



# THE PENDLETON TIMES

Serving the Community since 1913

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Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia 26807

Thursday  
March 19, 2026



Corrie Wagoner's passion inspires her to work with both children and adults, creating a community in Pendleton County of both music performers and music lovers.

## Wagoner Works Toward More Music Opportunities for Pendleton County Youth

By Stephen Smoot

Warner's Drive-In, but has grown to offer so much more. This season will see full use of the new stage constructed for music, theater, and other live events.

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On May 15, a talented group of local young people will help to kick off the coming season of the theater traditionally known as

## Ground Broken for New Pill Box Location



Pendleton Community Care board members Brittany Mitters, Bob Davis, Jamie Hudson (CEO), Mary Cassell, and Nancy Bowers (chair) marked the first day of construction of the new Pill Box Pharmacy, operated by Pendleton Community Care. The facility is moving, in part, to offer more convenient access to customers.

## What It Takes to 'Chase' History... Breaking of the School Record

By Stephen Smoot

The road to scoring exactly 1,600 career points and setting a school record extends much longer than simply the playing of the games, working hard at practices, and having the raw physical ability. One starts the road early in life, trudges up the hills, navigates the curves, and figures a way around or through the obstacles that block it. Along the way, the athlete develops the kind of confidence that not only guides his or her own path, but also inspires others to pursue their best potential.

Chase Owens embarked on that road long ago.

"When we were younger," shared Chase, "we could only play basketball and baseball." Those early teams also featured some of the teammates who would play alongside him all the way to their senior year. He shared that he competed on grade school teams and "I got into travel ball in the summer." Early in the season, after Pendleton County gave its fans a Christmas present in a big win over Class AA rival Moorefield, basketball head coach Josh Owens, who also happens to be the father of Chase, recalled the same point of origin. When asked about the natural looking teamwork of the players, he explained, "These boys have been playing on teams together since first grade. These guys know the game. I'm very proud of them."

Basketball emerged as one of Owens' great sports joys. He shared how he enjoyed the NBA and how it inspired his early ambition, but also

Continued on Page 6



Proud father and head coach, Josh Owens, beams along with son and record breaker, Chase Owens, after the game in which he achieved the feat. Photo courtesy of Light in Motion.

## Future Farmers of America Ham, Bacon and Egg Sale Is Always a Treat for the Community



Pendleton County FFA participants wait excitedly for the auction to start.

By Stephen Smoot

Walk into the campus of Moorefield High School on the right Friday evening in March and one gets welcomed accordingly.

First are the excited voices of young and old as they gather before the event. FFA students in their traditional sharp navy blue corduroy jackets man the cafeteria line, dishing out sausage gravy for biscuits, sliced turkey with a sweet glaze, homemade green beans with little bits of country ham, and also fried potatoes — a true farmer's dinner!

Almost at the same time, the savory and smoky aroma from perfectly prepared ham and bacon entries in the gymnasium greets attendees.

Awaiting those with a sweet tooth are gray clad uniformed students from East Hardy High School's catering group. Under the sign "East Hardy Catering" lay a full selection of dessert goodies, including snickerdoodles, peanut butter cookies, white chocolate chip, red velvet thumbprint cookies and much more.

Gigi Chapman, East Hardy High School student, shared that she made cheesecake cookies and added that they seemed to be quite popular. "I love cooking for everyone," shared Chapman. "A lot of other people do too. It's very fun and enjoyable." She added that cooking is a stress reliever in that one can set aside one's normal worries and focus on the fun of preparing food.

Students, parents, family, teachers, and the Potomac Highlands business community came to support and celebrate the hard work of FFA students in bringing a large number of high quality eggs and pork products to show.

Janice Heavner leads student organizations as a teacher at Pendleton County Middle/High School, but she came on this evening to support her children as their products went up for auction. She called the event "truly a celebration" of the students and their hard work.

"These kids have been with the hogs since last summer," Heavner stated and added that they feel "the joy of auctioning it off" and "the consumer being satisfied" with the products.



Pendleton County's Ty Armentrout earned "prime" designation for two hams.

Raising the animal involves proper feeding and care that includes giving the vaccinations. Many farmers perform these tasks to get the animal ready for sale, but for those selling on this night, a lot more goes into the final product.

Heavner explained that "it all comes down in the event to the quality of the animal they've raised." Judging takes place without students present.

Alexandria Smith, a West Virginia University Extension Service agent for Hardy County, shared that the event "is very important. This is a very agriculturally based community." She added that "it teaches kids where food comes from and pays a premium price for their work."

Once the raising is done comes the processing. Heavner described how PCM/HS students got to work with agricultural teacher and regional president of the West Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators, Ron Hudson. Heavner said that "the kids are in

Continued on Page 8

## Community Calendar

### World Poetry Day Event Scheduled

The Pendleton County Public Library's Poetry Group is holding a community celebration for World Poetry Day. The event is planned from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday in the library's community room.

All are invited. It's for those who love poetry and those who are curious. Come share poems one has written. Come share poems of others. Come to discuss. Come to listen and learn. Come for fellowship and fun. Come for refreshments and treats.

Plan to be with the poetry group.

### 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 St. John and Mt. Hope Lutheran churches. The message will be delivered by Paul Shaffer.

Next week's meal will be provided by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. The message will be delivered by Jon Windett.

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

### TMF Association To Gather Monday

Treasure Mountain Festival Association will meet at 5 p.m. Monday at the bowling alley in Franklin.

### Christian Music Concert Planned

"Singing the Gospel," a Christian music concert will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday at the North Fork Baptist Church located on Mountaineer Drive in Riverton.

### Senior Sponsored Meal Scheduled

Hartman's Service Station will be sponsoring an evening meal for seniors aged 60+ on March 26 at the Franklin Senior Center.

Activities begin at 3 p.m. with music at 4 p.m. and meal at 5 p.m. To reserve a meal, call the senior center at 304-358-2421 by 2 p.m. March 24.

### Family Support Center Sponsors Activities

The Pendleton County Strive to Thrive Family Support Center on Main Street in Franklin is hosting the following events.

•March 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Free Tax Preparation Session. To schedule an appointment, call 304-538-7711.

•March 26, 1 p.m., Spring Event. Spring crafts will be made. Snacks will be provided.

For more information on the events, call 304-538-7711.

### Pendleton County Students, Staff To Have Spring Break

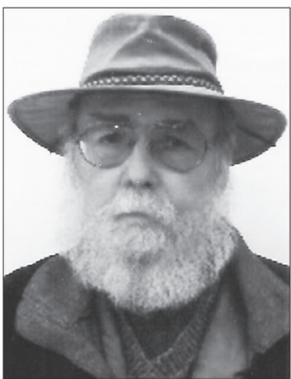
The Pendleton County Schools 2025-2026 Calendar Waiver has been approved, giving students and staff a spring break.

March 27 will be full instructional day for students and staff.

All students and 200-day employees will be out of school for spring break on March 30 and 31 and April 1 and 2. Also, school will not be in session on April 3 and 6 (Easter holidays).

However, should any out-of-school days occur between March 16 and 26, the schedule is subject to change.

# OBITUARIES



**Jim Gildea**

Jim Gildea, 77, passed away on March 4, 2026, at English Meadows Assisted Living Facility in Harrisonburg, Virginia, after a brief illness.

He was born Jan. 13, 1949, at Arlington Hospital in Arlington, Virginia, to the late James Joseph Gildea and Myra Stewart Gildea (Riddel).

After high school, Mr. Gildea joined the Navy in 1968 where he learned the myriad technical skills that formed the basis for his career as an aircraft avionics technician and radio technician. In 1978, he received an associate in applied science in electronics technology Cum Laude from the Northern Virginia Community College.

Avionics and radio technology advanced quickly during his career, and he kept up to speed through innumerable factory training sessions in the USA and Canada. He finished his Navy years with a Good Conduct Medal and a Defense Service Medal.

A genuine adventure lover, he had many and varied interests: a hang glider and hang glider instructor, a private pilot with ASEL and instrument ratings and a

true craftsman of the highest order, building both a beautiful all-wood sea kayak and a single-seat experimental aircraft in his kitchen in Bealeton, Virginia. Legend has it that the airplane was too big to get through the kitchen door after it was built so he had to enlarge the door. He loved the outdoors and found just about every way possible to explore the natural world. From backpacking to climbing to kayaking, if there was adventure to be had he was in. One of his true passions was caving and he explored many of the caves in West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland, including caves that were deemed "too dangerous" by many experienced cavers.

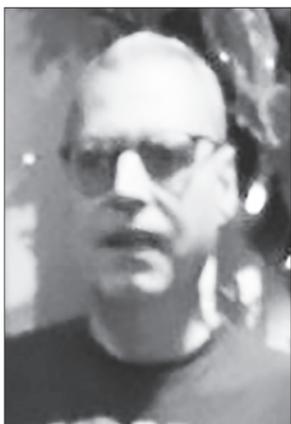
He was a long-time member of the Potomac Speleological Club and National Speleological Society. He was a frequent attendee of the "Old Timers Reunion" held near Elkins with enormous bonfires and a large, "textile-free" hot tub.

His wife, Carolyn Ingle, whom he met through his love of the outdoors, survives. They were married in 2004 and went on many adventures together on the rivers and in the caves of the Appalachian until age began to limit them both.

He is also survived by numerous cousins, including Tina Kelley of Washington, D.C., and Laurence (Larry) Kelley, MD of Maryland; and his innumerable friends that he made through his various interests and in the communities of Franklin and Northern Virginia.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, John Steven Gildea.

Memorial donations can be made in his name to the Potomac Speleological Club.



**Robert Linwood LeClair**

Robert Linwood LeClair, 58, of Franklin passed away on March 10, 2026, at his home.

He was born on Jan. 19, 1968, in Lewiston, Maine, the son of Victor E. LeClair of Kittery Point, Maine, and the late Laura Mae Vitten.

Mr. LeClair was a 1986 graduate of Portsmouth High School in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

He was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

He was a veteran of the United States Air Force.

He had worked in the fishing industry and janitorial services.

On Aug. 8, 2020, he married Ginger Leigh (Lambert) LeClair, who survives.

In addition to his wife and father, he leaves behind to cherish his memory a sister, Linda LeClair of Lewiston, Maine; and a brother, Elmer LeClair of Kittery Point, Maine; two sisters-in-law, Eugenia Milton (Ron) of Fulks Run, Virginia, and Charity Harr (Dennis) of Franklin; a brother-in-law, Randy Lambert (Charmeigne) of Franklin; two nieces, Stephanie McCulley (Josh) and Jessica Anderson (Joe); and a nephew, Justin Turner.

In honoring his wishes, his body has been cremated.

A celebration of life was held Saturday at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Franklin with Bishop Jed Hartman and Elder David Hartman officiating.

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

Memories and words of comfort may be left at [www.basagic.com](http://www.basagic.com).



**Roy Eldon Fields**

Roy Eldon Fields, 78, of Nettie passed away on Nov. 25, 2025, at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown.

He was born on March 25, 1947, at Richwood and was the son of the late Marley Delt Fields and Anna Bell Martin.

Mr. Fields was a member of the United Mine Workers of America and Potomac Highlands Wounded Warriors Outreach.

He loved hunting, fishing, and playing with his grandchildren. An equipment op-

erator by trade, he worked in the woods and on strip mines.

His wife, Linda Fields, preceded him in death.

Survivors include daughters, Amanda Davis (Jason Losh) and Marsha (Todd) Russell; sons, Anthony (Loretta) Fields and Eric Fields; grandchildren, Danielle Sasso, Christopher Fields, James Murphy, Skyler Davis, Blaine Davis, Grant Russell, Tyler Barnhouse, Layla Russel and Nade Russell; and great-grandchildren, Grady Sasso and Addy Murphy.

He was also preceded in death by sisters, Marie Fields and Virginia Synder; and brothers: Delmas Fields, Landis "Buck" Fields, Arlie "Smokey" Fields, and Lundy Fields.

Services were held Dec. 1, 2025, at Wallace & Wallace in Rainelle with Pastor Bradley Boyce officiating. Burial followed at Fields Cemetery in Nettie.

Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.wallaceandwallacefh.com](http://www.wallaceandwallacefh.com).

## Flowers at Cedar Hill Cemetery

If you have placed flowers on the graves or tombstones at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Franklin, please check to make sure the flowers are in place. If your flowers have blown away, please try to find them.



