton

"Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today."

President Thomas Jefferson

"When you are good to others, you're best to yourself." — Benjamin Franklin

March birthdays include Doug Reedy and Parker Chapman, first; Leslie Bowers, Ben Puffenbarger, Bradley Wilfong and Tim Hoover, second; Myrtle Lester and Chris Lambert, third; Judy Grimm and Joy Bennett, fourth; Ruth Warner and Myrtle Mauzy, fifth; Teresa Rexrode, Tina Eye and Thelma Thompson, sixth; Myrtle Pitsenbarger and Wanda Rexrode, seventh; Alvin Pratt, eighth; Marcella Nelson, ninth; Roger Shrewsbury, Willie Rader, Emilie Kobetic, Ann Wimer and Pam Waggy, 10th; Jeff Bowers and Carolyn Thompson, 11th; Linda Mallow, Anthony Bowers and Letha Caplinger, 14th; and Holly Crider, April Simmons, Chloe Simmons, Wanda Pitsenbarger and Krista Owens, 15th.

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The years took us in different directions, but on the occasions that we are together there is always storytelling and laughter as we reminisce about years gone by. On February 1, 2026, life drastically changed for us when we lost our brother, Jeff.

He will be forever loved and missed by brothers, Larry (Vickie) Colaw and Mark (Julie) Colaw, and sisters, Margaret Stinard, Beverly (Rick) Kile, Sara (John) Lawson, and Laura (Rod) Menas, and his nieces, nephews and special cousin, Cindy Wood.

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Travis Heavner, head coach, reviews the plan with his squad as they scored a key win against a strong Tygarts Valley team. Photo courtesy of Light In Motion Photography.

Pendleton County Reverses Results Against Strong Tygarts Valley Squad

By Stephen Smoot

Only three years ago, the Tygarts Valley Bulldogs watched helplessly as Pendleton County's Ana Young dropped 50 points on them. Since then, the Bulldogs have improved their fortunes, rising from doormat to dominance. Along the way, they won 11 and dropped six.

One of those 11 wins came at home against the Wildcats, 48-38. Seven weeks later, however, fortunes have changed. Last week, Pendleton County defeated the visitors from Randolph County 56-43.

Neither side could put the ball in the basket for the first 2:50 in the game. Then Tygarts Valley hit a 17-foot shot to take the two to zero advantage. Almost precisely one minute later, Tia Heavner took a baseline drive to the hoop and hit her team's first bucket. The Bulldogs edged ahead on a single free throw and Heavner put her team ahead again with a 12-foot basket.

At the 2:50 point, the Tia Heavner show continued with a three. A minute after that, she slung a pass inside to Lexi Tingler for a nifty reverse layup. Tingler and her twin-on-the floor, Jess Parker, play in a style reminiscent of Indiana University legend Damon Bailey. They can shoot, handle the ball, and defend as guards, but feel just as comfortable scoring or fighting for rebounds under the basket. This youthful dynamic duo has developed confidence and played with toughness all season.

Pendleton County played well on defense early as well. Jameigh Miller took a steal early, then repeated the feat with a minute left in the first. At the 2:23 mark, four Wildcats got their hands on the ball before taking control, making it a team steal. The Bulldogs could only record seven points against the home team effort in the first.

For a time, the second quarter seemed a mere extension of the first. It was Miller time from deep as she hit a three at the 7:30 point for a 15-7 advantage. Susan Vincell took a Shayne Clutter pass to the post and scored the first two of her 19 total with a layup at 6:36, then repeated the feat shortly after to put her team up 20-7 with about six minutes remaining in the half.

For the Bulldogs, it looked less like the game on Jan. 6 and more like the bad old days facing Young and Avery Townsend's relentless offensive play. The second Clutter to Vincell connection put the center on the line to hit two and push the lead to 14.

The Bulldogs then bit back. Through the remaining minutes of the half, they found another gear. Defensive players that were a step behind started to swarm Wildcat ballhandlers. They started contesting for offensive rebounds more while also experiencing more than their share of good fortune in luck.

From the 5:50 mark in the second to a minute

into the third, Tygarts Valley went from being down 23-9 to a one-point deficit at the 5:42 point in the third when a three-foot shot of pure old-fashioned slop left the Bulldog player's hand and somehow found its way into the basket.

Vincell then declared "enough of that" with her next play. She took a pass with 5:40 left in the third, stepped to the top of the key, and hit a rare (for her) three-point basket and extended the lead to 32 to 28. Free throws again whittled the lead to two, but Vincell powered her way to grab an offensive rebound and score again, setting the score at 34-30.

Travis Heavner, head coach, has worked his lineup, at times, to move Vincell to different areas of the floor. Additionally, Katie Heavner or Lauren Williams bring their toughness and talent to the post and allow Vincell to expand her offensive role.

Coach Heavner adjusted his defense to counter Tygarts Valley's adjustments. They used ball movement and cutters to spread the man-to-man defense and find open shots near the basket. He put the Wildcats into a zone defense, mainly the three-two. This forced the visiting team into a less dynamic high-low offense and slowed their scoring.

Williams' offensive rebound drew a foul and put her on the line where she calmly connected on her two charity shots to extend the lead to six. Early in the fourth, she pushed the lead to seven with an offensive rebound and a made layup to set the score at 41-34. At the 6:21 point, Miller fired a pass deep to Tia Heavner. She blew by three defenders and softly laid the ball in for a nine-point lead.

Tygarts Valley dialed up the pressure with a more intense press to attempt to disrupt the Wildcats, but the strategy played into the home team's hands. Repeatedly, the Wildcats quickly used three passes to whip the ball downcourt, each time finding a player on the post for an open score. Both Parker and Vincell scored on these press breaker plays.

The Bulldogs scored the first and last points of the game, but the Wildcats took the 56-43 win.

Vincell scored 19, Tia Heavner 16, Tingler seven, Miller and Williams five, and Parker four. Vincell and Miller both hauled in double-digits in rebounds with 14 and 13 respectively while Miller led the squad with eight assists.

The big win was a team effort. Katie Heavner and Olivia Gonshor pulled in key rebounds while Clutter and Lilly Brogan's defense contributed well.

Moreover, the two-game series between the schools shows how far Pendleton County has progressed. The 23-point turnaround from early January has come as a result of work, determination, belief, and the resilience to battle through growing pains, hitting their highest level of play all season long only days before the start of the regionals.

