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Amy Homan DePoy, daughter of Richard Homan, for whom the park at Sugar Grove was named, shared a few thoughts on her father's service and legacy at the "Our Five Boys" VFW Post Memorial Day remembrance.

'Our Five Boys' Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Holds Memorial Day Remembrance

By Stephen Smoot

Clouds loomed ominously over Richard Homan Park in Sugar Grove as veterans, family, friends, and supporters gathered for the annual Memorial Day remembrance.

Despite the forecast and the heavy rain showers that eventually joined the proceedings, approximately 50 turned out for the ceremony that gradually increases in attendance every year.

Amy Homan DePoy, daughter of the late Richard Homan, was invited to the podium to share her thoughts on her father's legacy and

the meaning of the day. She shared that "I am so pleased with this turnout. Dad would have been so proud."

"If there was a veteran that needed help," DePoy said, "dad was there for him." She concluded with "a big thank you to everyone who came to this space."

Phillip Downs offered the opening prayer, stating, "Let us be mindful of the sacrifices made."

Kevin Light, the main speaker of the day, was introduced by Steven O' Toole, who shared that Light had served as state quar-

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Pendleton Manor Honors 50 Years of Dedicated Service From McLaughlin



Dozens turned out to honor 50 years and counting of Lucille McLaughlin's work at Pendleton Manor. Pictured, from left, are Kathy Propst, Stephanie Hilling, Lucille McLaughlin and husband Richard, Stephanie Hartman, and Susan Warner.

By Stephen Smoot

Gerald Ford was President of the United States. The Pittsburgh Steelers had won the still-new championship styled "the Super Bowl" and the Cincinnati "Big Red Machine" would claim baseball's biggest prize in the fall.

And Lucille McLaughlin, still in high school, started what would turn into a career of service for Pendleton Manor.

Colleagues, family, friends, and patients gathered into the activities room, already decorated in festive style with banners and golden balloons.

Stephanie Hilling, executive director, stepped to the podium, saying, "There are truly no words big enough, dedication, loyalty, compassion, and wisdom." She called McLaughlin, who is still going strong into the foreseeable future with her duties at Pendleton Manor, "a constant source of strength and knowledge. The impact you have made will continue for generations to come."

McLaughlin started as a high school volunteer, coming from home economics class to volunteer even before the original facility was completed. During the years, she developed a reputation for diligent and precise work, caring, and also never missing a day of work. That built on her school attendance record that saw not a single day missed from kindergarten to her senior year.

Stephanie Hartman, when she spoke, also cited McLaughlin as one of the best sources of knowledge and information, saying, "Nine out of 10 times, she knows the answer, or who to talk to, or how to find the answer." Also Hartman spoke of that special devotion to the work that comes from love of the job, saying, "Not only is she here, but she kept her love of being here."

Kathy Propst called McLaughlin "not like a friend, but family." She described the progression of her work, which expanded considerably over time. Early on, McLaughlin worked as a certified nursing assistant, caring for patients' most fundamental needs. By the 1990s, her role had expanded into billing. Later, she also took on the tasks of a

home health aid, phlebotomist, and other areas.

Susan Warner followed and expressed that "we certainly appreciate what she's done for us, so dedicated."

After the kind words and before moving to the table of hors d'oeuvres and punch, McLaughlin opened gifts from her long-time friends and colleagues, including a decorative wall-hanging that evoked an "ooh that is nice!"

The roots of her dedication ran deep. As she described, "I grew up in a home where my grandmother lived with us" and how that fostered the habits and values that she carried with her into work. She described how she was involved with a school program that brought her to the Manor "the first year I was here. Then I was hired and I have been here ever since."

"I love the residents," she shared, expressing how much she enjoyed hearing "nice stories of what they did in the past." McLaughlin described one couple who lived together in the home, the wife having lost her sight.

The lady would, from time to time, ask, "When you have time, I have a letter today. Would you read it to me?" And every so often came the request, "Do you have time to write a letter today?"

For McLaughlin, those little moments of help and caring, whether stopping to write a letter or helping someone look their best before leaving their room to join a social function, or a thousand other tasks that helped residents enjoy their lives there a little more, those acts of kindness served as her motivation and inspiration for 50 years and more of dedicated service.

Pendleton County Class of 2026 Honored and Remembered



Derek Lambert, principal of Pendleton County Middle/High School greets graduates and guests at commencement exercises.

By Stephen Smoot

As is tradition, the seniors walked in, two by two, to the graduation march with young ladies clad in Carolina blue and gentlemen wearing royal blue. All stood in solemn silence as they made their way to their seats across the gymnasium floor.

Derek Lambert, principal of Pendleton County Middle/High School, welcomed students and families to commencement. He shared, "Graduates, today reflects the culmination of everything you have invested - early mornings, late nights, challenges faced, and goals achieved."

"And no matter where you go or where you end up, always be proud of where you came from."

Class videos are an important tradition for Wildcat graduates. Photos of seniors, their childhood and current photos, accomplishments, and little snapshots of who they are graced the screen. The video opened to Stevie Nicks' Landslide. Photos of grinning kids holding footballs or enjoying birthday cake



Commencement address was delivered by Dave Eason.

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Keyser, Hudson Recognized at FFA Banquet

Attired in blue corduroy jackets accented with the corn gold embroidered FFA emblem on the back, Pendleton County FFA members recognized Trey Keyser and Ron Hudson during their annual banquet held May 17 in the D. Michael Roberts auditorium at Pendleton County High School.

Honorary membership is bestowed upon individuals who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA and who have rendered outstanding services. Honorary chapter membership was presented to Keyser.

Keyser grew up on a seventh generation family farm raising and showing sheep and cattle. His family also operated two broiler chicken houses and farmed 450 acres of corn, soybeans, and hay crops. Their farm was located alongside the Shenandoah River where they also operated Dam Acres Campground.

He graduated from Page County High School and attended Virginia Tech. He was an active member of Block and Bridle, Young Farmers, and Alpha Gamma Rho. He graduated in 2004 with a bachelor of science degree in agricultural education and minors in animal and poultry sciences and crop and soil environmental sciences.

He was very active in 4-H and FFA throughout his youth career and earned numerous awards. Some of his most prestigious FFA awards include 1997-1998 Virginia state secretary, a member of the National FFA nominating committee, earning his American FFA Degree, three Honorary Chapter Degrees, and his West Virginia Honorary State Degree.

Not only was he active in the agricultural sector growing up, but he found a passion for fighting fire. He was a member of the Stanley Volunteer Fire Department for eight years and traveled with the Page County Hot Shot



Trey Keyser, left, is presented with an honorary membership award by Cole Harper, chapter president. Photo courtesy of Light in Motion.



Pendleton County FFA Chapter advisor, Ron Hudson, will retire this year after 30 years of dedication to the school's ag department. Photo courtesy of Light in Motion.

Crew who were detailed to 19 different locations across the country to fight wild fires.

Keyser has been employed by Farm Credit of the Virginias for 22 years where he is a senior loan officer.

He has been a strong supporter of South Branch Valley Ham, Bacon, and Egg sales.

He enjoys attending all the fairs, being a local buyer, and supporting the kids at the livestock sales. In addition to purchasing animals at fairs, he, along with other Farm Credit employees, are present and pass out t-shirts at local and state events.

At the Tri-County Fair, he helps with the barn party,

heads up the lamb and goat obstacle course, oversees the meat carcass contest, and helps sponsor the awards for the premier exhibitors.

He enjoys volunteering and hosting judging practices for students to participate in while prepping for contests.

Each year he presents the Farm Credit Record Keeping Award to an outstanding member of the Pendleton FFA chapter.