**On March 30, members of the town crew will begin going through the cemetery and clearing all flowers that have blown from graves and tombstones.**

## Miller Farm, LLC & Friends Angus Production Sale

**Friday, March 27 • 6 p.m.**  
Rockingham County Fairgrounds  
Harrisonburg, VA

Live auction selling 40 Angus bulls and over 40 lots of females

Contact  
Craig Miller 540-820-9818 or  
Brennan Miller 540-383-4211  
Bid online at CCLive



## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

### Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority (SRRDA)

is accepting sealed bids for the making of hay at the following location:

•Pendleton County Industrial Park  
Upper Tract

Sealed bids will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2026.

Bids may be submitted via one of the following methods:

1. **By Mail:** SRRDA, Attn: Sherry Mongold, PO Box 602, Franklin, WV 26807. (Must be postmarked by April 10, 2026)
2. **In Person:** SRRDA Office, 58 Walnut Street, Franklin, WV 26807 (Bids can be placed in the black drop box located at the front door)

*The Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids. EOE*

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority (SRRDA)

is currently accepting sealed bids for mowing and trimming grass at the following location:

•Pendleton County Industrial Park  
Shell #1 and Shell #2  
Upper Tract

### Bidder Requirements:

The successful bidder must provide their own:  
•Mower •Trimmer •Fuel/Gas

### Submission Guidelines:

Sealed bids will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2026.

Bids may be submitted via one of the following methods:

1. **By Mail:** SRRDA, Attn: Sherry Mongold, PO Box 602, Franklin, WV 26807. (Must be postmarked by April 10, 2026)
2. **In Person:** SRRDA Office, 58 Walnut Street, Franklin, WV 26807 (Bids can be placed in the black drop box located at the front door)

*The Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE)*

## Certified Nursing Assistant Classes April-June

Contact Sharon Jamison for an interview at 304-358-2322 EXT 3440 or email at [sjamison@pendletonmanor.org](mailto:sjamison@pendletonmanor.org)

Where: Pendleton Manor

When: April 9, 2026, Mon-Thurs

Time: 9 am- 3:30 pm



## PUBLIC AUCTION Saturday, March 28 9:30 a.m.

PROPERTY OF RICHARD BLAND (MOVING SALE)

476 Meadow Lane, Seneca Rocks, WV  
From Seneca Rocks take Route 33 to 4-U Restaurant and turn left on Harman Hills Road, then at intersection at church turn right to sale on right (watch for auction signs)

John Deere E120 Riding Mower, 1988 State Baseball Champion shirt from Circleville

**HOUSEHOLD:** Slate pool table, pellet stove, 30 bags of pellets, stainless steel range, 3 refrigerators, 3-bowl commercial sink, upright and chest freezers, Maytag washer, Samsung dryer, blanket chest and armoire (made by Dick Idol), couch, recliner, wicker chair, wall mirror, china cabinet, secretary, table/chairs, TV, Amish oak sleigh bed and matching dresser/mirror, Amish storage bench, buffet, coffee table AND MORE.

**TOOLS:** Powerhorse 9250 generator, double clay pigeon launcher, boxes of clay pigeons, kerosene torpedo heater, Sears battery charger, Milwaukee tools, Werner ladder, drill bits, boxes of screws, power sprayer, Have-A-Heart tools, dolly, camo gear, extension cords, Crate G-20 amplifier AND MORE.

**BASEBALL CARDS:** Cal Ripken Jr. rookie card and other hall of famers.

**ANTIQUES:** Wall clock, hand planers, blacksmith tools, turkey bell, Model A wrenches, cherry seeder, apple peeler, salesman coal stove, Griswold - Wapak skillets, feed dolly, carpenter tool box, iron bed, brass bucket, painted brown crock, meat scales, tobacco tins/boxes, runner sled, salt boxes, cleaver, traps, egg basket, milk cans, kerosene lamps, milk bottles, Schwinn bike gas tank, Whitehouse bottles, matchstick holders AND MANY OTHER ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION.

**MERCHANDISE ON DISPLAY MORNING OF SALE**  
**TERMS: Cash or check with proper ID**  
Not responsible for accidents or merchandise after sold.  
For more information contact auctioneers Bruce "Icky" Hyre Jr. WV#494 304-257-3134 or [pma@frontiernet.net](mailto:pma@frontiernet.net); or Larry Thompson WV#1613 304-668-9650.  
Watch for photos and detailed item list at [auctionzip.com](http://auctionzip.com)

Thank You For Reading The Pendleton Times

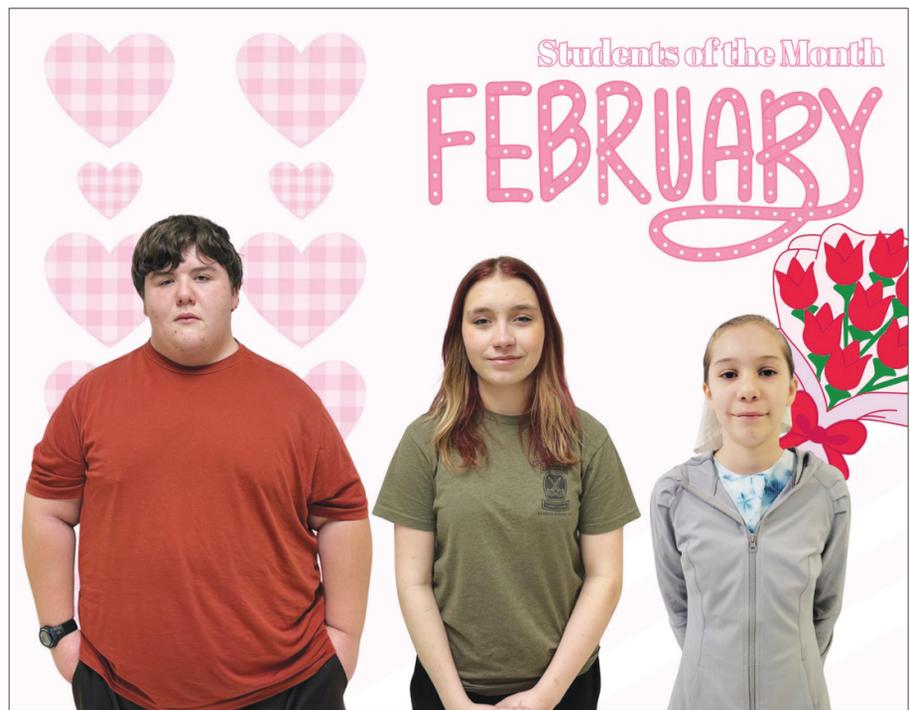
**NOTICE**  
The Pendleton County Public Service District wants to address the issue of water being taken from the fire hydrants.  
Tampering with or taking water from a fire hydrant without authorization is illegal. Fire departments have authorization to access fire hydrants for emergencies and training only.  
**If someone needs water, they must contact the Pendleton County PSD office at 304-358-3027 to get prior permission.**

**DEANS GAP FARM**  
Poultry • Vegetables • Smoked Meats  
Fort Seybert, West Virginia  
**Will be doing BBQ**  
Saturday, March 21 • 10 a.m. - ?  
Stoplight in Franklin  
Benefit PCHS FBLA Club

**Onsite Auction**  
Saturday, March 21 • 10 a.m.  
Estate of Thomas Henderson  
163 Olive Branch Rd., Rio WV 26755  
Tractors, Equipment, Heavy Duty Gates, Tools, New Holland T60A Tractor w/Loader and Bucket, 8-Ft. Brush Hog, Pallet Forks, Hay Spear, 3-Pt. Hitch Log Splitter, Post Hole Auger, Fence Posts, Fencing Materials, Water Tanks, Lawn Mower, Antiques, Art, Household Items  
*Food on site.*  
**Oak Summit Auctioneering**  
Michael Thomas - 304-257-6403  
Licensed and bonded in favor of the state of WV #2151  
Announcements on sale day take precedence over all advertising.

**The Blue Grass Valley Bank**  
Est. 1915  
**WE ARE HIRING!**  
Join our team  
➤ **Loan Officer**  
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*Apply Today!*  
Email resume to [tina@bluegrassvalleybank.com](mailto:tina@bluegrassvalleybank.com)

# Adams, Swain, Botkin Named PCM/HS Students of the Month



Pendleton County Middle/High School February students of the month are, from left, Alex Adams, Alyssa Swain and Olivia Botkin.

Alex Adams, Alyssa Swain and Olivia Botkin have been named outstanding students of the month for February at Pendleton County Middle/High School.

Adams, a junior, is the February Academic Student of the Month. The son of Brian Adams and Amanda Simmons of Franklin, he is a member of FFA, National Honor Society and the PCHS golf team. He has is on the All A Honor Roll and has participated in Regional Math Field Day. He is a member of the United Methodist Church and the Franklin Mountaineers 4-H. His plans are to get a bachelor's degree in engineering or agriculture.

Swain is the February James Huffman Responsible Student of the Month. A sopho-

more, she is the daughter of Lauren Swain of Circleville. She is a member of the PCHS volleyball team and choir. She is on the honor roll. She works at the Front Porch Restaurant and likes art and to sing and play the guitar. She is a member of her church youth group. Her plans are to pursue a degree in phycology at West Virginia University.

Pendleton County Middle School presents Botkin as the Student of the Month. A seventh-grader, she is the daughter of Heidi Botkin and Thomas Botkin. She and her family reside in Franklin. Outside of school, she enjoys art and running in her free time. Her future plans are to continue to achieve straight A's and go to college so that she can work in an infant intensive care unit.

## Phishing Threat Posing as State Departments

The State of West Virginia is warning the public of a potential phishing campaign to impersonate official government websites.

What to watch for: Cybercriminals are creating deceptive web addresses to trick users into providing sensitive personal information or login credentials.

How to protect oneself:  
Check the URL. Please go to WV.GOV

to find all official State of West Virginia websites.

Report suspicious activity. If a person encounters a site one believes is fraudulent, please report it to the West Virginia Fusion Center.

Verify the source. Do not click on links provided in unsolicited emails or text messages. Type official addresses directly into one's browser.

# Your name. Your money. Your move.

The West Virginia State Treasurer's Office is holding millions in unclaimed property.

**We want to return it.**

- Old bank accounts
- Utility deposits
- Uncashed checks
- Safe deposit box contents and **more**



## Finding your money starts here.



Scan this code with your phone's camera to learn more about **Unclaimed Property.** (No special app needed.)

Or visit [wvunclaimedproperty.gov](http://wvunclaimedproperty.gov)

For help, call 1.800.642.8687

**UNCLAIMED PROPERTY**



A PROGRAM OF THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE



**We are seeking additional housing for our Moorefield, WV facility**

### BROILERS

Contact  
Duke Dunkle  
304.703.7407  
[Larkin.Dunkle@pilgrims.com](mailto:Larkin.Dunkle@pilgrims.com)

\$ Upgrade incentives and new housing incentives available.

\$ Fuel pay incentives of \$.05/sq. ft. paid year round.

All litter amendments and bug spray paid year round.

We offer many opportunities to expand existing farms. Upgrades can be done within one year of transfer.

### BREEDERS

Contact  
Michael Mallow  
304.538.5352  
[Michael.Mallow@jbssa.com](mailto:Michael.Mallow@jbssa.com)

Pilgrim's Moorefield Breeder Department is seeking additional housing for hatching egg production for our growing facility.

Extended term contracts and new increased building incentives are available!

**JOIN OUR TEAM**

208 S. Main St.  
Moorefield, WV 26836

Visit our website  
[www.pilgrims.com](http://www.pilgrims.com)

Contact us

304.538.5356



EOE, including disability/vets

**10 Years Ago**  
**Week of March 10, 2016**

## SUGAR GROVE

### A Farewell Tribute To Doc...

"Doc" was what he was affectionately called. A good man who reaped his reward this past week. Honors came in many forms from all of his achievements.

At the onset, Dr. Eye was destined to be a "go getter." Even though he lived in Deer Run, he worked in town during high school, mowing for several Franklin homes to earn money.

Doc graduated from Franklin High School at the age of 16, graduating Magna Cum Laude from WV University in 1949 and then on to graduating from University of Maryland Medical School in 1953. His two-year rotation was at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, after which he served two years in the US Navy. His dream was to return to Pendleton County where he would practice medicine.

**20 Years Ago**  
**Week of March 16, 2006**

## SUGAR GROVE

### To Be a Friend To Someone Is a Priceless Treasure

Friends are a very rare jewel indeed. They make one smile and encourage one to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to one.

To be a true friend, there are seven gifts one can give to others that do not cost a cent.

- The gift of listening—one must really listen.
- The gift of affection—be generous with appropriate kisses, pats on the back, hugs and hand-holds.
- The gift of laughter—share articles, jokes and funny stories.