Wildcats' Big February Win Streak Buys Team as Postseason Looms

By Stephen Smoot

Pendleton County girls' basketball head coach, Travis Heavner, had not tasted defeat for some time in his previous role as middle school girls' coach. It took some time to find the same magic with a young team seasoned with veterans from last year's state playoff squad, but during 11 days between Feb. 9 and 20 the team won five straight games.

On Friday the 13th, the bad luck was had not in Pendleton County, but Paw Paw as the Wildcats took a 59-14 win over the visiting Pirates. Paw Paw scored the first bucket 20 seconds into the game, but Jameigh Miller retook the lead with a three 20 more seconds later.

Pendleton County racked up points early. Lexi Tingler fired a pass to the corner to Miller who obliged with hitting a three. At the 4:15 mark, Tingler bounced a pass inside to Susan Vincell who scored her team's 10th point. The red-hot shooting Miller took a Jess Parker pass and buried another three, forcing the Pirates to look up at 15-3 deficit.

Miller would lead the team in the game with 18 points.

Paw Paw cut into the lead with two three-point baskets toward the close of the first, but the Wildcats held a 17-8 lead.

Pendleton County continued to build a lead. Katie Heavner pulled down an offensive rebound and kicked it outside for another Miller three. Relentless outside scoring con-

tinued when Vincell sent a pass outside to Tia Heavner who arced in a three of her own for a 31-12 lead.

By the fourth quarter's opening, the Wildcats had a commanding lead of 46-12. Miller located Olivia Gonshor inside for a layup at the five minute mark. Late in the fourth, Lauren Williams showed that she continues to gain confidence with strong inside play. She laid in an offensive rebound for the final score of the night.

Tia Heavner scored 12, Vincell nine, Parker seven, Katie Heavner six, Tingler three, and Gonshor two. Tingler had 15 rebounds and seven assists. Vincell had 12 boards while Miller and Katie Heavner had nine a piece.

February also saw the Wildcats handle rivals Moorefield (43-36) and East Hardy (69-36.) A 75-26 win also took place against Union.

Pendleton County has moved ever closer to the .500 mark with a nine and 11 record that counts a Saturday loss against the Petersburg Vikings.

As the season has progressed, so has the team. Coach Heavner has his girls playing with ever-increasing confidence and discipline as the regionals await. After a very successful February, no one will be looking past the Wildcats in the upcoming regionals.

The Wildcats begin regional play against Paw Paw at 7 p.m. today at home. The winner will play Tucker County on March 4 for a berth in the state playoffs.



Jameigh Miller was the sole senior honored Friday night at the Wildcats' final regular season home game with Tygarts Valley. She is pictured with her parents, Dan and Rebecca Miller.

Signing In at Leo Slusher Field



Burke & Herbert Bank generously donated a new baseball scoreboard for the Leo Slusher Field at Pendleton County Middle/High School. The new sign was installed by Dean Brothers Electric Inc. PCM/HS stated on Facebook that "it looks great and is such a wonderful addition to our field!" Soon to come will be a new softball scoreboard donated by Pendleton Community Bank.

Wildcats Go One and Two In Tough Grind of a Week

By Stephen Smoot

If Pendleton County boys' basketball head coach, Josh Owens, wanted a week to prepare his squad for the rigors of the post-season, the last two weeks have served up a bit of everything. Between Feb. 9 and 21, in 12 days, the Wildcats played the toughest competition of the season and played seven games while crisscrossing the state.

Last Monday, the Wildcats posted another victory over Tucker County 62-51. While the home-standing Mountain Lions eked an early lead by the end of the first, 11-7, the Wildcats outscored them 55-40 the rest of the way.

Chase Owens led the way with 20 points. Travis Owens and Cashton Kisamore posted 12 a piece, while Jaydon Hess contributed 10, Henry Warner six, and Ty Heavner two. Warner grabbed nine rebounds and Kisamore seven. Hess had three steals and the same number of assists.

Then the Wildcats took on two teams from Class AAA. They played Lewis County Minutemen last Wednesday. Their Saturday road trip took them from the South Branch Valley to the Ohio Valley to compete against Spring Valley.

Pendleton County did open well against the Minutemen. Kisamore controlled the jump ball to give his team the opening possession. Chase Owens angled a pass to Kisamore on the post for the opening score of the game. At the 7:15 point, Chase Owens fired a pass from the post out to Warner who took a foul on a three-point shot and made all of his free throws.

Lewis County kept pace during the first, never falling too far behind the home team. They employed a two-two-one full court press that pushes opposing ball handlers to the outside, then traps them as they cross half court. The visiting squad's athleticism mirrored that of the home team, with both teams sporting long, lanky, athletic play-makers on both sides of the ball.

Pendleton County, however, was missing

one of its key catalysts, sophomore guard Travis Owens. More than his 8.2 points per game, the Wildcats missed his opportunistic aggressiveness on defense and his near three assists per game. He also provides one more player that defenses cannot afford to ignore, which would have made the press trap of the Minutemen much less effective.

Chase Owens and Kisamore took the game to Lewis County. With 3:15 left in the first, Kisamore blocked a Minuteman shot. Not 20 seconds later, he wrested away an offensive rebound and laid it in to put his team up 19-14. Lewis County closed the gap to two with three free throws after an outside foul.