During the FFA Regional Scholastic contest, he donates his time to come serve as a judge. He graciously offered his zero-turn mower and his yard in which he set up a practice course to help

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Community CALENDAR

Meal Planned at NF Baptist Church

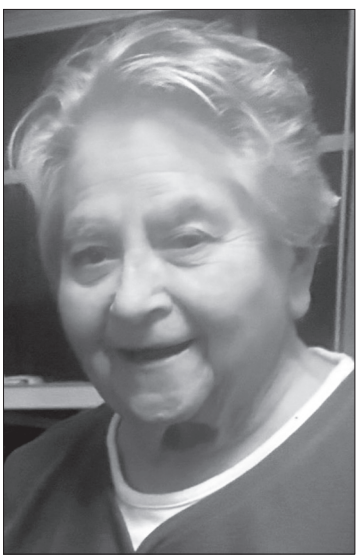
North Fork Baptist Church in Riverton will be hosting a community meal from noon until 2 p.m. Tuesday. The community is invited to come and enjoy a good meal and fellowship time in the Lord's house.

Democrats To Gather Monday

Pendleton County Democrats will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at the Pendleton County Library in Franklin. Issues affecting the county will be discussed as well as voting on a slate of officers. All are welcome to attend.

Senior Sponsored Meal Scheduled

'69 and Holding will be sponsoring lunch for seniors aged 60+ on Tuesday at the Franklin Senior Center. The meal will be served from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Please call the senior center at 304-358-2421 to reserve a meal



Grace Marie Johnson

Grace Marie Johnson, 86, of Troy, Virginia, passed away May 18, 2026, at The Heritage Inn Assisted Living and Memory Care Center in Charlottesville, Virginia.

She was born Feb. 25, 1940, in Kline and was the daughter of the late Loy E. Smith and Eula B. (Kesner) Smith.

Mrs. Johnson was a retired employee of The University of Virginia Hospital in Char-

lottesville, Virginia. She was a dedicated pastor's wife, mother, grandmother, and Gigi. She was a member of Charlottesville First Assembly of God, where her late husband was the pastor for many years.

Her husband, Rev. James E. Johnson, preceded her in death in 1996.

Surviving are her three children, William E. Johnson (Kathy) of Burlington, Stephen P. Johnson (Tricia) of Palmyra, Virginia, and Ruth A. McKenzie (John) of Mount Airy, Maryland; two brothers, Elwood Smith (Betsy) of Upper Tract and Samuel Smith of Martinsburg; 17 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; a great-great grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by three brothers, Bud Smith, Virgil Smith and Leo Smith.

A graveside service was held Friday at Kline Cemetery in Upper Tract and was officiated by Rev. Glenn Sites.

Bobby Eugene Puffenbarger

A celebration of life service for Bobby Eugene Puffenbarger who died Jan. 23, 2026, will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Richard W. Homan Memorial Park in Sugar Grove.

Arrangements are by Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin.

Pendleton County Class of 2026 Remembered

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had morphed into the fine almost-adults that walked onto the stage that day.

Cheers went up from families and friends for their beloved graduates as both parents and soon-to-be graduated students shared laughter and joy of good memories.

One fun new twist this year came when seniors got to sign their names on a camera screen, also set to music selected to reinforce the tone of the day. Some showed their serious face while writing, while others just could not hide their senior smiles. Cheers met the completion of some signatures.

Leah Nesselrodt served as valedictorian and Carolyn Varner earned salutatorian. Breana Bowers, class vice president, and Jameigh Miller, class treasurer, introduced speakers.

Varner spoke of the value of life challenges, saying, "We are not defined by our struggles, and we are refined by them." She advised fellow graduates, "Struggles don't always send warning signs before arriving. So always remember it's okay to struggle in your own way."

"When I was eight years old," said Nesselrodt in her speech, "I was faced with a decision that would change the course of my life . . . I could stay in the third grade, with all my friends, with familiar material . . . or I could move ahead a year early." She used that experience to describe how to take on difficult choices, encouraging others to think of Robert Frost's poem about the road not taken and embrace the path that leads not to comfort, but to personal growth.

Dave Eason, social studies teacher at PCM/HS provided the keynote address, admitting that at first he was inclined to refuse the honor. Eason noted the many roles in which he has served students during the years as teacher, coach, athletic director, and dean of students.

"You have hopefully learned not to pick battles you can't win, especially if it is a rap battle with me," he laughed.

He then shared a story about how to take on tough challenges and projects, with planning and hard work, sure, but faith and humor helps as well. One year, those organizing prom wanted to take attendees to Paris, France, but in the auxiliary gym. He described the efforts made by students to organize, to assemble, and to recreate the allure of the French capital.

After all the work, not everything wanted to go together

right. He shared that he was standing with fellow teacher Allison Vincell. While not perfect, Eason related that "one of us said at least it will be dark. This turned out to be very true." He also shared, "It became the longest running joke in the building."

It also turned out to be wisdom. Eason said, "Sometimes, things that seem like a huge deal just need to be looked at from a different perspective or in a different light." He added, "It wasn't just your success that shaped you into who you are today. It was also your willingness to never give up and to persevere when times get tough."

And all of Pendleton County Schools appreciates that willingness to dedicate to excellence, no matter the classroom or venue of competition.

The class of 2026, along with those immediately before and after, carried a special burden in their academic careers. COVID lockdowns kept students away from precious academic time, pushing many to try to learn in less-than-ideal environments. The school system itself took a hit in the areas that mattered most, attendance and academic scores.

Pendleton County's Board of Education, superintendents, central office staff, administrators, faculty, and supporting staff had the challenge of battling back placed in front of them. While the hard work of bringing performance back on their side has been well-documented, it could not have happened without Wildcat pride. Students took pride in their schools and themselves, responded to calls for better attendance, put in the work in class and in testing, and helped their schools raise their games.

All the athletic success enjoyed by this class represents a certain level of grit, determination, and pride, but the academic side took just as much work, for which all Pendleton County Schools officials have reflected great pride and appreciation.

And the work of this class is not yet done. This week, the softball team traveled to Charleston to defend their state title while the baseball squad travels to Huntington in June to make their mark on the state tournament.

But wherever they go, whatever they accomplish, they will remember Lambert's words.

"You are Pendleton County High School."

Keyser, Hudson Recognized at FFA Banquet

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members prepare for the state tractor driving contest.

Since his oldest daughter is a current member of the chapter, he has expanded his duties which include helping pull the FFA officers through the Treasure Mountain Festival parade, dressing up as the Grinch at the Regional FFA Christmas Party, and serving as a chaperone for the upcoming State FFA Convention.

He is a member of Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, West Virginia Farm Bureau, the National and WV Cattlemen's associations, and the WV Purebred Sheep Breeders Association. He also serves on the WV Beef Industry Council, is the sale committee chairman for the Tri-County Fair, and is very active with the Mountain State Show Series.

He enjoys hunting, fishing, and eating a good marbled rib eye along with some crab legs.

Keyser resides in Upper Tract with his wife, Kami, and two daughters, Katie and Kallie. He runs stocker cattle on pasture each summer and helps out with farm chores on the 3M Cattle Company Farm. In addition to the beef cattle operation, he and his family own and operate Keyser Sisters Show Lambs where they own a flock of 30 ewes and raise club lambs. They have shown successfully on the local, state, and national levels.

Hudson, chapter advisor and agriculture teacher who is retiring after 30 years at Pendleton County Middle/High School, was also honored. A video and a tribute to Hudson was presented by the chapter officers, Sam Eason, Cole Harper, Katie Heavner, Ty Heavner, Katie Keyser and Jessica Parker.

"And on the ninth day, after God made a farmer, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, 'I need somebody to educate people about the land and ways of the world.' So, God made an Ag Teacher.

God said, 'I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, check on agricultural projects, go to school, argue with Missy about retiring without her, teach kids, get yelled at by Janice, and of course us, eat supper, go back to town and stay past midnight at the Ham, Bacon & Egg Show and Sale.' So, God made an Ag Teacher.