- The gift of a compliment—a simple and sincere "You look great." "That was a delicious meal."—can make someone's day.
- The gift of a favor—every day go out of one's way to do something kind.
- The gift of solitude—there are times when one wants nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.
- The gift of a cheerful disposition—the easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone. It's not that hard to say "Hello" or "Thank You."

To be a friend to someone is a priceless treasure. West Virginians have been well-known for their character of friendship.

When I used to spend the summers with my maternal grandmother, it was my chore to gather the eggs. She had a flock of about 15 old hens of questionable ages and an old rooster. My brother and I were quite convinced that some of those hens were at least 50 years old, for it would have taken them that long to become that cross.

My grandmother had white China eggs that were placed in the nest—hopefully the hen would get the idea and produce an egg herself. I thought that even not one of these old hens could be so dumb. As an eight-year-old girl, I was not brave enough to reach under a "broody

hen" to search for eggs. So armed with a corn cob, I tried to hold down her head and with the other hand, slip out the fresh egg.

The hen was determined and I was scared. She won time and time again—a quick peck and a twist on my hand that hurt like fury! "Why is a China egg called a nest egg?" I asked my grandmother. She explained that a nest egg was used to produce more, and if I save my money, it would increase, so in time of a special need, I would have money for that rainy day.

I mulled this over many times but never at that age came to a satisfactory answer. I am sure the people of Pendleton County that were fortunate enough to have had a nest egg are grateful that they had money saved over a period of time to carry them through this emergency. I am also sure that others will systematically save, if only a small amount at a time for a rainy day.

**HISTORIANS PICK 10 MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN SECOND MILLENNIUM**

In an informal survey, nine of the country's leading historians were asked to name the three most significant developments in the world since the star of the second millennium to A. D. 1001. These were their choices of the 10 most important events in chronological order.

- The rise of Western Europe to world dominance, militarily and economically, starting early in the millennium.
- The Mongol invasions of the 13th and 14th centuries, which unified Eurasia.
- The plague of the 14th century, which killed at least one-fourth of the population of Europe and China.
- Columbus' discovery of America in 1492, which likened the hemispheres and opened up the seas.
- The Enlightenment of the late 18th century, a philosophical movement that had a profound impact on intellectual progress.
- The American Revolution of 1776 and the French Revolution of 1789.
- The building of railroads throughout the world in the 19th century.
- The Industrial Revolution of the late 1800s, and continuing developments in science and technology.
- The detonation of the atomic bomb in 1945.
- Current serious problems such as world hunger, environmental pollution, and the specter of nuclear war.

**50 Years Ago**  
**Week of March 18, 1976**

**New Law Gives Pendleton Two Magistrates To Run at Large**

Delegate Clyde M. See, Jr., has announced that the state legislature passed and sent to the governor a bill which will create two magistrate courts for Pendleton County to take effect January 1, 1997.

**Work to Begin Soon On Multi-Purpose Room At Franklin Elementary School**

Work is expected to begin soon on an addition to the Franklin Elementary School which is one of several projects included in a package of improvements to school buildings in Pendleton County made possible by the enactment of a special school levy in 1974.

**'Times' Follows Former Resident Around World**

Editor, the Times:  
Please find check enclosed for one year's subscription. Thanks very much for permitting the Pendleton Times to follow us around the world. It helps just to have some news from home.

Yours truly,  
Kerlin O. Judy  
Area Development Specialist  
Provincial Development Staff  
Office of the Governor  
Province of Albany  
Legazipi City, Philippines

**Bailey Named PVC 'Coach of the Year'**

Harold Bailey, who turned around the basketball fortunes at Circleville High School this past season, was named Coach of the Year in the Potomac Valley Conference at the spring meeting of the conference Monday night at the home of the Local Order of Moose in Keyser.

One of Bailey's top players, Tom Turner, was named on the All Potomac Valley Conference Second Team.

Bailey has led his Indians to a 16-4 record in regular season, and then they downed Wardensville and Paw Paw for the section tournament title before falling to Piedmont in first-round regional action, thus concluding with an 18-5 ledger.

**60 Years Ago**  
**Week of March 17, 1966**

**DAHMER**

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The outer appearance of the building has been much improved with the installation of a veneer of cedar marble. A new ticket booth and display window have also been added. Although the remodeling job has not been finished, movies will be shown each night except Sunday while the work is being completed.

By Navy Journalist  
Michael Foutch

A dozen Sugar Grove sailors took time from regular duties March 6 to help judge works from some of the brightest science students in the North Fork area at the Circleville School's Science Fair.

In addition to the Sugar Grove Navy representatives, upper-level science students from Franklin High School also helped judge more than one hundred projects.

**40 Years Ago**  
**Week of March 20, 1986**

## DAHMER

A pretty sight in the meadow of Elsie, Russell and Carroll Blizzard, Sunday morning, were hundreds of robins hopping about among the greening of the grass.

The Franklin area was well represented at the buckwheat cake and pancake dinner at Blue Grass, Va., Sunday. Back when the writer's mother was a schoolgirl the poor families' children often felt ashamed to be seen eating cold buckwheat cakes for lunch. Today, it is a treat to eat warm buckwheat cakes.

### Yesteryear in Pendleton

By Janet Conrad

November 4, 1985, will long be remembered by the people of Pendleton County as the year of the Great Flood. A big rain will bring an uneasy feeling to those who were touched in many ways.

However, the people of this county have a resilience that enables them to bounce back from problems. The Red Cross was amazed at the few people who asked for help. A quote from The Pendleton Times spoken by the local president of our bank said, "People are used to rough times here. Some of the changes from November 4 will affect us the rest of our lifetimes, but, most of our people are not going to be knocked down by this."

Many people had a "nest egg" that will carry them through this difficult period. A nest egg — Do you really know how or when this term originated?

When I used to spend the summers with my maternal grandmother, it was my chore to gather the eggs.

She had a flock of about 15 old hens of questionable ages and an old rooster. My brother and I were quite convinced that some of those hens were at least 50 years old, for it would have taken them that long to become that cross.

My grandmother had white China eggs that were placed in the nest—hopefully the hen would get the idea and produce an egg herself. I thought that even not one of these old hens could be so dumb. As an eight-year-old girl, I was not brave enough to reach under a "broody

hen" to search for eggs. So armed with a corn cob, I tried to hold down her head and with the other hand, slip out the fresh egg.

The hen was determined and I was scared. She won time and time again—a quick peck and a twist on my hand that hurt like fury! "Why is a China egg called a nest egg?" I asked my grandmother. She explained that a nest egg was used to produce more, and if I save my money, it would increase, so in time of a special need, I would have money for that rainy day.

I mulled this over many times but never at that age came to a satisfactory answer. I am sure the people of Pendleton County that were fortunate enough to have had a nest egg are grateful that they had money saved over a period of time to carry them through this emergency. I am also sure that others will systematically save, if only a small amount at a time for a rainy day.

**HISTORIANS PICK 10 MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN SECOND MILLENNIUM**

In an informal survey, nine of the country's leading historians were asked to name the three most significant developments in the world since the star of the second millennium to A. D. 1001. These were their choices of the 10 most important events in chronological order.

- The rise of Western Europe to world dominance, militarily and economically, starting early in the millennium.
- The Mongol invasions of the 13th and 14th centuries, which unified Eurasia.
- The plague of the 14th century, which killed at least one-fourth of the population of Europe and China.
- Columbus' discovery of America in 1492, which likened the hemispheres and opened up the seas.
- The Enlightenment of the late 18th century, a philosophical movement that had a profound impact on intellectual progress.
- The American Revolution of 1776 and the French Revolution of 1789.
- The building of railroads throughout the world in the 19th century.
- The Industrial Revolution of the late 1800s, and continuing developments in science and technology.
- The detonation of the atomic bomb in 1945.
- Current serious problems such as world hunger, environmental pollution, and the specter of nuclear war.

**50 Years Ago**  
**Week of March 18, 1976**

**New Law Gives Pendleton Two Magistrates To Run at Large**

Delegate Clyde M. See, Jr., has announced that the state legislature passed and sent to the governor a bill which will create two magistrate courts for Pendleton County to take effect January 1, 1997.

**Work to Begin Soon On Multi-Purpose Room At Franklin Elementary School**

Work is expected to begin soon on an addition to the Franklin Elementary School which is one of several projects included in a package of improvements to school buildings in Pendleton County made possible by the enactment of a special school levy in 1974.

**'Times' Follows Former Resident Around World**

Editor, the Times:  
Please find check enclosed for one year's subscription. Thanks very much for permitting the Pendleton Times to follow us around the world. It helps just to have some news from home.

Yours truly,  
Kerlin O. Judy  
Area Development Specialist  
Provincial Development Staff  
Office of the Governor  
Province of Albany  
Legazipi City, Philippines

**Bailey Named PVC 'Coach of the Year'**

Harold Bailey, who turned around the basketball fortunes at Circleville High School this past season, was named Coach of the Year in the Potomac Valley Conference at the spring meeting of the conference Monday night at the home of the Local Order of Moose in Keyser.

One of Bailey's top players, Tom Turner, was named on the All Potomac Valley Conference Second Team.

Bailey has led his Indians to a 16-4 record in regular season, and then they downed Wardensville and Paw Paw for the section tournament title before falling to Piedmont in first-round regional action, thus concluding with an 18-5 ledger.

**60 Years Ago**  
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## Smith Creek/ Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

Hello spring, good-bye winter. Spring comes in on Friday. Don't let one's guard down thinking that winter is over because the area can still get snow and frost into early May.

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, Ruth Bauer, Rick Waggy, Gloria Moats, Jim Fawley, Ruthalene Judy, Jessie Simmons, Minny Rhoads, Larry Rexrode, David Berg, Troy Bennett, Tom and Judy Borrer, Danny Nelson, David M. Parkinson, Cleo Simmons, Tom Butterworth, Sherry Hedrick, Bobby Parsons, Robert Bennett, Rick Phares, Virgil "Bub" Yokum, Hannah Hedrick, Barbara Judy Harman, Betty Smith, John Moyers, Norma Auville, Shana-Johnson, Woody Hoover, Phil Downs, Bruce Lambert, Paul Mallow, Sherry Chambers, Kaylee Bennett, 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 Phares, Marcia C. Warner, Michelle Gonshor, Keith Kimble, Jaden Gardiner, Lisa Dingess, Chris Farrie, Jimmie Bennett, Mary Lou Wagoner and the family of Jeffrey Mitchell.

Prayer thought: "Dear God, please show me where I've been wrong and help me pursue reconciliation and restitution. His mercy and forgiveness will restore us to wholeness."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for March 9 through March 15, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: March 9 - 73°, 39° (52°, 28°), March 10 - 78°, 46°, .01" (65°, 29°), March 11 - 79°, 51°, .25" (70°, 30°), March 12 - 50°, 31°, .24" (74°, 36°), March 13 - 56°, 36° (68°, 39°), March 14 - 59°, 33° (73°, 32°) and March 15 - 60°, 36° (60°, 48°).

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# Writer Recollects Life of Community Member on 97th Birthday

## Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

Not many folks, who have achieved the age of 97, are able to get around, drive a car, do their own cooking, and recall so much of days gone by. The writer is talking about Gernon Hoover, who can do all of the above.

Gernon was born on March 17, 1929, in a Washington, D.C., hospital. His mother was working in DC at the time.

He came back to Sugar Grove and began first grade. He remembers having Leona Mitchell as his teacher. He attended second through fourth grades at Parnassus, Virginia. He returned to live with Frank and Beulah Rader and attended the Propst School (to keep it open), until the school superintendent, I. Bennett, said that he had to attend the Mitchell School. He went to do work at Columbia Rader's farm, often staying there. He would come home to the Mitchell household, with the dog, Sebastian, barking to signify his arrival and to let him in.

Gernon graduated in 1947 from Franklin High School. He worked in Staunton, Virginia, and stayed with his aunt, Lottie Simmons. In April of 1948, he joined the Navy and got his training at Great Lakes. When the Korean War broke out, he boarded the aircraft carrier to sail to Korea. He could see land, but never went ashore. He originally signed up for three years, but since the war was ongoing, Truman extended his duty another year.

Upon his discharge, Gernon worked for one year with Smith Transfer out of Charlottesville, Virginia. He then worked with the Staunton Cleaner, picking up clothes to wash along his route. He did this twice a week, doing other work in the meantime. Construction work was his next gig. For 10 months or so, he stayed with his brother, Emmor, and worked in the Quantico, Virginia, area.

He retired after 24 years from Reynolds which was located in Grottoes, Virginia.