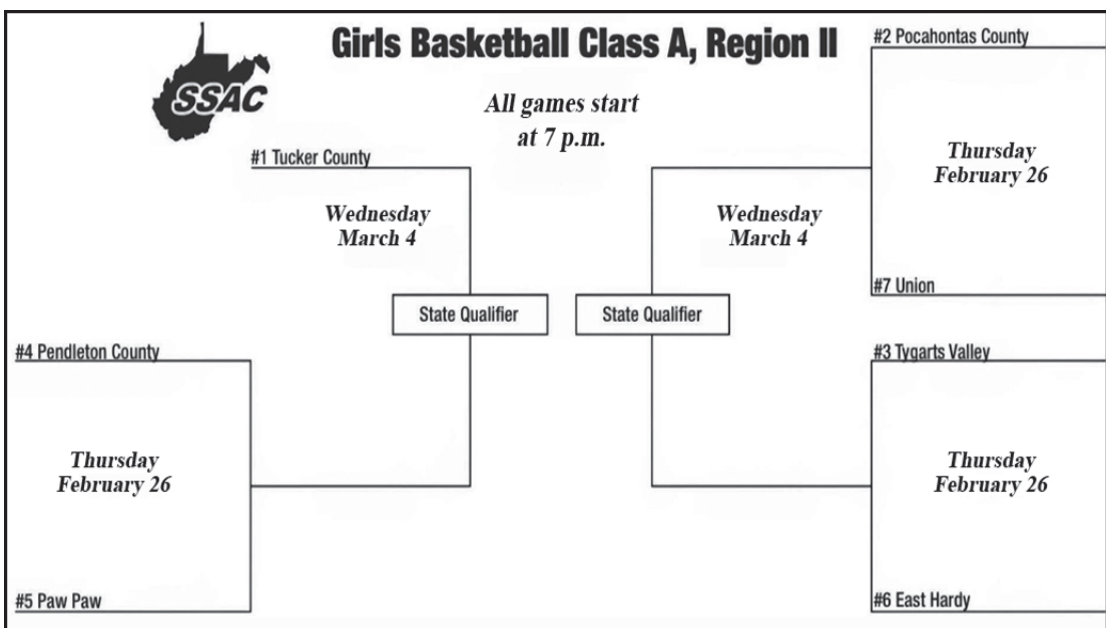
Once again, Chase Owens answered with two of his 19 points, driving in the lane, extending his arm, and arcing the ball in to push the lead to five. With just over a minute remaining, he swiped the ball and took it coast to coast for a layup and a seven-point advantage.

Then came a disastrous quarter in which the Lewis County athletes kicked their effort into another gear and outscored the home team 21 to two in the second stanza. Setting aside that quarter, the Wildcats outscored the visiting team 43 to 37. The final score ended up 57 to 45 in favor of Lewis County.

Kisamore had the second leading effort in scoring with 13. Warner scored seven and Dalton Rohrbaugh, Hess, and Tony VanMeter each scored two. Cameron Wyatt led the team in assists with three.

Spring Valley also handled the Wildcats with a 76-45 win. Games, however, against teams from much larger schools serve a purpose. They force the Wildcats to elevate their own games to compete and develop resilience in the process. The hope is that after battling Class AAA squads, that what was learned there can be deployed against same-size schools in the post season.

The Wildcats' final game of the regular season will be against the Petersburg Vikings on Monday at home.



South Branch Stockyards Preserved

Continued From Page 1

with Gary.” He went on to add that “Roger will continue to be here working with us. When you think of the South Branch Stockyards, Roger is one of the first things to come to people’s minds.”

Also a veteran of the stockyards since childhood and still a key part of the operation, Brandon Neely’s wife, Jackie Neely, will continue her diligent and wide-ranging work, especially in preparation of cattle for sale. “My wife will be a big part of this,” he said.

Brandon Neely shared that his passion for the field of auctioneering started early. He explained that “ever since I was a little boy, auctioneering was a passion.” McGee stated that he had worked with Neely’s family as he grew up. “He was always trying to sell me little plastic cows” and other farm toys, McGee smiled.

He then added that Neely “always wanted to be a world class auctioneer.” Neely had a way of relentlessly pursuing his dreams to fruition, winning a world championship in auctioneering in 2015. At the age of 12, he told McGee “I’d like to own a stockyard and be an auctioneer.” McGee’s response to the young man was that if he ever had an opportunity, McGee would be there to help.

Now with the help of McGee and Hinkle, Neely stands poised to realize both aspects of his life’s major dream, running the South Branch Stockyards and auctioneering there.

This consortium ensuring continuity of operations was not a foregone conclusion. David Workman, Hardy County commissioner, with decades of experience and work in Potomac Highlands agriculture, voiced concerns prior to the auction that “someone with deep pockets will come in” and buy the land for residential housing or some other business. Workman explained that neither of those would match the sheer economic impact that South Branch Livestock Exchange brings to the region every single year of its existence.

McGee came to the group after working 30 years for the State of West Virginia throughout the Eastern Panhandle.

Hinkle of Riverton was the third to join and complete the partnership. As part of the family-owned Hinkle Trucking that has been led by three generations of the family, he adds transportation capability and logistics experience. He shared that the 1985 flood nearly wiped out the company’s physical assets and it has been painstakingly rebuilt in the years and decades since.

That rebound demonstrated the resilience of both the company and the family that owns it. It also creates a long-haul type of mentality that prioritizes persistent growth through the decades along with the ups and downs. Additionally, Hinkle raises his own cattle. Over time, his and Neely’s paths crossed and they combined efforts.

“I always thought Brandon was in line for it (ownership of the stockyards) anyway,” said Hinkle. He added that he told Neely, “If you need help, I’m behind you. I don’t want you to lose it. I’m here for what you need.”

Then Hinkle said, “I called Brandon one night. We talked business. We talked cows, and now we’re partners.”

One theme among all partners lay in their dedication to maintaining the legacy crafted more than 90 plus years, especially in the last 25 by Vance. Neely said “Gary was one of the top auctioneers. I idolized Gary and wanted to follow in his footsteps.” Vance returned the respect by employing Neely as an auctioneer at the age of 15 and from there the young man’s career rocketed all the way to a world championship in the field in 2015.

For a decade, as Neely describes, Vance mentored him closely, teaching him the details of operating the business the South Branch way. This prepared him to take over a livestock exchange business during a time of uncertainty in the field of beef, especially. According to USDA NASS, the federal agricultural statistics reporting service, commercial red meat production dropped 17 percent between December

2024 and December 2025. Commercial cattle slaughter declined by 22 percent in the same period of time. Nationally, the number of cattle and calves dropped by about 320,000 head in the same December-to-December time frame.

The inability of the U.S. cattle industry to increase production to meet demand and cool price increases has pushed the value of quality cattle higher. Hinkle said the price of a good bull could range between \$10,000 and \$100,000. Average cost is approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000.

With “a cattle shortage,” Neely says that the business can bank on “the best reputation on the East Coast” to not only maintain, but also expand volume of business. “We will have the buyers,” he shared.