Ronald H. Judson, Jr., is an agriculture teacher and CTE director at Pendleton County Middle-High School, where he teaches students in grades 7-12. He covers a wide range of topics like forestry, horticulture, livestock, ag mechanics, and animal science. With over 20 years of experience, he's passionate about helping students succeed and grow as leaders.

God said, 'I need somebody who can teach about crop production, livestock evaluation, welding horticulture, tractor restoration, wildlife management and veterinary technology. And...who, during leadership events, stock shows and career development events can finish their 40-hour week by Tuesday noon. Then paining from back pain, lack of sleep and unbalanced meals, pit in another 72 hours.' So, God made an Ag Teacher.

Mr. Hudson was born in 1970 and lived in South Wales, New York. He grew up with three siblings and his parents, Ronald and Thelma. Ron graduated from Iroquois Central High School. He earned two associate degrees from the State University of New York at Alfred in animal science and general agriculture. He then earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural education from West Virginia University.

'I need somebody willing to stay after school to reteach students how to enter in Supervised Agricultural Experiences expenses in their record book for the Millionth time.' So, God made an Ag Teacher.

God had to have somebody willing to spend long trips away from their families, countless hours working on projects and numerous days away from home going to judging contests, conventions and project shows, all for their students. So, God made an Ag Teacher.

Mr. Hudson now lives in Buffalo Hills with his wife, Jamie. His oldest daughter, Sydney, lives in Fairmont, where she is an elementary school teacher, with her husband, Zack, and son, Jackson. Madison lives in Morgantown, where she is a nurse, with her husband, Davy, and newborn son. Mackenzie is an elementary school teacher and lives in Morgantown. Mr. Hudson now operates a cow-calf operation on his farm in Buffalo Hills.

God said, 'I need somebody who can be a mentor for the community, with a big heart and a helping hand willing to give the shirt off his back to help a fellow friend or family member...somebody who cares about their students and wants to provide them with the best knowledge possible.' So, God made an Ag Teacher.

Mr. Hudson started his teaching career in Hedgesville in 1993. Fast forward to February 1995, Franklin High School has a new agricultural teacher, Ron Hudson. Pendleton County welcomed the Yankee with open arms. Now, he thrives in the ag department by running hands-on programs

that include a meat processing lab and a greenhouse. As the FFA advisor, he's helped students earn major awards and recognition on the state and national levels.

It has to be somebody who will write lessons to teach their students each week and remember that learning is by doing...somebody who will train teams, explain to kids about economic trends and current events affecting agriculture, help students apply for scholarships, balance program budgets and promote agriculture to the world...somebody who will unwillingly enter into politics and research new technology all for the sake of improving the industry, as they know it. So, God made an Ag Teacher.

Outside the classroom, Mr. Hudson took full advantage of gaining experience and knowledge by serving as the president of the Regional Ag Teacher Association and by working on the American Degree Application committee. He applied that knowledge and experience to ensure his students and the Pendleton County FFA Chapter were always advancing.

Somebody who will start the weekend at 7 a.m., tend to animals, fix needed machinery, commit to chores, spend time with family and friends and finish the long weekend with a 10-mile drive to church...somebody who'd bale a community and a family together with soft strong bonds of sharing and commitment and when asked, "Is this job really worth all its time?" They'd reply with a smile on their face and a tear in their eye, "Every day I get up, I get to teach kids and God's creations and ways of the world. I have the best job there is." So, God made an Ag Teacher.

Thanks to the opportunities Mr. Hudson has given his students, they have been able to accomplish 58 American Degrees, 128 State Degrees, around 30 National Chapter Awards, numerous livestock evaluation teams, countless poultry evaluation awards, tractor driving trophies, various parliamentary procedure teams, multiple national finalists, several land and homesite evaluation awards and so much more."

'Our Five Boys' Memorial Day Remembrance

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termaster for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and retired from military service as a command master chief. O' Toole also mentioned that Light actively supported the Potomac Highlands Wounded Warrior project of planning outdoor recreation outings for veterans, saying, "He comes up annually for the bear hunt."

Light spoke of the value and meaning of what he described as a "remembrance" and not a holiday in the typical sense of the term. "This is not the unofficial first day of summer," he noted "but a sacred remembrance . . . of those who gave the last full measure of devotion." The honor, virtue, courage, and sense of duty behind the sacrifices remembered on Memorial Day are more than "just a phrase on a banner or a hashtag on social media."

As Light spoke, the healing rains that had blessed Pendleton County in recent days rose from a sprinkle to a roar that even the microphone could not overcome. All in attendance understood the military maxim of "the first thing in battle to go out the window is the plan." George Armstrong and O'Toole invited those in attendance to go ahead and eat until the rain slackened off and then Light could return to his talk.

On hand for the luncheon was a selection of roast beef, ham, or turkey sandwiches and also several different pies.

After lunch and as the rain eased a bit, Light returned to the podium to conclude his remarks. He quipped and

smiled, "I do apologize for bringing the rain," then continued to honor "ordinary people who were called upon to do extraordinary things."

His talk finished with the fact that "freedom is not a gift, but a debt . . . paid for with the blood of our truest patriots."

At the center of the service comes the reading of the young men that Pendleton County lost in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Then Armstrong informed the crowd that the program would then go a little bit "off script."

Jerry Ruddle, Vietnam veteran, expressed that "it's an honor to be here" and shared some memories. Then came a ceremony in which the VFW honored a family respecting its military heritage and traditions. Missy Harrison brought with her the military possessions of Eston Propst to officially transfer those items to her daughter.

Propst was a private first class who joined the service in 1956. Those possessions included his dog tags, DD-214, Korean cash, flight tickets, uniform, and "the military flag draped over his coffin after his 2020 death that was handed to his 98-year-old mother."

The possessions were then duly passed to the next generation with the blessing of VFW Post 9666.

After this emotional moment came the laying of the wreath and the playing of taps.

Downs then closed out with a prayer. All were invited to stay on "as long as you like."

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Franklin Lions Club Golf Tournament
Saturday, July 25
The Highlands at Fisher Mountain
18 Holes Captain's Choice
9 a.m. Shotgun Start
Lunch by Charlotte Thompson
**Cost for golf rounds, lunch, prizes and a donation
to our local Lions Club: \$80/person**
Send entry information to PO Box 774, Franklin,
WV 26807 or Nicole Marsh 304-668-1237

**Annual
EYE FAMILY REUNION**
Sunday, July 5
Thorn Spring Park Pavilion
Franklin
Program begins at 10:30 a.m.
Potluck Lunch To Follow

Heavner, Boyer Earn Golden Horseshoe Award



In June, Pendleton County eighth-graders, Hannah Heavner and Weston Boyer, will be dubbed Knights of the Golden Horseshoe.

The West Virginia Department of Education has announced the winners of the prestigious 2026 Golden Horseshoe Award, honoring outstanding eighth-grade students for their exceptional knowledge of West Virginia history and culture.

Pendleton County's winners are Hannah Heavner and Weston Boyer.

Their accomplishment with the Golden Horseshoe Award not only highlights their academic talents but also shows a deeper appreciation for their heritage. As these young scholars continue their educational journeys, they carry with them a profound understanding of their state's past, which will undoubtedly inspire their future contributions to West Virginia and beyond. Boyer and Heavner will travel to Charleston in June to become Knights of the Golden Horseshoe.

The Golden Horseshoe Award is a long-standing tradition in West Virginia, dating back to 1931. It is one of the oldest programs of its kind in the United States, celebrating students who have demonstrated an exceptional understanding of the state's rich history, significant events, and cultural heritage. Each year, eighth-grade students across the state are invited to participate in a rigorous assessment that tests their knowledge of the Mountain State.

The tradition of awarding the Golden Horseshoe is steeped in history. It was inspired by the original Golden Horseshoe Expedition of 1716, led by then-Governor Alexander Spotswood of Virginia. Spotswood awarded his companions golden horseshoes for their exploration beyond the Allegheny Mountains, a significant achievement.