Lawn parties are great to see lovely attractive ladies. Gernon saw that Myrtle Karicofe was beautiful...she had such beautiful black hair. Long story short, they married on July 7, 1956, and made their home in Staunton, Virginia, where Myrtle taught school and he worked.

Myrtle and Gernon moved to where their present home is near the West Virginia/Virginia line in the Doe Hill, Virginia, area. They both created a dream home with extensive



On Sunday, Gernon Hoover celebrated his 97th birthday at St. John Lutheran Church.

landscaping. They both enjoyed bringing beauty to their home, which could easily be featured in the Better Homes and Gardens magazine.

Following worship service on Sunday, St. John Lutheran Church celebrated Gernon's birthday.

Wishing Gernon a happy birthday this past Tuesday...St. Patrick's Day.

Life's instructions for a happy day include the following:

1. Pay for someone's morning coffee.
2. Take the time to listen to someone.
3. Ask the person who's serving one how their day is going.
4. Take the day not to complain.
5. Be the things one loved most about the people who are gone.

The wind has been running like a scalded dog in this community. For several days, the weather has warmed to the point of "leafing" weeping willow trees, flowers, and forsythia. Monday's weather was quite fickle, with warm temperatures in the morning, and winds flying lickety-split to bring in rain, snow and freezing temperatures by evening.

This week's quotes are as follows:

"Life's too short to live the same day twice." — Jennifer Lopez  
 "Life doesn't stop because something happens to you." —

Magic Johnson

"You look ridiculous if you dance; you look ridiculous if you don't dance. So, you might as well dance." — Gertrude Stein.

"A teacher's greatest lesson isn't found in the curriculum; it's found in the way they make students believe they matter." — Rita F. Pierson

"When we understand that each day isn't one more day, but one less, we'll start giving more value to the things that truly matter." — Anonymous

Clickety-clacks for the chin waggars are as follows:

Barbie's little sister is known as Skipper.

The "hallux" is the big toe.

In 2014, baseball was featured on the first curved United States coin.

Honey is the only food that won't go bad.

The "father of relativity" is considered to be Albert Einstein.

Just sitting and relaxing is the best way to hear the "Talk of the Grove."

Bob and Marti Fisher of Romney were visitors last Friday of Willard and Judy Rader and enjoyed a trip to the Amish Bakery and High's Restaurant in Monterey, Virginia.

Chloe Simmons and her friend, Faith, enjoyed a day at the Massanutten WaterPark for her 10th birthday.

A Friday visitor in the home of Willard and Judy Rader was Eddie Rader. Saturday visitors were Mike and Robin DelBiondo.

Linda Rexrode has been very busy making maple donuts with 60 dozen made on Saturday.

On Saturday, Phil Downs accompanied Beth McNulty and Danita Kiser to the Maple Festival. He passed this gem along, "Let Jesus put a little spring in your step."

The race to have the first mess of dandelions was won by Eugene Varner who found his on Feb. 26. He and Evelyn sure had a delicious meal with dandelions on the side. Second place winner was Wanda Pitsenbarger who found lots of dandelions in her garden this past Wednesday.

Concerns are for Mercedes Aumann, Dave Basagic, "Bo" Boggs, the Dot Brown family and friends, Larry Byers, the family and friends of Linda Reese, Stanley Dahmer, Isaac Eye, Carl Gant, Marlene Harman, Armanda Heavner, Keith Hoover, Cynthia Hurry, Melissa Lambert, Roger Mallow, Yvonne Marsh, the Jeff Mitchell family and friends, Sheldon Propst, Bernie and Margaret Sasscer, Robbie Sites, Rene White and Ed Wimer.

## Pendleton County Chapter Celebrates FFA Week

FFA members far and near came together to celebrate National FFA Week the week of Feb. 21.

Prior to FFA week, three officers of the Pendleton County FFA Chapter, Ty Heavner, Sam Eason and Katie Keyser, attended the Pendleton County Commissioners meeting where Carl Hevener, commission president, signed a proclamation to declare the week of Feb. 21 - 28 as National FFA Week for Pendleton County.

The officer team of Cole Harper, president, Heavner, vice president, Jessica Parker, secretary, Eason, treasurer, Katie Heavner, reporter, and Katie Keyser, sentinel, worked hard to create dress-up days and activities for each day of the week. One of the FFA members favorite was the scavenger hunt which took place all week. Members looked for clues, and the winners received free t-shirts from the National FFA website.

Feb. 23 was "America Day" where members could sport their "Red, White, and Blue." The activity for the day was Food for America with the theme of "Farm to Table." Members attended the three elementary schools in the county to read an agriculturally related book and hand out the coloring contest sheets to students in pre-kindergarten through third grade. Coloring contest

winners will be announced at the annual FFA banquet.

FFA members had a busy day on Feb. 25 due to weather cancelling school the prior day. The day started in the family and consumer science department, Janice Heavner's room at Pendleton County Middle/High School. Members in their wild, wild west attire prepared the annual FFA week breakfast. The day continued as members concluded the Food for America activity at the elementary schools. After school, members and Ron Hudson, FFA advisor, participated in Ag. Olympic Events, which included hay bale tosses and cornhole.

On Feb. 26, members chose their side in the Carhartt versus Ariat War by dressing in their favorite brand. To break up the war, members enjoyed an ice cream social during eighth period. Janice Heavner, Dave Eason and Lindsey Propst were awarded an ice cream sundae for scoring the highest on the teacher test, a general agriculture/FFA related quiz.

To round off the week, members dressed in their best FFA attire. The officer team and Hudson met with the upcoming freshmen and discussed the opportunities FFA membership has to offer.

## Pendletonians Named To GSU Honor Lists

Glennville 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 curriculum 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.

[www.PendletonTimes.com](http://www.PendletonTimes.com)

## WVU Medicine GMH Announces Leadership Transition

Grant Memorial Hospital has announced John B. Sylvia, MHA, FACHE, will step down as president and CEO. Sylvia's decision reflects his desire to spend more time with family. He will continue to serve in his role through early June and is committed to supporting a smooth leadership transition.

"It has been an honor to serve the Grant County community and to work alongside such a dedicated team," said Sylvia. "I am committed to ensuring a smooth and orderly transition, and I have great confidence in the hospital's continued momentum. I am grateful for the support I have received and for the opportunity to contribute to the mission of Grant Memorial Hospital."

During Sylvia's tenure, Grant Memorial Hospital joined WVU Medicine in 2023, completed an EPIC electronic health record transition in August 2023, expanded services including wound care, podiatry, rapid care, pediatrics, primary care, cardi-

ology, and physical therapy, advanced physician and service integration, achieved a financial turnaround following a decade of losses, and completed numerous facility and campus improvements. The hospital also received national recognition for quality and patient satisfaction.

"We are deeply grateful for John's leadership and the meaningful progress he has driven at Grant Memorial Hospital," said Albert Wright, Jr., president and CEO of West Virginia University Health System. "John helped strengthen clinical integration, expand services for the region, and position the hospital for long-term success. His stewardship has built a strong foundation for the future, and we are excited for what comes next thanks to the work he and the team have accomplished."

WVU Medicine leadership emphasized its commitment to a seamless transition and continued focus on high-quality care for the community.

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Though they did not end the season as they would have liked, the 2025-26 Pendleton County Wildcats provided lasting memories of big wins, big plays, teamwork, competitive spirit, and the drive to be the best they could be. Members of the team were, from left, front row, Cayson Armstrong, Knox Wright, Jayden Hess, Chase Owens and Tony VanMeter; and back row, Rod Cooper (assistant coach), Cameron Wyatt, Braylin Hull, Ty Heavner, Cashton Kisamore, Henry Warner, Cole Harper, Dalton Rohrbaugh, Travis Owens, Colton Roberson, Clayton Kisamore (assistant coach) and Josh Owens (coach).

## Wildcats Falter in Regional Final

By Stephen Smoot

A week between games can serve as a blessing or as a curse. It gives each team time to rest, to evaluate, to plan, and to prepare individually and collectively. Given that time, sometimes one gets the unexpected.

The regional final for Pendleton County did not go as expected as Tucker County stormed into Franklin and carried off both a victory and a spot in the state tournament.

Pendleton County's seniors battled fiercely, working to make plays happen, trying to climb the mountain of an early deficit that continued to climb. Tucker County's man-to-man defense clung tightly to the Wildcats and allowed very few uncontested and open shots. On offense, they found the range that they had lacked in the two regular season defeats at the hands of the Wildcats.

The Mountain Lions led with a three in their first possession. A Travis Owens pass to Chase Owens led to a layup. At the 4:20 point, Tucker County scored a two, countered by a three from Henry Warner that tied the game briefly. By the two minute mark, the Mountain Lions opened a seven-point lead that fueled their momentum.

Neither team pressed until the second half and Pendleton County opened in a zone.

Cashton Kisamore played strong underneath. With 4:30 left in the first half, he bullied his way through defenders, leapt, and scored a layup to make the score 23-13 in favor of the visitors. Kisamore battled inside while Warner, Jaydon Hess, Chase Owens, and Travis Owens looked for open points from which to shoot.

At their best, Pendleton County passes crisply and patiently until finding the open shot. Tucker County's early surge and accurate shooting disrupted the home squad's momentum. They never settled into a rhythm as they could in previous matchups.

The season included a number of highlights. These included Pendleton County winning the

tournament at Lincoln, dominating Moorefield and Tucker County in the regular season, and defeating Petersburg twice, who received a one seed in their Class AA region.

Those who have followed this group through four years of high school and beyond, however, can say that the final game did not reflect what the team has accomplished and what it stands for.

Watching Pendleton County this year in their best form was near perfect basketball. On offense, crisp player movements and precise passing ensured that all five players remained threats to score. Offense looked like poetry verses, but with the exclamation point of a three-point shot, drive to the basket, or hard fought score from the post to end the statement.

At the start of the season, the team had some knowns in Chase Owens and Hess. During the season, Kisamore and Warner found out how good they could be. As time passed, their confidence led to dominance with each willing their way to scores and creating on offense. Kisamore was unstoppable also in rebounding.

Off the bench, Tony VanMeter brought tight defense to the floor, making any offensive movement around him difficult. Braylin Hull and Dalton Rohrbaugh had highlight games against Notre Dame. Both had good shooting touch. Hull defended well on the outside and Rohrbaugh could muscle for rebounds. Knox Wright added toughness underneath as well.

Next year, the team will return toughness and experience, but will look much different.

What will be most missed, however, is the genuine joy that these young men brought to the floor each game. It reflected the bond among teammates that came out as grit, determination, and having each other's backs at all times. They showed all of that and still excelled in sportsmanship every time out.

No, they did not make states, but this was a team that carved its place in Pendleton County sports history. They will be remembered for a long time.

## What it Takes to 'Chase' History

Continued From Page 1

noted, "I fell in love with the sport."

There's nothing quite like a basketball gymnasium on the night of a big game. Arrive too late and no parking remains. As one slowly makes one's way to get inside, the combined sounds of balls bouncing on sturdy wooden floors, music, and the electric energy of an excited crowd await.

"The atmosphere during games is so different than baseball and football," he explained.

Hundreds of passionate fans packed into small high school gyms bring a bustling energy right up to the floor. One finds out quickly if they love or hate the team. Some see such an environment and get intimidated, but "gamers" like Owens just get that much more excited. It enhances "that feeling I get when I go out and play," Chase said.

No one who takes that road, then climbs that mountain, can reach the peak without putting in the repetitions that build skills. "It's definitely hard. You have to put a lot of work in every day. It's hard to tell how many shots I've shot," Chase commented. When others did other things, he was "in the gym on weekends, shooting on the Dr. Dish machine."

Chase was not always doing the work alone. His brother, Travis, followed him down the path of hard work, dedication, and the drive to make themselves and their teams as great as possible. Conditions didn't matter. "We'd shoot in the winter with ice on the court. We'd play," said Chase.

The past two seasons, the brothers took the court for Pendleton County High School. They brought different styles of play. Both could shoot from anywhere on the floor. Both could create their own offense off the dribble. Both could find open teammates with deft passing.

But while Travis Owens was a slasher, finding angles and exploding through them to the basket, Chase Owens, though he could attack the basket swiftly, he more often barged through or bulled over defenders. Creating offense often mean putting one's back on the defender, feeling for a weakness, then pushing through to the score.

His strength in the guard position meant that when he took his game to the post against a man-to-man defense, almost no other guards could stop him one on one. On the outside, play off of Chase Owens, he would beat one with a three-point shot. Play up close and tight, he powers past the defender and finds an open man or drives through to the basket.