Having a sterling reputation for not only sales, but treatment of cattle in house makes South Branch one of the most desired facilities with which to conduct business. Expert staff prioritize tending to their health as part of a regimen of care followed with each animal. With each animal carrying higher-than-ever prices, that reputation becomes more vital than ever for producers and buyers alike.

The group will continue Vance and Pratt’s decision to hold sales on Saturdays instead of Wednesdays, as had been done previously. Neely noted that with many farmers carrying part or even full time employment outside the farm, convenience dictated keeping those sales on that schedule. Wednesdays will have, however, miscellaneous sales. Special sales in April and October will continue as they have.

Neely also shared that the future might bring occasional consignment farm equipment auctions and that the second floor restaurant could return to operation in some fashion. McGee will put his expertise of previously operating the Mineral County Farmers Market to work on this property.

As Hinkle stated, one of the major goals of the new owners in terms of the exchange is “we’re hoping to make things better without change” whether better means more efficient processes or expanded services to join the traditional. Those who have done business with the stockyards for years or decades will find their needs met in the same ways as traditionally. Others will come to do business in different ways. Both will expand the business and continue to serve the industry and community well.

With the business purchased, however, the hard work for the three men and their team truly begins. “We made a large investment for the people and for the producers here,” explained Neely. He added that “now we need the producers to support us so that we can continue the legacy of superior cattle and excellent service while also remaining a huge force in the local economy.”

Gary L. Vance’s Statement on Sale of South Branch Stockyards: South Branch Special Sales

Through the years, South Branch Stockyards has had the reputation of being one of the few cattle sales that have kept the State Graded Feeder Sales truly special. The quantity of quality feeder cattle that South Branch has to offer in their spring and fall sales is well known and respected by cattle buyers and sellers. Not only the quality of the cattle, but the way South Branch has gone the extra mile in the grading and penning of cattle, whether it be trucking, the handling of the cattle, or care at the sale barn, it all adds up.

But maybe most important is how the cattle are cared for after weighing. At South Branch, the cattle are mostly in bigger feed pens with hay and automatic waters. This certainly adds value that buyers recognize. By producers working together to market their cattle through the graded sales, they are helping each other. I have noted first hand that South Branch prices have been very competitive with other markets and mostly a good bit higher.

I see no reason why this will change.

Brandon and Jackie Neely have put everything on the

line to keep this market up and running. It is truly for the benefit of area producers to support their endeavor. When I first started, cattle producers gave me a chance and they deserve one too as all of us needed one. With an ending, there is also a beginning. Brandon and Jackie have been in the cattle business all their lives, literally from childhood, and have much experience with stockyards, sales, and processing cattle.

County Commission

Continued From Page 1

gency Services coordinator, and Mike Alt, training officer for Pendleton County Emergency Rescue, traveled to Charleston to confer with executive and legislative branch officials on different needs. They spoke with West Virginia Secretary of State Kris Warner, who was the recipient of said services after his vehicle accident on the North Fork, and Governor Patrick Morrisey’s staff.

Gillespie and Alt also met with state legislators. Delegate Elias Coop-Gonzales in a release shared that he “met with emergency medical services personnel from Pendleton and Randolph counties . . . to discuss rural EMS challenges including staffing and resources.”

In the second meeting of the evening, no citizens attended the public meeting concerning a slight rise in 911 fees. Residential landline fees will increase from \$2.50 to \$5.00 and those for business will rise to \$8.00.

The fees were set in the 1990s and never raised until this meeting. Funds from them partially support the operation of Pendleton 911.

Maple Days Helps

Continued From Page 1

and dark. The tiers come in gold, amber, dark, and very dark.

Behind her sat a number of both glass and plastic bottles of maple syrup for sale. “We typically put amber in glass bottles because it looks so nice.” They also sell maple products such as sugars, maple candied nuts, cotton candy, and more. One special type sold is Bourbon and rye barrel aged maple syrup that, like aged whiskey, pulls flavor off the interior of the barrel.

At Cindy and Mike Gray’s Orange Cat Café in Franklin, one could see massive jugs of both M&S Maple Farm and also Cool Hollow products. Their celebration of Maple Days included a special menu of carefully crafted maple recipes that proved popular to locals and visitors alike.


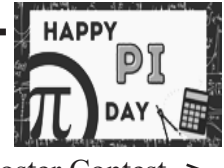


Cindy Gray shared that “we cook with it, bake with it.” She listed some of their offerings, including “wet walnuts” for ice cream, maple glazed bacon, buckwheat pancakes and a special breakfast treat called “the Waffle Stomper.” Between two waffles is piled ham, egg, and cheese with maple drizzled on the outside.

The local connection with area businesses added to the growing demand elsewhere has fueled production expansion. Mark Kimble explained that in the past two years of production that “we’ve doubled it,” going from just over 2,000 taps to almost 4,000. They also acquired access to additional lands that provide more trees to tap.

Between the growing local market and outside interest, M&S Maple Farm has their hands full in working to satisfy their market. That market includes a regular buyer in Richmond, Virginia.

Also, while in the past they had to purchase some of their syrup from others for their products, those days have passed. “All the syrup we sell now is made by us,” said Mark Kimble.

According to a 2025 United States Department of Agriculture report, production is on the uptick in West Virginia in recent years. It states that “Maple syrup number of taps in 2024 was 70,000, up from 69,000 taps in 2023. Yield per tap was 0.171 gallon, up from 0.159 gallon in 2023. Production totaled 12,000 gallons in 2024, up from 11,000 gallons in 2023.”

PENDLETON COUNTY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL						MARCH
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 HS Varsity Boys Basketball Petersburg 6:00 (H)	3	4 Girls Basketball Regionals	5	6	7
8 	9	10 Golden Horseshoe Test	11 Boys Basketball Regionals	12	13 MS Softball Buckhannon/Upshur 6:00 (A) Scrimmage	14  ← State Math Conference & Poster Contest →
15	16 Regional Math Field Day (Snow Date March 18)	17	18 Report Cards	19	20 Enrollment Deadline EF Trip to Belize	21 HS Softball Clay Battelle TBA (A) MS Softball Clay Battelle & Petersburg TBA (A)
22	23	24	25 HS Baseball Harman 4:30 (H) MS Track Keyser 4:00 (A) MS Baseball Elkins 5:00 (H) HS Softball Petersburg 6:00 (A) MS Softball Westwood 6:00 (A)	26 HS Baseball (A) Paw Paw 5:00 MS Baseball Harman 6:30 (H) MS Baseball Tucker Valley 6:00 (A)	27	28 HS Softball Trinity 12:00 (H) Frankfort 4:00 (H) HS Baseball Southern Garrett Co. 12:00 (A)
29	30	31 HS Baseball Pocahontas County 4:30 (A)		HS - High School MS - Middle School	Pendleton County Schools is an Equal Opportunity Provider	

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By
Nicole Hevener,
Superintendent

Questions can provide clarification, but it can sometimes be difficult to know who or how to ask. Pendleton County Schools welcomes on-going communication with parents and the community; questions, comments and concerns are encouraged as a means of helping our school district grow and serve students effectively. If you have a question, it is most likely that others do as well.