Show Kids You Care
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Newly inducted members of the Pendleton County High School John M. Dice Chapter of the National Honor Society are, from left, front row, Jax Bennett, Summer Hull, Alaena Fertig, Allison Reuss, Callina Dunn, Kayla Harper, Phoebe Pownell, Shayne Clutter, Charity Chan, Katie Keyser, and Kaylee Teter; and back row, Chloe Kisamore, Benjamin Puffenbarger, Dylan Eye, Sam Eason, Colton Roberson, Travis Owens, Mason Harper, Katie Heavner, and Chesnee Colaw.

PCHS Students Inducted into National Honor Society

The National Honor Society is an elite organization that recognizes students who have met high academic standards, as well as service to their school and/or community.

On April 27, current members of the Pendleton County High School John M. Dice Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 20 new members (19 sophomores and one junior) into the organization.

Newly inducted members were junior Summer Hull and sophomores Jax Bennett, Charity Chan, Shayne Clutter, Chesnee Colaw, Callina Dunn, Sam Eason, Dylan Eye, Alaena Fertig, Kayla Harper, Mason Harper, Katie Heavner, Katie Keyser, Chloe Kisamore, Travis Owens, Phoebe Pownell, Benjamin Puffenbarger, Allison Reuss, Colton Roberson, and Kaylee Teter.

Carolyn Varner, president, was emcee of the ceremony. A candle lighting ceremony highlighted the four pillars of the National Honor Society - scholarship, service, leadership and character. To be a member of the National Honor Society, students must uphold the four pillars of the organization.

The scholarship candle was lit by Breena Bowers, vice president. Students are required to obtain and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5.

The service candle was lit by Gena Lambert, parliamentarian. Service involves voluntary contributions made by a student and done without compensation. Each individual student is required to provide some hours of service within their communities in the county. Students have to acquire 15 hours of service to remain an active member in the local organization per school year.

The leadership candle was lit by Callie Judy, treasurer. Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, and idea contributors. Leadership experiences can

be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others. Students are required to be an active participant in at least one other school related organization/extracurricular activity.

The character candle was lit by Leah Nesselrodt, secretary. The student of good character is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability and shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others.

This year, chapter members provided service at the Treasurer Mountain Festival, held food drives at the school, provided tutoring, read to students at the county's three elementary schools and helped with the Easter egg activities at the elementary schools, in addition to their individual service.

Senior members of the local chapter are Varner, Bowers, Nesselrodt, Larissa Greathouse, Lambert, Madison Arbaugh, Corbin Dove, Kiera Heavener, Makinley Hedrick, Dakota Huffman, Ruby McClanahan, Jameigh Miller, Jaiden Mitts, Chase Owens, Emily Poling, Vivian Pownell, Kammeron Redman, Taylor Roberson, Gabriella Trail, and Brynlynn Waggy. Junior members include Judy, Alex Adams, Zander Adams, Trey Armentrout, Cayson Armstrong, Olivia Gonsior, Ty Heavner, Cole Harper, Spencer Hartman, Cain Nulph, Jessica Parker, Liam Simmons, Susan Vincell, and Kourtney Whetzel.

Chapter advisor is Derek Hinkle. The induction ceremony ended with the National Honor Society Pledge – “I pledge to uphold...The high purposes of the National Honor Society To which I have been selected; I will be true to the principles for which it stands; And will maintain and encourage The high standards Of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.”

PCHS Students Observe Pi Day

Pi Day is celebrated on March 14th (3/14) to honor the mathematical constant (π) approximately 3.14, which represents the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. Founded in 1988 by physicist Larry Shaw, it is recognized for math education, eating pie, and, coincidentally, marks Albert Einstein's birthday.

For more than 20 years, Cathy Bennett's trig/precalculus students at Pendleton County High School have been celebrating Pi Day by participating in various activities. They have written poems, stories and songs about Pi. The students have described

objects in terms of pi from Paden Rightsell's truck tire to Aiden Baily's cup. They have displayed facts on posters, socks, shirts, buttons, Power Points and hats. Because it is Albert Einstein's birthday, the students have celebrated with various flavors of pie, scones, cake, cookies and pizza.

One popular activity students like to participate in is a Pi contest memorizing the most digits of pi. This year Chase Owens memorized 56 digits making him the class winner. Previous record holders are Braelyn Young Simmons with 186 digits followed by Brandy Roberts with 151 digits.

The official Guinness World Record holder for the most decimal places of Pi memorized is Rajveer Meena from India, who recalled 70,000 digits on March 21, 2015.



Pendleton County students participating in Pi Day activities included, from left, Corbin Dove, Chase Owens, Leah Nesselrodt and Ty Heavner.

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JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION AT THE FORMER UPPER TRACT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 UPPER TRACT, WV
 Sunday, June 7 • 2:00 PM

Enjoy:

- A tour of the historic church
- A replica of the John Dahmer home
- Early farming tools and local artifacts
- Civil War camp exhibit
- Revolutionary Colonial representative
- A children's craft and children's games
- A wool spinning demonstration
- Split bottom chair demonstration
- Music by the Pendleton Dulcimer Dames

A lunch made by Tina Eye will be available for purchase. Parking will be at the former Upper Tract Elementary School.
Bring your lawn chair and spend the afternoon celebrating the people, stories and traditions that shaped Pendleton County.

May Is Better Hearing Month

Hear Your Best
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Appointments are limited!

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Todd Ellifritz, HIS
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10 Years Ago
Week of May 26, 2016

Plans Are Underway To Save Drive-In

After a year of developing a community working group, negotiating with the landowners, researching new digital movie projectors and forming a non-profit organization, Warner Drive-In is on its way to being opened once again.

The organization, the Warner-Drive-In Cultural and Resource Center, Inc., is signing a two-year lease/purchase agreement with Franklin Oil Company, owners of the property. Jeffrey F. Bowers of Bowers and Bowers, PLC, of Franklin worked with WDI and FOC and to secure the property.

"Jeff [Bowers] did a fabulous job. We would not be this close without his help," stated Bob Davis, chairman of WDI. "We have two years to raise the purchase price but our fund-raising efforts need to start immediately because of the cost of converting to digital movie projectors, refurbishing of the concession stand and upgrades to the drive-in structures."

Once closed, the community realized the importance of the drive-in, and several citizens decided to do something about it.

A sign-up book to save the drive-in was placed at The Korner Shop Cafe in Franklin. In just a few months, hundreds of people shared memories of times past and the desire to bring their children for such a unique experience.

A "Save the Drive-In" Facebook page was started, and the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau offered the office and staff to get the "ball rolling."

A group of local citizens together and formed the WDI. "We weren't sure we could do it, but we kept plugging away," stated Jessica Basagic, treasurer of the group. "We took it one step at a time and crossed each hurdle as it came up."

30 Years Ago
Week of May 23, 1996

Circleville High School Honor Graduates

Sandra Mae Heavener, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Heavener of Cabins, has been named 1996 Circleville High School valedictorian with a grade point average of 92.4.

Salutatorian of the 1996 Circleville High School graduating class is Christopher Paul Sites with an 89 grade point average. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Sites of Seneca Rocks.

Jake Wins First Place In West Virginia Rabbit Club Hunt

Jake, a beagle owned by Richie Shreve of Franklin, won first place in the open class division of a hunt

hosted by the West Virginia Eastern Panhandle Rabbit Hunters Club in Old Fields on April 21.

Week of May 30, 1996

93 to Graduate From Two Pendleton County High Schools

A total of 93 students will graduate from Pendleton County's two high schools this weekend. Twenty-four will graduate from Circleville High School and 69 will receive diplomas at Franklin High School.

40 Years Ago
Week of May 22, 1986

Circleville High School Honor Students

The valedictorian of the 1986 graduating class of Circleville High School is Richard Wayne Rhodes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rhodes. His cumulative grade point average is 92.89.