One regret from his time playing with his brother lies in a play they attempted a few times, but never completed. This season, Travis Owens' started the season able to leap high in the air to dunk the ball. The brothers

tried a few alley-oop plays but couldn't connect. He got a big smile when talking about Travis' potential, saying, "He's going to be special."

Leadership does not have to be loud. It just needs to be effective. The acknowledged leader of the squad, Chase said, "I'm not a vocal guy. I lead by example. They see me do something, they do that too." Over time, however, he understood that his teammates needed to hear from him. He shared, "Before the game, 'I'd give a speech to motivate them.'"

Confidence played a huge role in the team taking a step forward this year. Chase stated, "When you see that ball go through the basket, it gives you confidence." The players do the same for each other in "believing in each other."

An unexpected vacancy in the head coaching position in December elevated Josh Owens, father of Chase and Travis, as head coach. He said of playing for his dad, "We definitely butt heads sometimes" but "it was a great experience and amazing."

He praised his father's efforts to take the team as far as it could, explaining that "he worked as hard as anyone to get us to states."

Chase hit the milestone in one of the final games of the season. His 1,600 points eclipses Pendleton County High School's former overall points record holder Liz Bowers Somerville. She tallied 1,586 between 2001 and 2004.

For the future, Chase has a plan. "I'd like to play college basketball," he stated. He also plans to earn civil and mining engineering degrees up to a masters at West Virginia University. While not yet recruited, he has put feelers out. Some college somewhere will want a rugged guard who can score from anywhere on the court, defend with intelligence and toughness, rebound with strength, and has a near 50 percent make rate in three-point shots for his final season.

Wildcat fans will also remember his contributions in football as a linebacker, running back, and possession receiver. In a few weeks, he will take the mount for head coach Sam Yokum when baseball starts up.

Chase has another dream in mind though. He said, "Absolutely, I'd love to coach any sport. I'd love to coach in the future." Almost wistfully, he expressed a desire to coach his brother.

Basketball ends, baseball commences. And for one last season, Chase Owens will put on the uniform of a Pendleton County competitor, working to push his team and himself to be the best possible.

## It's a Reloading, Not a Rebuilding Year, Says New Wildcat Softball Coach

By Stephen Smoot

Pendleton County last year took one of the most dominating teams in recent Class A history to the state title. No team could muster much against them from Keyser in the opening game to Wahama in the final. Three seniors accepted invitations to join college squads, but talent and experience remain.

One new face has stepped forward in Hillary Fox, new head coach. Fox took on the role when Eric Crites, former coach, resigned.

The senior class returns playmakers from last year's title team. Jaiden Mitts and Madison Arbaugh made key plays in the field and at the plate in last year's state tournament. Mitts gets solid jumps on plays when opposing batters put the ball in play. Arbaugh's hitting was a factor in big wins last season as well.

Mitts had a win last season on the mound with a 2.47 earned run average. She may be in line to take on more of a role on the mound.

From the junior class comes the core of the team's leadership. Susan Vincell, left handed pitcher, by season's end had become the staff's second ace. Vincell had seven wins with a 2.96 ERA and got better as the season progressed. She shows patience on the mound and the ability to get batters to tap the ball weakly into the field, rather than get their full strength into the swing. Vincell also hit .402 for average with three home runs.

Jess Parker is simply relentless whether on the field or at the plate, where she hit .279 last season. She provides a spark either way, having a fielding percentage of .986 last year. Both Vincell and Parker will be expected to

assume leadership roles along with the seniors, stepping into the very big shoes of last year's graduating class.

Also from the junior class, Mollie Rowe and Callie Judy both return. They served as catalysts in last year's run. Judy has grown into a reliable performer and leader on the state tournament qualifying volleyball squad last fall. Rowe also had a win on the mound last season. Hannah Schell will contribute from the 11th-grade class, as well.

The sophomore class is represented first by Chesnee Colaw, who is looking to break out this coming season. She established herself as a reliable third baseman and hit .358 for average. She was a mainstay last season, but will likely emerge as a team leader and playmaker this coming season. Another player to watch is Lexy Tingler, who shares the energy and determination of Parker as was seen when both players took the basketball court together last season.

Additionally, Marleigh Moyers and Lauren Sisson gained experience last season and will be counted on for more in 2026.

Fox expressed excitement about the future with several athletic and talented players moving up to varsity play. Ashlyn Wimer, Abigail Judy, Kinsley Price, Laney Bowers, and Jaycee Thompson will see opportunities this season to step up and make contribution as the team develops.

Last year's season schedule was built to challenge, stocked with Class AA, AAA, and even AAAA competition. This year the team's schedule remains solid with Lincoln, Petersburg, Frankfort, Lewis County, and East Fairmont on the slate.

## County Math Field Day Winners Announced



Students placing in the Pendleton County Math Field Day were, from left, seated, Colton Whetzel, Emmett Sisson, Elizabeth Wheeler, Vianca Henderson, Thomas Connor, Nathanael Vincell, Bethany Teagarden, Sunny Milstead, Hunter Bowers and Darek Greathouse; middle row, Owen Champ, Landon Bowers, Eli Boyer, Alaina Hedrick, Corina Simmons, Macie Mitchell, Bella Kimble, Tori Heavner, Harley Bowes and Declan Shane; and back row, Bryce Propst, Mason Miller, Ziva Jones, Laney Bowers, Isabella Jameson, Weston Boyer, Noah Kobetic, Beckett Aumann, Alayna Huffman and Vaylee Harper.

Pendleton County Math Field Day was held Feb. 29 at Pendleton County Middle/High School.

The top three winners in each grade level will compete in the regional event March 16 at Potomac State College in Keyser.

County winners were as follows:

Fourth grade — Bethany Teagarden, first, Brandywine Elementary School; Emmett Sisson, second, Franklin Elementary School; Nathanael Vincell, third, FES; Hunter Bowers, first alternate, BES; and Colton Whetzel, second alternate, FES;

Fifth grade — Darek Greathouse, first, North Fork Elementary School; Thomas Connor, second, BES; Sunny Milstead, third, FES; Vianca Henderson, first alternate, BES; and Elizabeth Wheeler, second alternate, BES;

Sixth grade — Macie Mitchell, first, BES; Harley Bowers, second, BES; Declan Shane, third place, NFES; Bella Kimble, first alternate, FES; and Corina Simmons, second alternate, BES;

Seventh grade (Pendleton County Middle School) — Alaina Hedrick, first;

Owen Champ, second; Eli Boyer, third; Landon Bowers, first alternate; and Tori Heavner, second alternate;

Eighth grade (PCMS) — Beckett Aumann, first; Alayna Huffman, second; Noah Kobetic, third; Vaylee Harper, first alternate, and Weston Boyer, second alternate; and

Ninth grade (Pendleton County High School) — Isabella Jameson, first; Ziva Jones, second; Laney Bowers, third; Bryce Propst, first alternate; and Mason Miller, second alternate.

PCHS Wildcat Track Schedule	
April 2	East Hardy ..... 4:00 (A)
7	Frankfort ..... TBA (A)
14	Southern Garrett Co. .... 4:30 (A)
18	Hampshire ..... TBA (A)
28	Moorefield ..... 3:30 (A)
30	PVC D2 Meet .. 2:00 (A)
May 7	East Hardy ..... 4:00 (A)
9	Jim Turbin Invitational .. 10:00 (A)
12	Regional @ Keyser ..... TBA (A)

PCHS Wildcat Softball Schedule	
March 21	Clay Battelle .. TBA (A)
25	Petersburg ..... 6:00 (A)
28	Trinity ..... 12:00 (H)
28	Frankfort ..... 4:00 (H)
April 1	East Hardy ..... 6:00 (A)
3	East Fairmont. 4:00 (A)
3	Lincoln Co. .... 6:00 (A)
7	Pocahontas ..... 6:00 (H)
9	Moorefield ..... 6:00 (A)
11	Lewis Co. (DH) 2:00 (A)
14	Tucker Co. .... 6:00 (H)
16	Tygarts Valley. 6:00 (A)
21	Petersburg ..... 6:00 (H)
22	East Hardy ..... 6:00 (H)
28	Tygarts Valley. 6:00 (H)
29	Elkins ..... 7:30 (A)
30	Tucker Co. .... 6:00 (A)
May 1	Pocahontas ..... 5:00 (A)
2	Doddridge Co. 11:00 (A)
2	Greenbrier West ..... 12:30 (A)
5	Moorefield ..... 6:00 (H)

PCMS Wildcat Baseball Schedule	
March 25	Elkins ..... 5:00 (H)
26	Harman ..... 6:30 (H)
April 1	Tygarts Valley .. 6:00 (H)
3	Petersburg ..... 6:00 (A)
9	Tucker Valley .. 5:30 (A)
11	North Marion .. 12:00 (A)
14	Tucker Valley .. 5:30 (H)
20	Tygarts Valley .. 6:00 (A)
22	Harman ..... 6:30 (A)
25	Elkins ..... 1:00 (A)
28	Petersburg ..... 6:00 (A)
May 5	Petersburg ..... 6:00 (H)

PCMS Wildcat Softball Schedule	
March 21	Clay Battelle ... TBA (A)
21	Petersburg ..... TBA (A)
25	Westwood ..... 6:00 (A)
26	Tucker Valley .. 6:00 (A)
April 1	Lincoln (DH) ..... 2:00 (A)
4	Bridgeport (DH) ..... 12:00 (H)
9	Petersburg ..... 6:00 (H)
11	Barrackville (DH) ..... TBA (H)
15	Tucker Valley .. 6:00 (H)
16	Tygarts Valley .. 6:00 (H)
17	Buckhannon/ Upshur ..... 6:00 (H)
18	Westwood ..... 1:00 (H)
20	Taylor Co. .... 6:00 (H)
24	Eastern Greenbrier (DH) ..... 5:00 (A)
28	Tygarts Valley .. 6:00 (A)
29	Elkins ..... 5:30 (A)
May 4	Taylor Co. .... 6:00 (A)

PCMS Wildcat Track Schedule	
March 25	Keyser ..... 4:00 (A)
April 2	Keyser ..... 4:00 (A)
9	East Hardy ..... 4:00 (A)
15	East Hardy ..... 4:00 (A)
23	Romefield ..... 3:00 (A)
27	Moorefield ..... 4:00 (A)
29	Petersburg (High School) 4:00 (A)

PCHS Wildcat Baseball Schedule	
March 25	Harman ..... 4:30 (H)
26	Paw Paw ..... 5:00 (A)
28	S. Garrett ..... 12:00 (A)
31	Pocahontas ..... 4:30 (A)
April 3	Tygarts Valley. 6:00 (H)
4	Musselman ..... 2:00 (A)
6	Tucker Co. .... 4:30 (H)
7	Paw Paw ..... 5:00 (H)
8	East Hardy ..... 6:00 (A)
10	Highland Co. ... 5:00 (A)
11	Pocahontas ..... 2:00 (H)
13	Tucker Co. .... 5:00 (A)
15	Moorefield ..... 6:00 (A)
21	Petersburg ..... 6:00 (H)
22	Harman ..... 4:30 (A)
23	S. Garrett ..... 4:30 (A)
24	Elkins ..... 6:30 (A)
25	Highland Co. . 11:00 (H)
27	Berkeley Springs ..... 6:30 (H)
29	Tygarts Valley. 6:00 (A)
May 2	Keyser ..... 2:30 (H)
4	Petersburg ..... 6:00 (A)
8	Jefferson ..... TBA (H)
9	Moorefield ..... 12:00 (H)
12	Elkins ..... 6:30 (H)
15	Musselman ..... 6:30 (H)

# Town of Franklin to Receive Assistance From West Virginia Rural Water Association

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, the Town of Franklin held its regular meeting. Mayor Bob Horan opened the meeting and shortly thereafter heard an update from Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau concerning its annual report.

Annie Humes shared, “I did not officially take possession of CVB director until May 2025, so that is one of the highlights too.” She then announced that “overall, our city and county have seen growth in the tourism industry.” As she explained to the Pendleton County Commission last week, numbers nationwide have dropped, but West Virginia tourism remains strong. Locally, in the last 10 years we (Pendleton County) have beaten the growth rate (for West Virginia).

Additionally, Humes touted the growth of approximately 100 jobs in tourism-related fields. She pointed out that “that’s almost entirely from small businesses here.” Almost no major national corporations have tourism jobs in Pendleton County outside of Fisher Mountain.

Priorities for Humes in the coming year will include integrating the CVB more into local events for promotion and coordination.