Rooms through Thrillshare is a great way for parents and teachers to have direct interaction. Reaching out to the teacher first leads to a quick solution but also strengthens a positive relationship that helps students thrive. If additional information is needed or further review of a situation is warranted, contacting the principal is the next best way to resolve an issue or receive needed information. Principals are eager to assist and can address building-level concerns, provide clarification of school rules and policies, and ensure that students feel safe, supported, and successful. Concerns on the district level, such as transportation, special services, or curriculum, should be directed to the central office personnel. All Pendleton County staff are listed on the county website under the "Staff" tab. Phone numbers are provided, and a link of sending a message by email is also available; please feel free to contact staff through these means.

Please feel free to contact me at any time; I am glad to be of assistance to ensure that open communication is maintained. A link is provided on the home page of the county web site titled, "Sharing with the Superintendent." An anonymous message can be sent to me, but you can also provide your contact information if you would like me to contact you personally. You can also email me at nhevener@k12.wv.us.

Every voice matters; if you have a question, a concern, a suggestion, or a praise, please take a moment to connect. On-going and open communication fosters support for students, staff, parents, and the community. Pendleton County Schools looks forward to hearing from you.

Sincere Thanks

The **Alfred Armstrong Family** would like thank everyone for the flowers, food and any acts of kindness during the passing of Alfred.

A special thanks to Obaugh Funeral Home for the beautiful service and McDowell Volunteer Fire Department for the wonderful meal.

Shirley

Mike, Ken, Larry, Scotty, Pam, Robin, Becky and Penny

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February 18, 2003

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Loved and very sadly missed by an only child, Lorraine

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- Develops and coordinates educational and cultural programs and events for children and adults.
- Develops and manages the library budget.
- Coordinates Library interactions with the state government and Library Commission.
- Manages the Library's physical facilities, ensuring necessary maintenance/repairs are accomplished.
- Manages the Library's technology resources; regularly addressing updates and other needs.
- Develops and maintains the Library's outreach efforts and its social media presence.

Deadline for application: March 20

Submit application or resume to
Pendleton County Library, Attention: Charles Burgoyne
PO Box 519, Franklin, WV 26807

State of West Virginia Earns Solid Grade in Fiscal Health in 2025 Rankings, But Concerns Lie Ahead

By Stephen Smoot

For 16 years, an organization called Truth in Accounting has released rankings of state fiscal health in its Financial State of the State Report.

It revealed that the financial condition of West Virginia is far better than that of the states collectively. While the Mountain State placed 15th in the nation, 25 states, including the most populous and wealthy, lacked the funds to pay state government obligations.

"At the close of fiscal year 2024," the report stated "25 states were unable to cover all of their financial obligations." It went on to explain that "in most states, the law requires a balanced budget" but some states used accounting tricks and "excluded certain costs from their budget calculations" to satisfy the letter, but not the spirit, of those laws.

"This practice essentially shifts these financial responsibilities onto future taxpayers, leaving them to cover the expenses that should have been accounted for in the current budget," it also shared.

Even with the more stringent analysis, West Virginia showed a healthy fiscal condition in terms of the state's ability to meet obligations. Truth in Accounting explained that "West Virginia made progress in (fiscal year) 2024, improving its financial condition." The report based these findings on "reported revenues exceeded its expenses and its pension debt decreased."

The report also described potential headwinds that could hurt the state's results in coming years, sharing that "the state experienced a decline in total revenues, primarily due to a \$1.8 billion reduction in operating grants" mostly from the termination of American Rescue Plan Act funding.

State and local governments that emerged from the end of ARPA funding in financial trouble often used those funds for ongoing, rather than one-time, expenses. Most of the ongoing costs came from adding personnel positions. When the end of ARPA arrived, this formed a "fiscal cliff" where the obligations added during funding could no longer be met.

When Governor Patrick Morrisey came into office he raised the alarm of potential budgetary issues and immediately worked to contract state government, especially in areas where it expanded under his predecessor.

The Truth in Accounting report confirmed the potential for future trouble, stating that "this analysis models a return to 2019 federal grants and contributions increased only by inflation. If so, West Virginia could see a \$1.3 billion reduction in federal funding, representing around seven percent of projected expenses for the state's primary government."

Overall, the state of West Virginia received \$14.7 billion in revenues and paid out \$11.9 billion in obligations,

resulting in a solid, but not overly sizeable \$2.8 billion surplus, around \$5,400 per taxpayer.

This earned West Virginia a grade of B. With Morrisey focused on competition with state neighbors, this ranking showed that only the Old Dominion outstripped the Mountain State in fiscal health, earning 12th place with a per capita surplus of \$6,800 per taxpayer.

The rest of West Virginia's bordering states joined the 25 states unable to meet their obligations. Ohio ranked 28 with a per capita shared deficit burden of \$1,300. Pennsylvania ranked 40 at \$9,400, Maryland 41 at \$11,100, and Kentucky 42 at \$11,500.

One of the main issues facing states ranked lower lay in having a "pay as you go" philosophy with pension obligations. The total unfunded obligation of all states in \$832 billion. West Virginia escaped this problem due to the policies of then-Governor Joe Manchin.

When banner years in severance tax receipts brought added billions to state revenues, Manchin ignored calls to lower taxes or expand services. Instead, he had the West Virginia Legislature allocate funds to pay down West Virginia's pension liabilities, which has been a major part of the bedrock of state fiscal health ever since

The top five states in the ranking were North Dakota, Alaska, Wyoming, Utah, and Tennessee. Tennessee also placed first in a recent ranking of permitting ease for businesses.