The salutatorian of the 1986 graduating class is Sandra Ann Harper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Harper of Riverton. Her cumulative grade point average is 92.83.

Mauzy's Chicken Hen Helps with Election

On Monday afternoon, May 12, Ralph Mauzy of Cherry Grove hurried in from sewing grass seed to go to Franklin to pick up supplies for the election.

Not thinking to check his truck carefully before leaving home, Mr. Mauzy and Mrs. Harding started placing supplies in the truck only to find one of his hens in the corner of his truck bed on a nest she had made.

Startled, when they began loading the truck, the hen tried to escape. Mr. Mauzy was quick enough to catch her, tie her legs and get her back home.

They haven't decided if she just wanted to ride to Franklin or if she wanted to help get supplies ready for the election.

Should Mrs. Chick decide to raise a family, the names of the Baby Chicks shall be "Democrat," "Republican," and "Independent."

Week of May 29, 1986

Pendleton High Schools Will Graduate 90 Sunday

Ninety Pendleton County students will be honored Sunday at commencement exercises and baccalaureate services at Franklin and Circleville high schools. Seventy-five seniors will graduate from Franklin High School, and 15 will receive diplomas at Circleville High School.

Department of Highways Spent \$4.5 Million In Pendleton After Flood

After the killing waters of November 5 and 6 surged through the eastern counties of West Virginia, destroying

everything in their path, it was hard to imagine that roads and bridges had ever existed in some locations, so extensive was the damage to highway facilities.

Four months later, when calls to Department of Highways information personnel from news media in neighboring states of Maryland and Virginia began including commendations to the department for restoring transportation so rapidly, it was hard to imagine that highways personnel and contractors alike had scoured ravaged riverbeds for material that had once been and was now again the base for a roadway that had been erected 600-foot-long bridges in six weeks' time, that their gamble on the durability of pavement placed at sub-freezing temperatures had paid off.

The West Virginia Department of Highways spent more than \$4.5 million in Pendleton County in emergency work following the flood.

The DOH erected six bridges at a total cost of \$1,507,463, resurfaced destroyed road at a cost of \$935,841, spent \$371,117 on correcting slides and installing tile, \$854,956 on cleaning culverts, and installed two mobile home sites at a cost of \$854,530.

50 Years Ago
Week of May 27, 1976

4 Students Win Golden Horseshoes

State Superintendent of Schools, Daniel B. Taylor, has announced who received the Golden Horseshoe Award in Charleston May 21.

Four eighth-grade students from each county and one student from the Schools for the Deaf and Blind at Romney who scored the highest in their county on a test about West Virginia participated in the day-long activities, which included assemblies in the House of Delegates chambers, the taking of a group picture on the steps of the capitol and tours of Sunrise Museum and the Governor's Mansion.

Awarded Golden Horseshoes from Pendleton County were Gary Mullenax of Upper Tract Elementary School, Mary Miller of Brandywine Elementary School, and Cheryl Boggs and Lisa Painter of Franklin Elementary School.

Franklin High School Honor Students

Valedictorian at Franklin High School is Mary Catherine Slusher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Leo Slusher of Franklin. Her scholastic average is 96.842.

Salutatorian of this year's graduating class at Franklin High School is Terry L. Simmons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Simmons of Franklin. Her four year grade average is 95.568.

Circleville High School

To Graduate 28 Seniors

Graduation exercises will be conducted Sunday at Circleville High School where 28 seniors will receive their high school diplomas.

REEDS CREEK

A group from Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania, are spending three weeks in West Virginia on a trip called "The Wilderness Encounter," doing hiking, canoeing, rock climbing and caving. They hiked through Reeds Creek to the Old Mountain Road, Saturday, then to Seneca Caverns and Seneca Rocks. In the group stopping at the Big Spring at Eston Simmons' in Reeds Creek and the Fish Hatchery were Phil Heydt, New Jersey, Dave Sultana, Maryland, Tom Witter, Sky Kershner, Ruth Showalter, Pennsylvania, and Debora Reumann of California.

Raymond Smith picked up a group near Rt. 33 and brought them to the Old Mountain Road to join the other group to go over North Mountain.

Big Trout Caught Here

Mrs. Mildred Clevenger of Franklin caught a 21.5 inch, three pound, 10 ounce rainbow trout in the South Branch of the Potomac River south of Franklin Monday afternoon. Her bait was two cheese eggs, a red fluorescent one and a white one.

60 Years Ago
Week of May 26, 1966

Health Regulations Relaxed on Serving Food

Changes have recently occurred in health department regulations governing the serving of community meals.

In November 1964, the following were established by the West Virginia Board of Health:

- (1) Any organization serving community meals must obtain a permit from the county health department.
 - (2) Food must come from approved sources.
 - (3) Food service workers must wear clean clothing, use proper hair restraints (nets or caps), and follow good personal hygiene practices.
 - (4) Home-canned foods are prohibited.
 - (5) Food shall be protected from contamination.
 - (6) All potentially hazardous food shall be maintained at safe temperatures (40 degrees F or below, or 140 degrees F or above).
 - (7) Thawing of food at room temperature is prohibited.
- More changes could occur in the future.
- Regardless of the legal regulations, those persons involved in food service should take every precaution to protect the health of their guests and customers.

Franklin Panther Nine Racks Up 7-3 Record

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Smith Creek/Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

The 2025/2026 school year for students ends today. Students will have a summer break for three months, plus being away from school is a major break.

After having high temperatures for a few days and being in a drought, the area finally got some relief with several days of rain. Now the grass is growing and will need cutting after the rain stops.

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 and Carol Propst; prayer list — Richard Campbell, Joshua Shirk, Ava George, Kenny Williams, Ruth Bauer, Rick Waggy, Gloria Moats, Jim Fawley, Ruthalene Judy, Jessie Simmons, Minny Rhoads, David Berg, Troy Bennett, Danny Nelson, Tom and Judy Borrer, David M. Parkinson, Cleo Simmons, Jimmie Bennett, Tom Butterworth, Sherry Hedrick, Bobby Parsons, Robert Bennett, Rick Phares, Virgil "Bub" Yokum, Hannah Hedrick, John Moyers, Norma Auvick, Shana Johnson, Bruce Lambert, Sherry Chambers, Donald Burns, Glenn Sites, Shirley Bland, Wayne Simmons, Jennifer Scott, Brian Calhoun, Bobby Bodkin, Chris Phares, Robin Gery, Nancy George, Grace Hammer, Paul Borrer, Holly Beachler, Cameron Beachler, Marcia C. Warner, Keith Kimble, Lisa Dingess, Kitty Waggy, Gretta Pope, Mary Lou Waggoner, Lucy Westfall, Brenda A. Sponaugle, Donna Bennett, Peggy Pitsenbarger, Amy VanMeter and the family of Donna Simpson.

Prayer thought: "We can take courage knowing that God is there to help us. We're safe in His loving and mighty hands."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for May 18 through May 24, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: May 18 - 91°, 54° (69°, 59°), May 19 - 90°, 60° (73°, 53°), May 20 - 89°, 61°, .44" (72°, 43°, .01"), May 21 - 62°, 52°, 1.36" (66°, 56°, .75"), May 22 - 58°, 50°, 1.66" (60°, 49°, .11"), May 23 - 55°, 49°, .32" (55°, 45°) and May 24 - 74°, 50°, .16" (67°, 46°).

A NIGHT OF

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\$50
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- Drinks
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- Silent auction
- Live music

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Your friends from Mercer, PA, hope to see you at Vacation Bible School this summer!

Circleville Presbyterian Church
June 22 - 26
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Ages 4 to 18
NO Cost. Lunch will be provided daily.