Bruce Minor, who holds responsibilities as town recorder, but also with the Pendleton County Office of Emergency Management, shared a concern echoed in recent years about tourism growth, especially the “rugged outdoor” type. Minor explained that during summer, experienced rock climbing school instructors and other professionals can assist with search and rescue. Off-season, however, “a lot of that is falling back on the county,” he said.

“People come here. They get hurt. They get lost,” Minor stated.

Humes stated that hotel and motel taxes are divided between CVBs and emergency services to help defray those costs.

Frank Wehrle, Town of Franklin administrator, shared results from the Chesapeake Bay Stormwater grant that funded information gathering and planning sessions. In 2025, Franklin saw significant stormwater problems. Pendleton Senior and Family Services administrators and staff on one occasion spent two hours bailing out the center with buckets to prevent water damage.

One solution comes in the form of permeable pavement.

Wehrle stated that Franklin has followed typical modes of development seen almost everywhere in terms of using concrete and asphalt, hard impermeable surfaces. He described the effect during storms as “sheeting across the pavement” and also explained that replacing such surfaces on public property with permeable paving stones could help.

Fissures between the paving stones allow water to collect under the stones to be channeled in directions that mitigate damaging effects.

Another problem has cropped up in the diversion ditch that runs behind the community building and senior center, then angles around the softball field to take water to the river. The half-century old measure was constructed by the town and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.

The town received three “concepts” from the grant funded work. These envision different areas of potential work, such as in the town parking lot and/or at the Town of Franklin Park lot. Projects could include “rain gardens” that gather water and use it for flowers or other plants in the garden.

Further funding would be needed to develop the concepts into specific projects with details of work and materials needed.

Wehrle then put cold water in the sparkling champagne by stating that the projects would require money on the scale of a water or sewer project. “This is all expensive work. Very expensive work,” added Wehrle.

It would bring the same costs as that infrastructure. He also asked how rain gardens would be maintained due to having a moderate need of regular labor to keep them in good condition. “We hire maintenance workers, not gardeners,” he stated.

Jared VanMeter, executive director of the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce, came up next to discuss the “gateway” signs welcoming visitors to Franklin. He stated that “we want to put an offer on the table” to help create new ones. VanMeter pointed out that current signs, erected by the Ruritan and Lions Club in the past, “have signs of organizations that no longer exist.”

He offered that the chamber would help to get them together, but did not want the obligation of maintenance. One of the ways that the chamber would benefit is through including a “Home of West Virginia Trout Fest” on the sign. These would replace those already on US 220.

Wehrle stated that he didn’t want to step on the toes of the organizations that originally put them up because “the town does not own those signs.” It was stated that the organizations would likely have no objection to their being updated.

On another signage issue Russ Sasso, a council member who is not running for re-election, stated that he would continue to maintain the banners honoring fallen soldiers. He stated that he performed that service as a member of the American Legion and not the town and that he’d be honored to continue.

Jamie Nichols from West Virginia Rural Water Association then addressed the mayor and council about impending compliance mandates coming from the United States Environmental Protection Agency regarding service line validation. The EPA puts the responsibility on public utilities, not property owners, to validate service lines and ensure there is no lead in any of their use.

Even if a local government has already completed a validation, the EPA will require a second limited validation that did not use access points used in the first. Nichols explained that the WVRWA could take on the task of notifying affected residents and performing the work of validation. State and federal funds ensure that the town would not have to pay for the service.

Nichols added that the WVRWA could be a resource for connecting the town to officials who could help with funding.

Keely Smith, council member, expressed concern that some residents may still not know the reason for the communication and work. She suggested that the town also send notice over and above that of the WVRWA.

In other business, Wehrle and council members discussed a plan to hire local youth to help maintain the cemetery upon the retirement of the gentleman who has been performing that service.

An agenda item had referred to an address of a property damaged by fire. The owners of the property assured mayor and council that work had started on recovering personal items and that demolition was only awaiting a break in the weather so crews could perform it. Sasso explained that a resident had registered concerns and that he was duty-bound to follow up.

Smith and Sasso both thanked the couple and apologized, saying, “I’m sorry you had to go through that.”

## Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Eye Expanding Exposure to Honey Production

By Stephen Smoot

“Beekeeping is so important for our food supply,” states West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. He added “Without those bees and pollination, we wouldn’t have an abundant food supply here in the United States.”

Rob Turner, a Wirt County based farmer, shared that “80 percent of all our food . . . 80 percent of it is pollinated by three different species and that’s it, the honeybee, the bumblebee, and the butterfly.”

In the Potomac Highlands the health of bees and continued colony growth serves an even greater need than fulfilling demand for local honey. Orchards are part of the backbone of the economy of counties such as Hampshire. Without bees doing the hard work, orchard operations would have to figure out how to take over the pollination process.

Renee Wright serves as secretary for the Potomac Highlands Beekeepers. As she explains, part of the organizational mission lies in “getting the word out about how important honeybees are, as far as pollination, production of honey.” Dawn Fitz, who serves as treasurer explained, “We talk about how we need them in the ecosystem. Without bees, we won’t have many crops. A very large percentage would have to be pollinated.”

Potomac Highlands Beekeepers works to educate both the public and each other. A meeting in Romney last week was attended by people who ranged from those whose families have cultivated bees for generations to a gentleman who just moved into the region and wanted to start for the first time.

Larry Lemons, organizational president, introduced the board. He welcomed a newcomer to the organization who responded with the hope that he could learn from others. “The only knowledge I have is ‘Bees For Dummies.’ I’m looking to have someone who can answer my questions,” he stated.

Marcus Fitz, member of the organization, noted that those considering getting into beekeeping often find the process of starting up “intimidating.” Another attendee stated that it’s usually best for one with interest to work alongside an established beekeeper for two or three years to both learn the ropes and also to figure out if he or she really wants to do it or is capable of doing it.

Much of the meeting’s time gets spent in discussing problems faced by cultivators and different methods used by others to solve them. Mentorship is an established aspect of

beekeeper organizations, ensuring that knowledge accumulated over generations gets passed on. That said, the board on this day approved creating time in the monthly meeting to watch and discuss You Tube instructional videos on topics suggested by membership.

“Maybe none of us knows the answer sometimes, but You Tube does,” suggested Dawn Fitz.

Also, bee colonies for at least a decade have faced a number of issues from different sources causing bee death and colony collapse. The hard work of organizations such as the Potomac Highlands Beekeepers helps to maintain populations even with mass die-offs.

Kirby Vining, identified in the meeting agenda as “Zoom Guru” and who is also a long-time beekeeper, shared that hives on his remote property collapsed. He said, “Nobody knows why.” He lives far from establishments such as corn fields or power line structures where pesticides may threaten the bees. He added, “It’s not pollution. There’s nothing up there.”

While some causes of hive collapse have been identified, Vining stated that others occur with no known cause.

Beekeeper organizations have impacts beyond agriculture. Currently, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture is battling in court to protect the right of beekeepers to operate within the limits of a municipality. The City of South Charleston has an ordinance forbidding the practice that Leonhardt and beekeeping organizations have fought for nearly two years.

Beekeepers won in Kanawha County Circuit Court, but lost at the intermediate court level last month with the sticking point lying in the legal definition of “animal.”

Legally accepted terms sometimes have a special definition under law that differs from general use. For instance, courts define “insanity” as the inability temporarily or permanently to understand the difference between right and wrong instead of the broader clinical definition.

In this case, bees were argued to not meet the state’s legal idea of “animal.” As Leonhardt stated, “Bees fly where they will regardless of property or political boundaries. He asserted that this characteristic differentiates them from livestock and that should be noted in the law.

“Animals” under the WVDE’s legal reasoning, should apply to those that can be controlled with pens or fences. The intermediate court found that the definition should, instead,

## Outdoor Burning Restrictions Are in Effect

The start of West Virginia’s annual spring fire season March 1 marked the return of burning restrictions.

The West Virginia Division of Forestry reminds residents to confine outdoor burning to 5 p.m. to 7 a.m., according to West Virginia State Code Chapter 20-3-5. Fires set during that time must be put out before 7 a.m.

“Despite the recent cold and snowy winter, the fuel sources can dry out quickly. Since Jan. 1, we have responded to 50 fires that have consumed approximately 232 acres. We urge everyone to strictly adhere to burning regulations, particularly during sunny and windy conditions,” said Jeremy Jones, director/state forester of the West Virginia Division of Forestry.

Statewide burning restrictions will remain in effect until the spring fire season closes on May 31. The division of forestry has issued burning guidelines on its website at [wvforestry.com/fire-laws](https://wvforestry.com/fire-laws).

Regulations include:

- All fires must have a safety strip.
- The safety strip itself must be cleared of burnable material and be at least 10 feet wide.
- Fire must be attended until completely extinguished.
- Only vegetative materials, such as leaves, brush and yard clippings, are permitted to be burnt.
- Spark-throwing machinery, such as power shovels or sawmills operating on land subject to fire, must contain

an adequate spark arrestor.

• Inflammable waste disposal areas must annually remove all grass, brush, debris and other inflammable material adjacent to disposal areas to provide adequate protection, preventing the escape of fire to adjacent lands.

“We understand that folks will be wanting to clean up their yards after the winter storms,” Jones said. “However, we urge everyone to adhere to our burning restrictions and to contact their local regional office with any questions about current conditions. During the sunny and warm days of spring, fuels can dry out quickly, allowing fires to start and spread easily.”

Commercial burning during prohibited periods requires a permit, which are issued by local WVDOF offices. A permit is required for each commercial burning site. For more information, contact your regional headquarters at <https://wvforestry.com/contact-us>.

Any person or company that causes a fire on grass or forest land must reimburse the state for the costs of suppressing the fire. Fines for forest fires caused by negligence range from \$100 to \$1,000, with an additional civil penalty of \$200.

The division of forestry protects nearly 12 million acres of forestland across West Virginia. For more information on fire safety and programs like forest legacy, logging and landowner assistance, visit [wvforestry.com](https://wvforestry.com).

## Bonnie’s Bus To Offer Mammograms In Petersburg, WV

Bonnie’s Bus mobile mammography unit will visit Petersburg to offer three-dimensional digital screening mammograms and breast care education to women.

A service of WVU Medicine-WVU Hospitals and the WVU Cancer Institute, Bonnie’s Bus will be at WVU Medicine Grant Memorial Hospital’s Family Health & Fun Fair Petersburg from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 6.

For an appointment, call Ranese Cross-Shreve at 304-257-1026, extension 385809. With the registration process and insurance clearance taking a while, it is recommended that anyone interested in the screening call early to schedule an appointment. A physician’s order is needed for a mammogram.

The screening mammograms are billed to private insurance, Medicaid, or Medicare, if available. Patients who are underinsured or uninsured and meet enrollment criteria will be assisted in enrolling in the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program to cover the cost of their screening mammogram. Uninsured women living in West Virginia who are 40 and older can receive a free screening mammogram through the generosity of grant funding and donations.

Bonnie’s Bus has provided more than 33,000 mammograms for women throughout West Virginia and led to the detection of more than 190 cases of breast cancer since 2009. Many of those screened are underinsured or uninsured and qualify for screening through the WVBCCSP.

Bonnie’s Bus works in collaboration with a statewide partnership of clinicians, public health professionals, women’s groups, and other community leaders working to help reduce the number of deaths from breast cancer in West Virginia.

Made possible by a generous gift from Jo and Ben Statler, West Virginia natives, to the Cancer Institute, Bonnie’s Bus is operated in partnership with WVU Hospitals. The Bus is named after Jo Statler’s late mother, Bonnie Wells Wilson.

For information on Bonnie’s Bus, go to [WVUCancer.org/Bonnie](https://WVUCancer.org/Bonnie).

# Music Opportunities in PCMHS

Continued From Page 1

That, however, is only the opening verse of a potentially beautiful opportunity for music to grow in front of the eyes of the community. Corrie Wagoner, who heads the music department of Pendleton County Middle/High School, has much bigger ambitions than a single show.

A singing troubadour once voiced that music has its own place in the soul. Science has confirmed that it also has its own place in the mind. Wagoner seeks to bring together the artistic and practical sides of music together to rebuild musical tradition in Pendleton County, a land steeped in folk music and art going back to the time of George Washington.

Some of the inspiration for this came, as Wagoner explained, from Dr. King Seeger on the Warner Board. He came to Wagoner and inquired, "What have you got?"

With less than 400 students and active and expanding athletic programs, the school has too few students to have a traditional band or chorus. Wagoner shared that Derek Lambert, when he arrived as principal of PCM/HS encouraged her to run with an idea of having students perform the "Star Spangled Banner" at football games.