The five worst were California, Massachusetts, Illinois, Connecticut, and New Jersey, all imposing high rates of taxation and fees, most also adding layers of burdensome regulations.

Truth in Accounting also praised West Virginia for timely release of fiscal year information, placing sixth, right after Virginia. Ohio and Pennsylvania took somewhat more time than the Mountain State, but were still considered "timely" because they turned in reports within 180 days. Kentucky and Maryland received a "tardy" ranking for being more than 200 days late.

Students Named to Honor Lists at Potomac State

Pendleton County students have attained academic recognition for the fall semester at West Virginia University Potomac State College in Keyser.

Earning a place on President's List were Claire Cooney, an elementary education major, and Caitlyn Cooper, a nursing major, both of Seneca Rocks, Addi-

son Rexrode of Petersburg, a pre bachelor of science nursing major, and Jenna Smith of Upper Tract, a business technology major.

Named to Dean's List were Ashlyn Judy, a health sciences major, and Sarah Judy, a nursing major, both of Upper Tract, Paigelyn Long of Sugar Grove, an elementary education major, Jaida Reel of Franklin, child development and family studies major, and Ally Vance of Seneca Rocks, an elementary education major.

Students named to the honor lists must earn a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for the President's List and maintain a grade point average of 3.0 to 3.699 for the Dean's List.

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March... In like a Lion and out like a Lamb or In like a Lamb and out like a Lion?



While the saying most likely started as a reference to astronomy, referencing the position of the constellations Leo (a lion) and Aries (a ram, or lamb) in the night sky - it quickly evolved into a succinct summation of March's changing weather as the seasons change from winter to spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

This well-known proverb means that March is a month in which you can experience a Lion's fierce roar of frigid cold, the long white teeth of biting winds that can cut through flesh; and the gentle softness, the warmth of fluffy white fleece, and the innocent kiss of sunshine like a docile newborn lamb.

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Consumers Alerted of Tax Scams

Tax season is here and if a person is getting a refund, scammers could be trying to steal it before one can claim it. That is why West Virginia Attorney General JB Cuskey is warning consumers to be wary of emails or texts promising a tax refund. If a person gets a text or email about a "tax refund" - especially one that asks one to click a link - know that it is a scam designed to steal one's personal identity, actual tax refund or both. Texting and email are essential communication tools. Unfortunately, they are also used by scammers to target potential victims. "Tax refund" scams are emails or texts that appear to be from the Internal Revenue Service or a state tax office and claim that they've "processed" or "approved" one's tax refund. They tell a person to "verify your identity" to receive the money and ask one to click a link to enter personal identifiable information such as a Social Security number and bank account number. This is a phishing scam designed to trick one into giving scammers personal and financial information. If a person gets a message like this: "Know that the IRS and state tax offices do not reach out by text, email or by social media to confirm one's information. Do not respond or click any links. To check on the status of a pending tax refund, visit USA.gov to learn how to find out if a person is really getting a federal or state tax refund. Report and delete the message then block the number or email address. Use a phone's "report junk" option or forward unsolicited texts to 7726 (SPAM) and mark unwanted emails as junk or spam. Delete the message once it has been deleted. There are signs that indicate an email or text is fake. Consumers can follow these tips to avoid becoming a victim."

Look for: •Emails that do not include a name, telephone number, or other verifiable contact information. •Claims that there is a problem with a person's payment information or account. •Incorrect or unusual grammar. •Requests for a person to verify the personal or payment information. •Unusual email addresses or URL structures. The URL is the address of the website found at the top of a web browser, for example, https://www.wvago.gov. If a person receives a text or email with any of these characteristics, it's a scam. Anyone who believes they have been the victim of a scam should contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 800-368-8808 or visit the official website at www.wv.gov. Characters at

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Administrative Position Available
Monitor/Fiscal Administrator
Region 8 Planning and Development Council
is accepting applications for the position of Upper Potomac Area Agency on Aging (UPAAA) Monitor/Fiscal Administrator.

The Area Agency Monitor performs mid-level professional external auditing/monitoring and compliance reviews of agency grants and contracts in the following areas: general accounting, external auditing, budget/administration, grants management, financial analysis, statutory accounting, and compliance with accounting/auditing guidelines and procedures. The work may require considerable travel.

This position requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with at least 6 semester hours in accounting. The position also requires at least one year of full-time or equivalent part-time paid professional experience in statutory accounting. A master's degree in accounting may substitute for the required experience. Relevant experience in accounting/auditing may substitute for attained degree if deemed applicable.

Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest to **Melissa Earle, Executive Director of the Region 8 PDC**
131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847.
Deadline for applications is Friday, March 13.

The Region 8 PDC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Official Nicknames for All 50 States

State	Nickname
Alabama	Yellowhammer State
Alaska	The Last Frontier
Arizona	The Grand Canyon State
Arkansas	The Natural State
California	The Golden State
Colorado	The Centennial State
Connecticut	The Constitution State
Delaware	The First State
Florida	The Sunshine State
Georgia	The Peach State
Hawaii	The Aloha State
Idaho	The Gem State
Illinois	The Prairie State
Indiana	The Hoosier State
Iowa	The Hawkeye State
Kansas	The Sunflower State
Kentucky	The Bluegrass State
Louisiana	The Pelican State
Maine	The Pine Tree State
Maryland	The Old Line State
Massachusetts	The Bay State
Michigan	The Great Lakes State
Minnesota	The North Star State
Mississippi	The Magnolia State
Missouri	The Show Me State
Montana	The Treasure State
Nebraska	The Cornhusker State
Nevada	The Silver State
New Hampshire	The Granite State
New Jersey	The Garden State
New Mexico	The Land of Enchantment
New York	The Empire State
North Carolina	The Tar Heel State
North Dakota	The Peace Garden State
Ohio	The Buckeye State
Oklahoma	The Sooner State
Oregon	The Beaver State
Pennsylvania	The Keystone State
Rhode Island	The Ocean State
South Carolina	The Palmetto State
South Dakota	Mount Rushmore State
Tennessee	The Volunteer State
Texas	The Lone Star State
Utah	The Beehive State
Vermont	The Green Mountain State
Virginia	The Old Dominion State
Washington	The Evergreen State
West Virginia	The Mountain State
Wisconsin	The Badger State
Wyoming	The Equality State/The Cowboy State