Van pickup at 9 a.m. at the following locations:
Base of Big Mountain • Brethren Church
Big Run Chapel • Riverton Store
(Van drop off will be at the same locations at 12:45 p.m.)
Parents may also drop children off at 9 a.m. and pick them up at 12:30 p.m. at Circleville Presbyterian Church
Questions, call Miss Nancy at 724-977-1610.

Life's Bounties Favor Simplicity to the Beholder

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

The happiest people the writer knows are those who are constantly grateful for all of their blessings.

They are meticulous in that they not only appreciate life's big gifts such as good health and family, but also inconspicuous joys such as a cool summer breeze, a beautiful sunset, a child's smile, a good book, clean laundry, the ability to read and write, showers, snow, not given a ticket by the trooper, a job, carpet on a cool morning, and the list goes on and on.

When talking with these people, it is very difficult to have a pity party because they won't come. Instead, they smile and say things like, "Your lawn looks great," "Your flowers are gorgeous," "So and so was singing your praises today," and "Your kids are smart."

These "soldiers of gratitude" not only medicate themselves with contentment but bring much joy to others.

As parents, one's children become what one teaches them — what they desire, what they hate, what they hope to become, what they respect, and what they believe. It has been said that imparting inspiration through one's heart...the most intimate thoughts on values, family heritage, and faith...start by sharing the best advice a person ever got; cherished memories of uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, parents, and grandparents; best friends; the dangers of drugs and alcohol use; what one thinks is very special about them; one's biggest fears; the dangers of illicit sexual conduct; one's personal relationship with God; the biggest failures and saddest times; the most embarrassing moment; favorite books, movies, musicians, songs, authors; and one's personal philosophies on work, religion, dating, marriage, parenthood, morality, character, failure, success, and death. These could be some of the conversational topics. They come from the heart.

In order to pass on all goodness that one has to offer, a person must share one's heart, thoughts, time, memories, words and oneself.

Life's little instructions for daily living include the following:

1. Hug one's children every day.
2. Leave everything a little better than a person found it.
3. Plant flowers.
4. Relish in small pleasures.
5. Compliment someone every day.

Rain...glorious rain...was well received here in the Sugar Grove community, and appeared to medicate the bones and revive the spirit. Depending on the location, it would be accurate in saying that from Thursday to Monday, more than 3 inches had fallen. Everywhere, the river was flowing in quite a steady beat, and the earthworm's toil was one of unending satisfaction.

Quotes for the week are as follows:

"In a gentle way, you can shake the world." — Mahatma Gandhi

"You cannot do a kindness too soon for you never know how soon it will be too late." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

"You know, I am who I am." — Kyle Bush

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind it



Brandywine Elementary School students, from left, front row, Carly Mitchell; middle row, Macie Mitchell and Bethany Teagarden; and back row, Dylan Eye, were county winners of the Young Writer's Contest.

doesn't matter." — Mark Twain

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." — Albert Einstein

Sitting under an umbrella to hear the "Talk of Sugar Grove" is the best place to be.

Brandywine Elementary School held its spring concert this past week, with a crowded gymnasium of family members. The students performed an evening of songs that were enjoyed by all. Plate auctions were held for each class...a one of a kind... proved to be a successful fundraiser.

Donna and Bill Arrington attended a reunion at Middle Mountain, Bluegrass, Virginia. It had been 48 years that most of the attendees were together since youngsters. As Donna said, "Good food, good people."

Linda and Benny Custer of Verona, Virginia, were Friday visitors of Judy and Willard Rader.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9666 "Our Five Boys" had their Memorial Day ceremony Monday at the Richard Homan Memorial Park. A nice crowd from the community enjoyed the program, which was interrupted by a torrent of rain. Highlights were of Amy Homan DePoy who spoke of memories pertaining to her father, Richard Homan, Kevin Light, the principal speaker, and Missy Harrison's military possessions of her father, Private 1st class Eston W. Propst, that were honorably passed in to the care of the next generation, to her niece,

Katelyn Propst Frank.

Roger Bodkin visited last Thursday with Charles and "Pidge" Anderson.

Weekend visitors of Tom and Paula Mitchell were Jennifer, Tim and Morgan Hoover of Bridgewater, Virginia, Janelle, Jace, and Destiny Sroka of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Mike and Kimberly Burns of York, South Carolina.

Rhonda and Helen Nash recently hosted a small gathering at their home in honor of Diane Healey's birthday. Diane's daughter, Marianne Fox of Richmond, Virginia, Dan Wheeler, and Norman Wilfong all joined in the celebration of balloons, cards, gifts, ice cream, and Dan's wonderful homemade chocolate cake made for a delightful and fun time together.

Congratulations to the graduates from "this neck of the woods," namely, Logan Fisher, Bethany Eye, and Chase Owens. The future is yours! Make the best of it!

Montana and Troy Hise welcomed Elsie Koenig on May 16. She weighed in at 7 pounds 10 ounces and measured 19 inches. Both mother and baby are doing just fine. Elsie is the granddaughter of Jim and the late Karla Moats. Congratulations!

Clickety-clacks for the chin waggors are as follows:

- O Negative is the universal blood type.
- Edward Teach was the notorious pirate known as "Blackbeard."

• There are eight major islands making up Hawaii.

• The only even prime number is 2.

• The famous physicist, Albert Einstein, was a high school dropout.

June birthdays include Bryan Simmons and Linda T. Rexrode, second; Karen Pitsenbarger, third; Carolyn Sponaugle, fourth; Dinah Mitchel and Dale Wilfong, sixth; Kaisley Kiser, eighth; Bryard Mitts, ninth; Brianna Roberts, Paden Rightsell and Mike Armstrong 10th; Jaden Roberson and Betty Rexrode, 11th; Ed Keller, Carolyn Wilfong and Stanley Kile, 12th; and Betty Gail Hartman, 13th.

Concerns are for the family of Dillion Armstrong, Mercedes Aumann, Dave Basagic, "Bo" and Dora Boggs, Larry Byers, Stanley Dahmer, Isaac Eye, Carl Gant, Clyde Hamilton, Armanda and Steve Heavner, Keith Hoover, Cynthia Hurry, Gary Jamison, Mike and Lisa Jamison, Tara Kelley, Lori Ann Lambert, Melissa Lambert, Yvonne Marsh, Dottie Mitchell, Alda Propst, Sheldon Propst, Bernie and Margaret Sasser, Robbie Sites, Kitty Waggy and Edwin Wimer.

SEALED BID VEHICLE FOR SALE

The Pendleton County Commission will offer for sale the following surplus vehicle.

1997 Ford Ambulance, 4 x 4, diesel engine, 74,744 miles, running condition

Make perfect tool rig for contractors. **Sold AS-IS.**

See photos on Pendleton County WV Office of Emergency Management/911 Facebook page.

• Bids will be accepted until 4:00 pm on June 15, 2026.

• Bids will be opened on June 16 at 8:45 am.

• Highest bidder will be notified.

• Mark Envelopes "VAN BID ENCLOSED."

• Mail to Pendleton County Commission, PO Box 187, Franklin, WV 26807.

• Or, drop-off at the County Administrator's Office at the Courthouse.

Pendleton County not responsible for lost/late mail or delivery of any kind.

Questions, call (304) 902-9008

Circleville HIGH SCHOOL Class of 1971



Saturday, June 13 • 5 p.m.

Circleville High School Gym

RSVP by June 8 to

Ann Huffman Nelson, 304-358-7338 or

Diane Hedrick McMorro, 304-567-2681



NOTICE

The Pendleton County Sheriff's Tax Office will be closed from Thursday May 28, 2026 thru Monday June 22, 2026 due to office renovations.

During this closure, no one will be available to collect your taxes, take concealed weapon applications or anything else paid in this office.

If you need to speak with law enforcement during this time, please call the 911's non-emergency number at 304-358-3271.