"We're trying to meet the kids where they are," explained Wagoner. That involves figuring out both "what they can do" and "what they want to do."

Musical opportunities had to be pared down to the scale of students who wanted to perform, whether with instruments or voices. Undeterred, Wagoner looked for any chance for students to perform music for the community.

In recent weeks, she put out a call for students who would want to form a rock band. A handful showed up to learn the stylings of Credence Clearwater Revival. Wagoner shared that "only two had ever heard of them, but they were all into it."

Some of that had to wait on the weather and

a full slate of performances were scheduled – but in December. Many will remember the relentless onslaught of snow that hit the area, canceling a number of events. These included performances at Pendleton Senior and Family Services and elsewhere.

"Those will be rescheduled to May," Wagoner assured.

An invitation also came from Treasure Mountain Festival. Organizers looked to have separate stages for local and traveling acts. Students will have the opportunity to show their talent and figure out if public performances are part of their future.

Music does much to develop young minds. Similar to reading books, playing music develops neural pathways in the brain. Just as physical workouts make muscles and bones stronger, reading, performing music, and other mental tasks make the brain more powerful. "It's good for all of it," says Wagoner.

Additionally, learning music, performing it, then taking it to the public, in a sense, represents workforce training. Musical performers can earn money in the area on the fair and festival circuit. Communities of performers have emerged in the Potomac Highlands and also in North Central West Virginia from Clarksburg and Shinnston in Harrison County to Morgantown.

West Virginia has a strong tradition of music from 1920s country star "Blind" Alfred Reed to the current biggest selling jazz artist in the world, Landau Eugene Murphy from Logan. Only last month, Shinnston waitress Livy Spino earned advancement on American Idol.

It's a great time to be a live musician in West Virginia.

Wagoner stated that "we need to encourage the community and parents to get involved" and also, to find any opportunity possible to perform. "We're exploring all the nooks and crannies of the region," she said.

# FFA Ham, Bacon, and Egg Sale

Continued From Page 1



Auctioneers helped to bring in one of the biggest monetary hauls to date for the FFA Ham, Bacon and Egg Sale.

those meat labs with Mr. Hudson" and that is "part of the process, start to finish."

Smith discussed the work done to prepare the meat for sale that involves the smoking, salting, shaping, and other ways to prepare the product to meet the strict criteria of the judges. All of that preparation is apparent to all when they walk into the MHS gymnasium and are greeted with that intoxicating smoky, salty, savory aroma of perfectly cured ham and bacon.

Each entry is given a designation of "prime," "choice," and "good." Likely each would exceed in quality of what gets sold in a store, but competition in one of the most productive agricultural areas of the Eastern United States always remains intense. One entry receives the grand champion designation while another is named reserve champion.

Eggs serve as another star in the show, however, and go first to auction when that kicks off.

Several rows of chairs get set up for those individuals and businesses taking part in the auction. An experienced and entertaining auctioneer brings the fast-paced excitement to the event. As bidders hold up orange numbered cards, two gentlemen at either end of the rows of chairs holler and point to bidders to keep the pace flowing fast.

While eggs can sell for between one and five dollars, depending on quality, at the grocery store, they bring a higher price here. Each

entry of a dozen eggs must also pass through a meticulous judging process. Eggs receive the grand and reserve champion prizes, but do not get sorted into other categories.

Emily Schell of Pendleton County High School sold her dozen for \$400. Makenna See of Moorefield High School and Emerson Pearce of East Hardy High School each took in \$500 for their entries. None of these earned championship ribbons, either.

Each student comes onto the platform with their product, some beaming with pride, others showing a bit of nervousness. They stand as the auctioneer works the crowd to get the best price possible.

Community members take as much pride in supporting the kids and the FFA as the kids have pride in their work.

FFA students, unlike sports or other activities, don't have a "season." Their work continues all year. Those raising hogs for ham or bacon must tend to them at least twice a day. Many, if not most of the participants here from Pendleton County, Moorefield, East Hardy, and Petersburg also compete on athletic teams, working around commitments to school and sports. They still bring their best to this dinner and also fairs and shows that run from spring through summer.

From these students come not only the future of area agriculture, but future leaders overall as well.

# United States Census Bureau Study Shows Damage Done by Decline of the Traditional Family

By Stephen Smoot

For a half century, American society has battled the rise of drug abuse, child abuse and neglect, and what were once called in the 1980s "throwaway children." Studies have noted both correlations and direct connections between broken families and poor outcomes in that time. One of the latest, and most profound, has come from researchers with the United States Census Bureau.

"Perspectives about the impact of divorce on children, however, diverge sharply," shared the study in its introduction. It explained that "one view holds that unhappy marriages fundamentally harm children through exposure to parental conflict and poorly modeled behavior, making marital dissolution beneficial for both parents and their children."

Researchers with the Census Bureau, however, concluded that studies containing neutral or positive outcomes used mainly "small retrospective surveys that likely fail to measure true causal effects" and could not access broad enough information to support their conclusions.

The Census Bureau studied five million children born between 1988 and 1993. In their methodology, it states that "we use tax records to trace out marital histories for each parent and link them to data on households and child outcomes. We address selection into divorce using both panel methods and a within-family design that compares siblings who had different lengths of exposure to the same divorce."

They then used data to address three main questions. First it examines "the effect of divorce on family circumstances," meaning what did the family do in response to the dissolution of the marriage. Second, it looks at the outcomes with the children involved, including "adult earnings, teen birth, mortality, college residency, and incarceration."

Finally, the Census Bureau researchers identified three

key aspects of post divorce life that created significant alterations to family life. These are "changes in financial resources, neighborhood quality, and distance to non-resident parents. We find that each mechanism partially contributes to the effects on child outcomes."

"Together, these three mechanisms—changes in family resources, neighborhood quality, and parent proximity—explain between 25 and 60 percent of divorce's effects on children's outcomes," the Census Bureau stated. It also explained that the remainder of influences on the outcome could not be derived by examination of the data. Further investigation would require more in-depth engagement of those studied as they went through divorce and related issues.

Additionally, this study did not presume to make conclusions on "unhappy families that remain intact" because it could not look at their outcomes with the data. It focuses solely on measurable outcomes of children who experience divorce while growing up.

Overall, it concluded that "because divorce has negative effects on children's outcomes

and is more common among low-income families, marital instability likely perpetuates disadvantage across generations."

Data suggests that three major changes take place when a marriage dissolves. Household income drops considerably, but it can be mitigated somewhat by directed or voluntary support from the non-resident parent. Also of high importance, the custodial parent often has to move into a neighborhood of lower quality and living standard. Finally, the distance between children and non-resident parents can negatively affect adult outcomes as well.

The study also charts the decline of the traditional family during the decades. Liberalized divorce led to the increased breakup of families while the never married, but with children occurrence rose from one percent in 1965 to 13 percent at the opening of the 21st century and is likely much higher now.

This has contributed to a skyrocketing demand for assistance once provided within the household or by the extended family, but now is sought more and more from social service agencies or the government.

"deterioration in neighborhood quality explains a moderate portion (16 percent) of divorce's effect on children's adult income, and a somewhat larger share of other outcomes—accounting for 17 percent of the effect on teen birth and 29 percent of the effect on incarceration."

Finally, the distance between children and non-resident parents had a powerful potential impact as well, possibly leading to "15 percent of divorce's effect on mortality and 22 percent of its effect on teen births. These effects likely reflect the role of distance as a proxy for parental investment, supervision, and involvement."

The study also charts the decline of the traditional family during the decades. Liberalized divorce led to the increased breakup of families while the never married, but with children occurrence rose from one percent in 1965 to 13 percent at the opening of the 21st century and is likely much higher now.

This has contributed to a skyrocketing demand for assistance once provided within the household or by the extended family, but now is sought more and more from social service agencies or the government.

Data indicates that those hit hardest by the decline of the traditional family are those already struggling in some fashion, "with the transformation most pronounced among low income families and those without a college degree." The Census Bureau added that "for parents with no more than a high-school degree, rates of single parenting more than tripled from 20 to 65 percent between 1950 and 2013."

While the study covers the ground of economic and social outcomes, the researchers advise building on their work. They stated that "future research should examine additional channels through which divorce affects children, particularly those not observable in administrative data, such as changes in parental time investment and family dynamics."

As more attention focuses on how families fare both socially and economically from generation to generation, this study suggests that "given that divorce has negative effects on children's outcomes and is more prevalent among low-income families, addressing its impacts may be crucial for reducing the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage."

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Pineapple

**MONDAY, MARCH 23**  
Fish Nuggets  
Baked Beans, Slaw  
Melon

**TUESDAY, MARCH 24**  
Steak N Cheese Sub  
w/Peppers, Onions  
Lettuce & Tomato  
Potato Wedges  
Blueberries & Yogurt

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25**  
Chicken Pot Pie  
Mixed Vegetables  
Brussels Sprouts  
Tropical Fruit

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26**  
**EVENING MEAL @ 5PM**  
Pork Tenderloin  
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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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**Heartfelt Thanks**  
The Family of Catherine "Cathy" Dowdy would like to express our sincere appreciation for the outpour of love through cards, calls, visits, food and prayers during this difficult time. A heartfelt thank you to Pastor Tony Tilley for his comforting message, the nurses and staff at Pendleton Manor for their continuous care and to the Basagic Funeral Home staff for your compassion.  
*We treasure the support you have given to us.*

**Thank you**  
*I want to thank everyone for all the acts of kindness in helping me celebrate my 100th birthday.*  
**MARY ALICE SIMMONS**

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**Spring Begins**  
 Friday March 20  
 Because the Earth is tilted on its axis, different parts of the planet get more direct sunlight than others at different times of the year. The Northern Hemisphere gets spring beginning in March because the northern half of the Earth is tilting toward the sun. The Southern Hemisphere has spring in August, when the southern half of the planet is tilted toward the sun.

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### LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA THAT BEING THE JUVENILE COURT OF SAID COUNTY**  
 IN RE: L.C.W.  
**CASE NO. 25-JA-5**  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
**TO: Casey Tyson Swick, Father Last Known Address: 155 Summit Drive Moorefield, West Virginia 26836**

You are hereby notified of the above styled action pending in the Circuit Court of Pendleton County, West Virginia, that can result in the permanent termination of your parental, custodial and/or guardianship rights. Every child, parent, custodian and/or guardian has a right to counsel at every stage in this proceeding.

This case is scheduled for a hearing before the Circuit Court of Pendleton County, West Virginia, on **March 19, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** This hearing will be held at the Pendleton County Courthouse, 100 South Main St., Franklin, WV 26807.

You must appear at the hearing set forth above to protect and defend your interests. You are also required by law to file an answer in this action within 10 days of this notice.

Lauren M. Wilson, a competent attorney has been appointed as your attorney in this matter. She can be contacted at her office address of 88 South Street, Keyser, WV 26726, and a phone number (304) 788-7744.

### LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

**MUNICIPALITY OF FRANKLIN, WEST VIRGINIA**  
**Regular Current Expense Levy**  
**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2027**

CLASS	Certificate of Valuation Assessed Value for Tax Purposes	Levy Rate/\$100	Taxes Levied
<b>CLASS I</b>	Personal Property	11.96	\$ 0
	Public Utility		\$ 0
	<b>Total Class I</b>		<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>CLASS II</b>	Real Estate	23.92	\$ 61,183
	Personal Property		64
	<b>Total Class II</b>		<b>\$ 61,247</b>
<b>CLASS IV</b>	Real Estate	47.84	\$ 65,014
	Personal Property		30,261
	Public Utility		14,359
	<b>Total Class IV</b>		<b>\$ 109,635</b>
<b>Total Value &amp; Projected Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 48,521,909</b>		<b>\$ 170,882</b>
Less Delinquencies, Exonerations, & Uncollectable Taxes. ....	5.00%		8,544
Less Tax Discounts (use Total Projected Revenue to calculate) .....	2.00%		3,247
Less Allowance for Tax Increment Financing (if Applicable).....			0
<b>Total Projected Property Tax Collection.....</b>			<b>\$ 159,091</b>
Less Assessor Valuation Fund .....	2.00%		3,182
(Subtracted from regular current expense taxes levied only)			
<b>Net Amount to be Raised by Levy of Property Taxes .....</b>			<b>\$ 155,909</b>

### 2026-2027 Fiscal Year LEVY ESTIMATE — BUDGET DOCUMENT

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
 MUNICIPALITY OF FRANKLIN

In accordance with Code 11-8-14, as amended, the Council proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by levy of taxes for the current fiscal year, and does determine and estimate the several amounts to be as follows:

The amount due and the amount that will become due and collectible from every source during the fiscal year INCLUDING THE LEVY OF TAXES, is as follows:

**REVENUE SOURCE**

Assigned Balance (July 1).....	\$ 10,000.00
Property Taxes .....	155,908.00
Gas and Oil Severance Tax .....	6,000.00
Excise Tax on Utilities.....	50,000.00
Wine and Liquor Tax .....	30,000.00
Animal Control Tax .....	250.00
Hotel Occupancy Tax .....	20,000.00
Sales Tax (Placeholder) .....	100.00
Fines, Fees & Court Costs .....	1,500.00
Licenses .....	7,000.00
Building Permit Fees .....	2,000.00
Franchise Fees .....	3,000.00
IRP Fees .....	35,000.00
Refuse Collection.....	121,550.00
Gaming Income.....	22,500.00
Interest Revenue.....	2,500.00
Video Lottery.....	500.00
Miscellaneous Revenue.....	5,000.00
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE (GENERAL FUND) .....</b>	<b>\$ 472,808.00</b>

### COAL SEVERANCE TAX FUND

**REVENUE SOURCE**

Unassigned Balance (July 1) .....	\$ 50.00
Coal Severance .....	2,500.00
Interest Income .....	70.00
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE (COAL SEVERANCE FUND) .....</b>	<b>\$ 2,620.00</b>

**ESTIMATED CURRENT EXPENDITURES**

	General Fund	Coal Severance
Mayor's Office.....	5,700.00	
City Council.....	10,500.00	
Recorder's Office.....	3,480.00	
City Clerk's Office.....	97,000.00	
Dues to Regional Council.....	800.00	
City Hall .....	199,010.00	
Fire Department .....	1,000.00	
Emergency Services .....	1,000.00	
Streets & Highways .....	10,000.00	
Street Lights.....	20,000.00	
Garbage Department .....	103,318.00	
Parks & Recreation .....	10,000.00	2,620.00
Visitor's Bureau .....	10,000.00	
Library.....	1,000.00	
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES .....</b>	<b>472,808.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,620.00</b>

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
 COUNTY OF PENDLETON  
 MUNICIPALITY OF FRANKLIN  
 I, CHARLES FRANKLIN WEHRLE JR, CLERK OF SAID MUNICIPALITY DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING ARE TRUE COPIES FROM THE RECORDS OF ORDERS MADE AND ENTERED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE SAID MUNICIPALITY ON THE 10TH DAY OF MARCH, 2026.

CHARLES FRANKLIN WEHRLE JR. 3-19-26

April D. Mallow, Prosecuting Attorney, Counsel for Petitioner Pendleton Prosecuting Attorney's Office P.O. Box 865, 74 Walnut St., Franklin, WV 26807 Phone: (304) 902-7104 Facsimile: (304) 902-7106 3-12-26

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Agency: Region VIII Solid Waste Authority Sealed Bid  
 Sale Method: Sealed Bid  
 Closing Date/Bid Opening/Time: **April 20, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.**  
 Bid Opening Location: 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26487

### 1. Notice to Bidders

The Region VIII Solid Waste Authority is accepting sealed bids for the sale of various surplus equipment. All items are sold "AS-IS, WHERE-IS" with no warranty, express or implied, as to their condition, usability, or fitness for any purpose. The Authority reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.

### 2. Description of Surplus Items

- **Item 1:** 2005 Freightliner Columbia Day Cab Semi-Truck (Southern Transfer Station)
- **Item 2:** 1993 John Deere 180 Wheel Loader (Southern Transfer Station)
- **Item 3:** 4 Unused Mitco Weighted Directional Skid Steer Tires (Southern Transfer Station)
- **Item 4:** 2002 Cram-A-Lot Vertical Cardboard Bailer (Model #: DBR-60-LU) (Southern Transfer Station)
- **Item 5:** 4 Unused Mitco Weighted Directional Skid Steer Tires (Northern Transfer Station)

### 3. Inspection

Interested parties may inspect Items 1-4 at our Southern Transfer Station located at 194 Farnsworth Road, Petersburg, WV. Item 5 may be inspected at our Northern Transfer Station located at 348 Landfill Road, Romney, WV. Items may be inspected during normal business hours; Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. to 12 Noon.

### 4. Submission Instructions

Bids must be submitted on the official Surplus Equipment Bid Sheet form (available at [www.region8swa.org](http://www.region8swa.org) or by calling the office, 304-257-2644, to request an emailed copy).  
 • **Sealed Envelopes:** Each bid must be in a separate, sealed envelope. Only one bid per envelope.  
 • **Labeling:** The outside of the envelope must be clearly marked "SEALED BID" - (INSERT ITEM NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION from above)  
 • **Delivery Options:** USPS Mail - Region VIII Solid Waste Authority, PO Box 116, Petersburg, WV 26847 or hand deliver to Region VIII Solid Waste Authority, Main Office, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847 (do not deliver to the transfer stations). Bids must be received no later than the closing date/time. Emailed bids will not be accepted.

### 5. Payment and Removal

- **Payment:** Successful bidders must pay via cash or cashier's check with 5 business days of notification
- **Removal:** Items must be removed from the specified location within 10 business days of payment. The buyer is responsible for all loading and transport.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**The Pendleton County Commission** is seeking qualified applicants for the position of a **full-time Legal Secretary** for the Office of Prosecuting Attorney

Prior secretarial experience required. Prior experience in legal office preferred. The successful applicant must have good knowledge of an office environment, organizational skills, the ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing, exercise initiative and judgment in completing tasks and responsibilities, and establish and maintain effective working relationships. Typing and computer skills are essential. Salary commensurate with experience.

Applications may be obtained by visiting the Commission office located in the Pendleton County Courthouse, between the hours of 8:30AM and 4:30PM, Monday through Friday. Applications must be returned **along with a resume** to the Commission office by 4:00 PM on March 20, 2026. References required. For more information, please contact Karen Pitsenbarger at 304-358-7573. The Commission is an EOE.

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# Senior Center Valentine Royalty Announced



The Franklin Senior Center crowned its 2026 Valentine's Royalty on Feb. 13 during the Valentine's Day party. Seniors are nominated by their peers at the senior center and were voted on from Feb. 2 to 13. Votes were entered as one penny equals a vote. The money collected goes toward programs and services that are offered through Pendleton Senior & Family Services. Chosen as Mr. and Mrs. Valentine were Grace and Albert Hammer with Pat Welch as Valentine Queen and Richard Lang, Valentine King.



## Taylor-Ide Joins Tucker Community Foundation Board of Directors

The Tucker Community Foundation has announced the appointment of Luke Taylor-Ide to its board of directors. He brings a wealth of experience in education, economics, and community engagement, with a strong focus on driving economic growth in Appalachia.

David Moran, the board president, expressed the board's enthusiasm, stating, "We are thrilled to welcome Luke Taylor-Ide to our board of directors. His extensive knowledge and commitment to community engagement will be invaluable to our mission."

Currently serving as the interim president & CEO of Future Generations University, Taylor-Ide has more than 20 years of experience fostering partnerships with communities, policymakers, and academic experts. His work has included multi-year assignments in Afghanistan, India, and Nepal. After earning his graduate degree from Harvard University, he returned to his childhood home and helped establish Future Generations University's Appalachian program in 2013. Today, the program stands out as one of the premier organizations in central Appalachia, specializing in

maple production, agroforestry, and youth development.

Taylor-Ide's current research emphasizes supporting economic growth at the intersection of agroforestry, agritourism, and outdoor recreation in Appalachia. He is also the co-founder and president of the Pendleton County Farmers Market and a founding trustee of the Pendleton Community Foundation.

"I am truly excited about the opportunity to join the board of directors of the Tucker Community Foundation," said Taylor-Ide. "This organization has made a significant impact in our region, and I look forward to collaborating with the board and the community to create sustainable opportunities for growth and development in Appalachia. Together, we can foster a spirit of generosity and drive positive change for our neighbors and future generations."

Founded in 1989 in Tucker County, the Tucker Community Foundation has expanded its initiatives to include Barbour, Grant, Mineral, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Tucker, and Upshur counties in West Virginia, as well as Garrett County, Maryland. Inspired by the devastating 1985 flood, the foundation is dedicated to creating sustainable opportunities for individuals and communities through a culture of generous giving, without expecting personal gain.

For more information about the Tucker Community Foundation and its initiatives, contact the office at 304-478-2930 or visit [www.tuckerfoundationwv.org](http://www.tuckerfoundationwv.org).

## STOP Distracted Driving



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**FRANKLIN** - 4 BR, 2 BA, 2 story Pre-Civil War home with basement in town. 2 apartments, detached. Paved parking area. \$310,000.  
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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
2010 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW 4X4, XLT V-8, auto., ldd., blue, only 127K miles, ex. cond.	.....\$16,900
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	SALE
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 NISSAN MURANO S AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., silver, only 75K miles	.....\$18,900
2020 CADILLAC XT4 SPORT AWD, 2.0 liter, auto., ldd., pearl white, only 58K miles	..... SPECIAL \$29,500 \$27,500
2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT, V-6, auto., ldd., charcoal, 108K miles	.....\$11,900
2019 INFINITI QX60 LUXE AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., pearl white, 94K miles	.....\$19,500
2019 FORD TAURUS AWD "POLICE INTERCEPTOR," 3.7 V-6, auto, ldd, maroon, 143K miles	.....\$8,995
2019 FORD EDGE SEL AWD, 2.0 liter, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., charcoal, 131K miles	..... SPECIAL \$17,900 \$15,900
2018 FORD EXPLORER XLT "SPORT PKG" AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., white, local 1 owner, 117K miles, ex. cond.	.....\$18,900
2018 FORD EXPLORER XLT "SPORT PKG" AWD, 2.3 4-cyl., auto., ldd., dark cherry, 115K miles, very sharp	.....\$18,900
2017 FORD EXPLORER XLT AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., copper color, 118K miles, sharp	.....\$14,900
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

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## SOUTH BRANCH STOCKYARDS

Moorefield, WV

### 2026 SCHEDULE

#### SPECIAL GRADED FEEDER SALES

Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

Take In - Friday 7 a.m. until...

Grading steers, heifers and grouping bull calves. Also accepting cull cows and bulls.

#### REGULAR SALES

2nd and 4th Saturday at 12:00 p.m.

Take In - Fri 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. or Sat. 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.

\*We will work with you if you need to come earlier or later on Friday\*

Regular Sale - feeder cattle, cows, bulls, fat cattle, sheep, goats and hogs.

#### SPRING SCHEDULE

April	4th	11th	18th	24th
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#### SPRING/SUMMER SCHEDULE

May	9th	23rd
June	13th	27th
July	11th	25th
August	8th	22nd

**ALSO JOIN US FOR:**

**Fairview Farms Annual Bull Sale**

**Saturday, March 21, 2026**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**REGULAR WEDNESDAY SALES WILL NOW BE HELD ON THE 2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS OF THE MONTH IN MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER**

**FOR ANY ADDITIONAL LIVESTOCK MARKETING QUESTIONS CONTACT:**

Brandon Neely - 681-271-4974 • Roger Pratt - 304-257-3012  
 Travis Hinkle - 304-668-2901 • David McGee - 304-813-9872  
 Lee Custer - 301-501-2004 • Stockyards - 304.538.6050

## Sugar Grove Realty, Inc.

**39 Maple Ave  
 PO Box 999  
 Franklin, WV 26807**

[sugargrovewv.com](http://sugargrovewv.com)  
**304.358.3332/3337 304.358.3334 (fax)**

Jeffrey S. Bowers, Broker C **304.668.0002**  
 Stuart Bowers, Sales Agent C **304.668.1147**  
 Tommy A. Roberson, Sales Agent **304.668.1050**  
 Penny K. Lambert, Sales Agent C **304.668.2975**  
 Jennifer Raines, Sales Agent **304.851.3522**  
 Kelly Roby, Sales Agent **304.257.8859**

**FOR PHOTOS AND MUCH MORE ABOUT THESE PROPERTIES VISIT [WWW.SUGARGROVEWV.COM](http://WWW.SUGARGROVEWV.COM)**

**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 City. ~~\$269,000.00~~

**SGR401A** Charming 2/3 bedroom, 1 bath, ranch style, with partial basement, on ~~road~~ 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~~

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

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

**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. ~~\$949,000.00~~ **REDUCED \$899,000.00**

**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 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. ~~\$399,000.00~~ **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~~

**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**

**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. ~~\$189,000.00~~ **REDUCED \$179,000.00**

**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 \$320,000.00~~ ~~\$299,000.00~~ **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**