Pet Sitter Word Search

C	C	L	S	E	R	D	E	Y	O	S	L	Y	H	L	U	V	S	P	BOWL	
P	L	P	S	E	Y	S	L	M	H	S	N	A	V	L	S	W	Y	A	I	CARE
M	P	O	S	W	R	F	R	C	L	U	U	E	S	V	I	T	O	R	O	CAT
L	M	A	L	N	O	A	S	E	Y	T	T	L	F	R	E	M	E	B	R	COMPANION
L	E	A	S	H	U	T	F	E	Y	E	H	E	K	L	L	F	A	I	U	DOG
V	M	N	F	T	E	G	Y	L	R	B	E	G	D	K	E	A	R	F	G	FAMILY
D	T	T	R	P	C	U	G	I	E	D	H	P	I	R	A	C	F	P	Y	FEEDING
V	S	D	S	Y	P	Y	N	L	I	W	O	F	E	N	F	H	N	L	G	HOME
B	D	M	Y	M	O	A	E	N	E	U	W	N	Y	G	R	H	M	B	U	INSTRUCT
N	P	T	V	U	R	D	G	I	O	P	C	U	H	N	U	E	H	F	C	LEASH
K	U	H	U	I	G	V	I	I	U	E	E	T	S	I	I	M	V	S	E	MEDICINE
S	I	B	A	D	D	H	E	T	S	R	S	U	H	L	B	C	V	O	W	OVERNIGHT
N	S	N	R	D	E	L	N	G	C	F	U	K	L	E	L	O	D	O	G	PETS
C	H	B	L	L	D	G	C	R	C	U	K	N	L	V	V	M	N	Y	C	REFERENCES
H	P	K	P	S	N	I	V	O	E	A	R	R	A	A	E	P	K	C	T	SITTER
T	M	E	C	O	S	L	M	U	G	T	R	T	N	R	W	A	H	F	K	SNUGGLE
H	O	F	C	K	N	M	T	S	U	R	T	E	S	T	I	N	P	F	W	TRAVELING
D	D	M	E	D	I	C	I	N	E	R	S	I	G	N	B	I	O	D	D	TRUST
H	Y	V	S	E	C	N	R	E	M	O	H	V	S	K	I	O	C	I	T	VETERINARIAN
R	S	H	R	L	C	K	O	K	R	K	M	O	L	M	B	N	T	A	C	WALKS
																				WELFARE

Manor's Valentine Royalty Announced



Pendleton Manor's staff selected their choice for valentine royalty with pennies. Each penny was equal to one vote. On Feb. 13, the activity staff announced the contest winners. Crowned queen was Phyllis Ruddle with Rob Lambert being selected as king.



Pownell Earns First Place At Regional Science Fair

Ross Pownell, a Pendleton County Middle School student, was awarded first place in the animal science division at the Regional Science Fair held Feb. 5 at the Ranson Civic Center in Ranson. His project, "EggSEALANT: The Effect of Applied Eggshell Coatings on Preventing Egg Weight Loss During Storage," stood out among 60 middle school projects across 12 divisions. The fair represents students from Berkely, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, and Pendleton counties, including participants from the WV School for Deaf and Blind. This achievement highlights Pownell's dedication and scientific skills. In March, he presents his project at the State Science Fair.

Pendletonians Named to GSU Honor Lists

Glenville State University has announced the names of students who attained the President's

Honor List and the Provost's Honor List for the fall 2025 semester.

Earning recognition on the President's Honor List were Brittany Nicely and Mahala Ruddle (pursuing a master's in curric-

ulum and instruction) and Emilee Teter (criminal justice - natural resource management).

Named to the Provost's Honor List was Caleb Armentrout (land surveying and mapping).

To be named to the President's Honor List, a student must have a 4.0 grade point average. A student with least a 3.5 grade point average is named to the Provost's Honor List.

MENU
Pendleton Senior & Family Services

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27
Meatloaf
Scalloped Potatoes
Peas
Tropical Fruit
Birthday Cake!

MONDAY, MARCH 2
Liver & Onions
Mashed Potatoes
Peas & Carrots, Apple

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
Baked Potato w/
Chili & Cheese
Broccoli, Peach Cobbler

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
Ham, Beans
Stewed Tomatoes
Cornbread, Applesauce

THURSDAY, MARCH 5
Fish Sandwich
French Fries, Slaw
Pears

hell march

Meal times are from 11:45 to 12:45. All meals served with 2% milk & a bread. Reserve your meals. Reservations served first. Menus are subject to change.

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FRANKLIN - 2 BR, 1 BA Lindel wood siding home on 2.26 acres. \$180,000.
FRANKLIN - 3 BR 3 BA ref **Under Contract** me on 4.9 acres. \$215,000
BRANDYWINE - 1 BR, 1 BA justice log cabin on 32.28 ac bordering national forest. Solar and propane. **Under Contract** \$239,000.
SMOKE HOLE - WVG2000894 \$975,000 \$899,000 \$849,000; 13.93 +/- ac., 2 Story Cabin, 3 rentals cabins, 2 ponds.

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SGR402A 0.62 Acres w/3 Bed, 1.5 Bath Ranch Home located in Upper Tract, WV. Brick exterior, Metal Roof, Carport, Unfinished Basement, Septic, Public Water. Nice level lot. Mill Run District. Pendleton Cty. **\$269,000.00**

SGR401A Charming 2/3 bedroom, 1 bath, ranch style, with partial basement, on 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 Ruddle. LP and Septic and 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. **\$249,999.00 REDUCED \$239,000.00**

SGR392A Custom Canadian White Cedar Log Home. 3 Bed, 2 Bath, 3,088 sq. ft. Cabin on 121.05 acres located in Hidden Valley. Red Oak and Mexican Tile flooring. Two Car Garage & partial basement. Mature plants and trees. Some Restrictions apply. Franklin District. **\$919,000.00**

SGR391A 7.94 Acres w/Riverfront Cabin along US Rt 220 South, just outside of Franklin. Two Bed, 1 Bath, new build 2024. Great location for Airbnb or personal weekend getaway. Plenty of room for recreation along river. **NEW LISTING \$395,000.00 \$375,000.00 REDUCED \$349,000.00**