Thank you,
The Sheriffs Tax Office
Bradley D. Kimble, Sheriff

HELP WANTED CONTRACTED BUS DRIVERS PENDLETON COUNTY SCHOOLS

• Ellwood Lane, Circleville to Pendleton County Middle/High School A.M. and P.M. Runs

Rate: \$60/day plus mileage

Contract drivers must meet the requirements including having automobile liability coverage of a minimum of \$1,000,000, insurance plan, have a WV Division of Motor Vehicles (WVDMV) inspection annually, have a Criminal Investigation (CIB) and FBI background checks, a DMV background check, Class D Driver's License, be First Aid/CPR/AED certified, pass an operator physical examination annually, pass a WVDOT pre-employment drug testing, and a minimum of 8 hours of approved training.

Please apply by July 1 to

Kristy Tritapoe

Pendleton County Schools

304-358-2207, x9322

<http://www.pendletoncounty schools.com>

kristy.tritapoe@k12.wv.us

VACANCY NOTICE

PENDLETON COUNTY SCHOOLS

is seeking contracted services for

Physical Therapy Special Education Services

Approximately 8 to 10 hours per week
\$50/hour

For additional information, contact:

Ms. Kristy Tritapoe, Assistant Superintendent
Pendleton County Board of Education

128 North Main Street

P.O. Box 888

Franklin, WV 26807

Telephone: 304-358-2207

Email: kristy.tritapoe@k12.wv.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pendleton County Building Permit

Residents of Pendleton County are reminded that a building permit must be obtained before beginning construction on any of the following:

- New homes or cabins
- Farm buildings or poultry houses
- Single-wide or double-wide homes
- Residential or prefabricated buildings
- Additions to existing homes or structures

Permits may be obtained at the Pendleton County Assessor's Office, located in the County Courthouse. Failure to secure a permit prior to construction may result in penalties or fines as mandated by the County Commission.

There is no fee for obtaining a building permit.

Additional requirements may apply:

- If your property is located in a flood zone, please contact Floodplain Coordinator Bruce Minor at 304-358-3889 prior to construction.
- If constructing a dwelling that requires a septic system permit or well drilling, contact County Sanitarian Brooke Hott at 304-358-7565.
- If adding electrical service to a structure, contact Mon Power at 1-800-686-0022.

For questions or further information, please contact the Assessor's Office or Sandie H. Smith, Assessor of Pendleton County, at 304-358-2563.

This notice is provided to help ensure compliance with county regulations and to assist residents in planning their construction projects accordingly.

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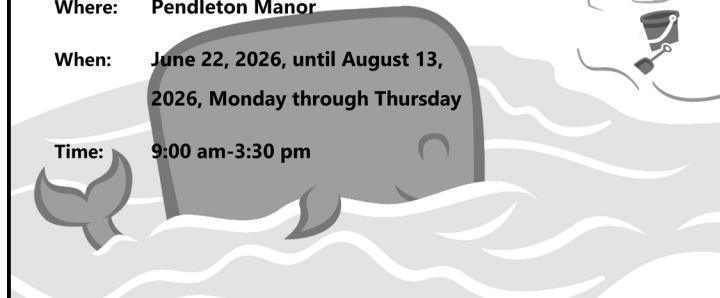
June-August

Contact Sharon Jamison at 304-358-2322 Ext 3440 or email at sjamison@pendletonmanor.org, or visit Pendleton Manor and fill out an application

Where: Pendleton Manor

When: June 22, 2026, until August 13, 2026, Monday through Thursday

Time: 9:00 am-3:30 pm



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"Serving the area for more than 45 years"

Pendleton County Track Establishes Program Presence at States

By Stephen Smoot

Only a few years ago, Pendleton County track was just a dream. No home facility, no place to hold a proper practice, no equipment, but definitely athletes and interest.

Two years ago, the coaches were working to build a team. Last year, that team sent representatives to states.

This year the Wildcats arrived as a squad ready to make its mark at the conference, regional, and state levels in both boys' and girls' events. The girls side triumphed in their region while the boys team sent a number of competitors who showed the potential of Wildcat track for years to come.

Travis Owens made a little history, earning his way to state competition in track while also helping to pitch and hit the Wildcat baseball team to state tournament play as well.

The 400-meter race saw Cameron Wyatt placing 11th with a personal best time of 53.67.

In the 4x200 relays, the team of Owens, Cayson Armstrong, Sam Eason, and Wyatt ran for 10th place with a 1:39.9. The 4x400 team of Wyatt, Cain Nulph, Cayden Minor-Figueroa, and Eason ran for 14th and a personal best of 4:01.28. For the 4x110 shuttle hurdles event, the team of Logan Fisher, Minor-Figueroa, Armstrong, and Jonah See placed 10th with a 1:14.20.

On the girls' side, individuals and relay teams also competed well.

Olivia Gonshor ran in the 400-meter race, placing 14th with a time of 1:13.63.



Cayden Minor-Figueroa leaps over a hurdle in the 4x110. Photo courtesy of Light in Motion.

In the 800, Allison Reuss took 14th with 3:00.37, followed directly by Shayne Clutter in 15th earning a mark of 3:08.16. Callie Dunn gave her team a 12th place finish in the 1600 with a time of 6:18.13 and eighth in the 3200 with a personal best of 13:36.56.

The 4x200 team of Carly Kimble, Charity Chan, Arianna Alt, and Gonshor took 11th with a personal best of 2:02.74. Gonshor, Reuss, Makayla Turner, and Kimble in the 4x400



Teammates and even rivals join for a bit of goofiness on a championship day. Photo courtesy of Light in Motion.

placed 14th with a time of 5:29.26. For the 4x800 race, a personal best time of 12:12.34 and eighth place was earned by Reuss, Clutter, Evie Nulph, and Dunn.

In the 4x102.5 shuttle hurdles, a ninth-place finish with a time of 1:23.83, a personal best, was taken by Kimble, Nulph, Dunn, and McKenzie Vandevander.

Medals were earned by Dunn for the 3200 and the girls 4x800 team.

Wildcats Bulldog Tygarts Valley Twice to Go to States

By Stephen Smoot

Through the season the two teams battled like, well, cats and dogs. Tygarts Valley and Pendleton County eyeballing each other across the mountain seemed to mirror each other in featuring strong pitching and timely hitting. Both sacrificed style points in their season record by taking on tough teams to strengthen their skills. Both moved in and out of the Class A top 10.

And both had to tangle for the second spot in the region to cross the state and compete for a state title.

In the first game of the regionals, Pendleton County defeated Pocahontas, 16-2.

The second game of the regional bracket, a 10-8 triumph for the Pendleton County over Tygarts Valley, took place on May 19. Then on May 20, Tygarts Valley eliminated Pocahontas County. After moving past Pocahontas County, Tygarts Valley awaited in the double elimination format.

After that, the deluge of much-needed and appreciated rain that kept the two squads from playing again until Monday night. Rest would certainly play a factor in game two, but to whose advantage?

Travis Owens led off for the Wildcats in the first game against Tygarts Valley, sending a ground ball to short and reaching base safely. Next the Bulldog pitcher dug himself into early trouble by walking the dangerous Jaxson Simon on four pitches. With two men on, Chase Owens ripped a line drive to his opposite field, scoring the two baserunners and landing on third. Tygarts Valley at that point, however, righted their ship and closed out the inning down 2-0.

In the bottom of the stanza, Chase Owens allowed two hits, but then closed out the side without further damage.

In the bottom of the second, Cole Harper earned a leadoff walk, but the Bulldogs worked their way out of trouble, despite dealing Noah Lockard a base on balls as well.

Not until the bottom of the third inning did



Wildcat seniors, from left, Caydon Boone, Barrett Cook, Chase Owens and Cashton Kisamore, played their last home game in the regional playoff against Pocahontas. Photo courtesy of Light in Motion.

the Bulldogs start to bark. Tygarts Valley loaded the bases with the first three batters, but Chase Owens recorded the first out on a three-pitch strikeout. A single with two runners in scoring position sent both in and tied the game at two. The second out came when Chase Owens struck out the batter looking, but two runners were once again in scoring position. A balk sent the runner on third in for a 3-2 advantage, but the pitcher then shut down the inning with a strikeout.