SGR382A 45 Ac. w/1 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin, Solar powered, no restrictions, Cistern & Septic, Shooting Range. Excellent Hunting, Franklin District. **\$999,999.00 REDUCED \$379,000.00**

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

SGR380A 5.62 Acres, Lot #3, Sharp Ridge, Electric located nearby. Easy Access, Some Restrictions, Franklin District. **\$49,500.00**

SGR379A 5994 Mount Freedom Drive, Cherry Grove 14.70 acres, 2 bed/1 bath house; one room w/loft cabin, several other buildings and outbuildings, adjoins National Forest, very unique property. **\$279,000.00 \$264,000.00 REDUCED \$250,000.00**

SGR374A Spectacular View! 2.81 Ac w/2 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin w/Loft, located on Kile Knob. Propane cook stove & lighting. Propane & Wood Heat. On site Septic, Cistern Water Source. **NEW LISTING \$299,000.00**

SGR370A 599.19 Acres located in Sandy Ridge area, Franklin District. Excellent Hunting, Food Plots, Timber, Catfish Pond, Mountain Views w/Roads Throughout. **\$1,695,000.00**

SGR369A 15.17 Acres w/1 Bed, 1 Bath cabin, Electric & Propane Heat, Cistern, Septic (unapproved). Located in North Fork Flats. Perfect for hunters, fisherman or outdoor enthusiasts. **\$199,999.00 REDUCED \$179,000.00**

SGR355A 0.241 Acres w/4 Bed, 2 Bath 2475 sq ft home located in the town of Franklin. Finished basement, covered front porch. **NEW LISTING \$259,000.00**

SGR340A 327.98 Acres, with 4 Bed, 3.5 Bath Home w/2 car garage and Barn. Property adjoins lands owned by Fisher Mtn. Golf Course. Expansive view of Shenandoah Mountain and Fisher Mountain Golf Course. Year round spring-fed creek w/several other Springs and nice bldg. sites. **NEW LISTING \$2,250,000.00**

SGR316A 10.35 Acres, Entry Mountain, Some Covenants & Restrictions. Nice View. **\$89,900.00**

SGR302A "The Hollow" Restaurant, fully furnished, at the corner of US RT 220/US RT 33W, Franklin. Property adjoins neighboring motel. **\$425,000.00 \$329,000.00 \$299,000.00 \$229,000.00 REDUCED \$219,000.00**

SGR056 Highland County property. Pasture, several year-round Springs, Hunting, High Speed Internet, Electric, 1.3 miles of public Road Frontage. Awesome view of Blue Grass Valley. **\$2,973,000.00**

SGR441 Residential lots, public water, protective covenants and restrictions. Oak Flat Estates near Brandywine on Rte. 33 East of Franklin. Lots from **\$20,760.00**.

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

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TRUCKS

2024 RAM 2500 CREW CAB SHORTBED 4X4 "BIGHORN EDITION," Cummins diesel, auto., ldd., white, 58K miles	SALE \$48,500
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2023 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW XLT 4X4, 3.5 EcoBoost, auto., ldd., white, 110K miles, ex. cond.	SPECIAL \$29,900 \$27,900
2022 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW SHORTBED 4X4 STX PKG., 3.5 EcoBoost, auto., ldd., charcoal, 60k miles	SPECIAL \$36,900 \$34,900
2022 FORD E-450 CUTAWAY UTILITY TRUCK, 7.3 gas, auto., refrigerated enclosed body, only 43K miles	SPECIAL \$21,900 \$19,900
2019 CHEVROLET COLORADO CREW CAB 4X4, V-6, auto., ldd., charcoal, 88K miles, ex. cond.	\$24,900
2018 FORD F-250 S/CAB LONGBED 4X4, 6.7 diesel, auto., air, etc., white, 275K VDOT highway miles	\$21,900
2018 FORD F-250 S/CAB LONGBED 4X4, 6.7 diesel, auto., air, etc., white, 264K VDOT highway miles	\$21,900
2018 CHEVROLET 2500 HD CREW CAB S/BED 4X4, 6.0 V-8, auto., ldd., white, 203K miles	\$19,500
2014 TOYOTA TACOMA EX. CAB, 4x4, auto., ldd., silver only 111K miles	\$18,500
2008 FORD F-550 4X4 UTILITY TRUCK, w/mechanic's crane and auger, 6.4 dsl., auto., air, etc.	\$26,900
2006 GMC 7500 SERIES DUMP TRUCK, Cat dsl., Allison, only 77K miles, knuckle boom	FOR JUST \$29,500
2003 FORD F-550 REG CAB 4X4 FIRE TRUCK, 6.0 diesel, auto., red, ldd w/accessories, only 45K miles	SPECIAL \$49,500 \$44,500

PASSENGER VEHICLES

2024 NISSAN ROGUE SV AWD, 1.5 liter turbo, auto., ldd., silver, only 21K miles	SALE \$24,900
2023 FORD ESCAPE ST AWD "HYBRID," ldd w/options, charcoal 52K miles, like new, over 35mpg	SPECIAL \$27,900 \$25,900
2022 SUBARU LEGACY 4-DR SEDAN "Premium Pkg.," ldd w/options, perfect condition, charcoal, 111K miles	\$19,900
2021 LINCOLN CORSAIR AWD SUV, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., silver, 82K miles, very sharp	\$24,900
2020 CADILLAC XT4 SPORT AWD, 2.0 liter, auto., ldd., pearl white, only 58K miles	SPECIAL \$29,500 \$27,500
2019 INFINITI QX60 LUXE AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., pearl white, 94K miles	\$19,500
2019 FORD TAURUS AWD "POLICE INTERCEPTOR," 3.7 V-6, auto, ldd, maroon, 143K miles	\$8,995
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2017 JEEP WRANGLER 4-DR HARD TOP 4X4, "Willy's" pkg., V-6, auto., ldd, charcoal, only 88K miles	\$19,900
2014 FORD E-250 CARGO VAN, 5.4 liter V-8, auto., ldd., white, 140K miles	\$12,900
2004 FORD EXCURSION LIMITED 4X4, 6.0 dsl., auto., ldd., black, mint one-owner, 79K miles	\$47,500