The Bulldogs picked up two more in the bottom of the fourth with another balk and also a home run. Their pitching then worked its way through a difficult fifth without allowing a run.

In the sixth inning, the Wildcats started clawing their way back. Landon Davis led off with a single, followed by another Lockard base on balls. Travis Owens took a walk on five pitches, leaving the bases loaded for Simon. On the second pitch to him, he hit a grounder to second that helped the opposition record the first out, but also sacrificed a run in.

That brought the Wildcats within striking distance for the seventh and final inning, but they had to dispatch Tygarts Valley in the bottom of the sixth first.

Tygarts Valley got the first two runners aboard before Chase Owens grinded out a six pitch strikeout. A wild pitch, however, allowed a seventh Bulldog run in, making the visiting squad's comeback task that much more difficult.

Difficult, but not done. Mason Harper drew a walk to lead off the top of the seventh. Tygarts Valley got a strikeout next, but then Davis singled to short. That put courtesy runner Barrett Cook in scoring

position at second base.

Lockard once again drew a walk in a key situation, loading the bases. Travis Owens stepped in, worked a three balls and one strike count, then drove the pitch to right field, driving in two runs and putting Connor Hartman on third. Two batters later and with two outs, Chase Owens knotted the game up with a line drive single to left.

Tygarts Valley closed out the top of the seventh with a strikeout and Travis Owens moved to the mound to battle Bulldog batters. He allowed the leadoff batter on, recorded a strikeout, then delivered a base on balls. The Bulldogs had the winning run in scoring position, but gave up a strikeout and a ground out to end the threat and take the game to extra innings.

With one out in the top of the eighth, Cole Harper singled to short. Davis laid down a sacrifice bunt softly down the third base side, advancing Harper to scoring position. Hartman came up next and was hit by the second pitch to him. Tygarts Valley then walked Travis Owens to load up the bases for Simon.

Simon looked at the first pitch called strike, then swung on the next pitch with no effect. The third pitch was fouled off, leaving the batter in a deep hole. Undeterred, he hit a line drive back up the middle, bringing home two runs. A Chase Owens fly to right added a 10th insurance run and now the Wildcats had control of their destiny.

Tenacious as Bulldogs, Tygarts Valley never quits. Their lead off batter earned a walk, but the second batter was set down in five pitches. Owens struck out the next batter in six. With two outs, the Bulldogs drove a single to left, posted a run, and looked for more. But a strikeout ended the threat and the game with the Wildcat win, 10-8.

Then came days and days of rain that allowed each team, especially the pitching staffs, to get well-rested. Bulldogs and Wildcats would greet each other next in Randolph County fully rested and battle tested.

A week's worth of time took a hitters' haven and turned it into a pitchers' duel.

Just as a week before, Travis Owens set the tone of the matchup by hitting a single and getting on base, but this time Tygarts Valley shut down the inning with two strikeouts and a ground out. Chase Owens similarly in the bottom of the first allowed a single baserunner, but no runs.

The Bulldogs tamed the Wildcats in order in the top of the second, then put a run up in their half of the inning. Their pitching continued to

tease Pendleton County, allowing one on, but then slamming the door shut on scoring opportunities.

Just as in the first regional matchup with the Bulldogs, the Wildcats would have to stalk and wait for opportunities, then pounce when given some.

In the third and fourth, both pitchers settled in and dominated the other side. Bulldog batters kept putting Chase Owens' pitches in play, but could not get enough bat on the ball to drive them past the alert and precise defenders. Infield, outfield, it did not matter, the fielders covered the territory and kept the Bulldogs at bay.

Then in the fifth came an opening. Lockard led off getting hit by a pitch on a no balls and two strikes count. That little victory gained in magnitude when Travis Owens drove a double to left field to score Lockard and tie the contest at one. With Travis Owens in scoring position, Simon lifted a ball high to left. The first out was also a sacrifice run batted in that put Pendleton County on top 2-1.

Chase Owens defended the slender lead in the bottom of the fifth, leading the half inning with a strike out. The second batter flied out to left, but the third singled. With two outs, the Bulldog base runner tried to steal his way to scoring position, but could not beat the throw from Simon and closed out the inning.

Tygarts Valley shut down Pendleton County in the top of the seventh and entered their half of that inning needing only one to win the game and force another contest. They got a two out single, but Chase Owens remained in command and allowed no serious threat.

On to extra innings!

Tygarts Valley faced Chase Owens to start the inning, but retired the ever-dangerous clutch hitter on a strikeout. They then gifted a baserunner with a dropped third strike, putting on Mason Miller. The next batter, Cashton Kisamore, has the potential to drive the ball out, but head coach Sam Yokum elected to go with "small ball" and had him bunt. The bunt was fielded by the pitcher, but on the play, Miller made it all the way to third and Kisamore reached safely at first.

Small ball triumphed again when Mason Harper bunted back towards the pitcher who could not make the play. Harper was safe on the resulting error with both Kisamore and Miller making it home.

Tygarts Valley struck out the next two, but now faced a two-run deficit and Travis Owens on the mound. The first two outs came with near maximum efficiency on three pitches. The Bulldogs never go out easy, however. A two out batter lifted both the ball and his team's spirits when he drove a pitch over the left field wall.

The next out came with a one ball and one strike pitch launched to right, but fielded by Kisamore to seal the trip to states with a 4-3 win.

One of the keys to wins in the regionals lay in Pendleton County's ability to rely on youth. On the May 19 game, for instance, Davis went two for two. Both games saw sophomore Travis Owens step in and pitch like a senior in relief of brother, and team ace, Chase.

And this is why Class A teams such as Tygarts Valley and Pendleton County battle teams like Musselman, Jefferson, or why the Bulldogs would play up to Class AA and AAA teams on its own schedule. Both squads came into the regionals playing their best ball in all phases of the game. Both teams gave each other their best.

And that is when the victories come most sweet, when well-earned.

A Note from Rodeo

Hello. This is Rodeo, the dog. I am pleased to announce that Colin and Mimi are married.

Colin has always been easy to identify: just listen for the West Virginia accent, look for someone checking the weather for the fifth time, or follow the smell of something good on the grill. Houston may be home now, but he will always be a West Virginia guy at heart. He loves Treasure Mountain Festival, hunting, being outside, and turning an ordinary night into dinner for everyone — turkey bites, steak, candy, Mountain Dew, the works.

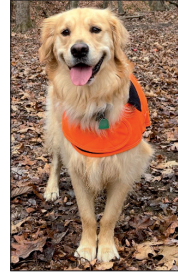
Colin is caring in a practical way. He likes rituals, familiar places, local traditions, and making people feel at home. If he loves you, he will probably feed you.

Mimi is just as easy to identify: she is the one making sure everyone is happy, comfortable, and remembered. She is a wonderful host, thoughtful about birthdays and special events, and very committed to keeping me safe, loved, and well supplied with toys. I personally prefer sticks, but I respect the effort.

That is why Colin and Mimi work so well together. They are both caring people who check on others before worrying about themselves. They show love by showing up, making food, remembering the little things, and making sure everyone feels included.

As a very important member of this family, I approve of this marriage. I am happy to continue supervising their life together, accepting treats on their behalf, testing all sticks and toys, and making sure their home stays full of love, laughter, good food, and me.

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Drought Talk Dominates County Commission Meeting

By Stephen Smoot

Before the extended and much appreciated run of rainy days, Pendleton County had ascended into a higher federal drought category. Until the next reassessment, the county is in “D3 – Extreme Drought.” While soaking rains will mitigate that setting, even if they last as long as anticipated, they will not lift the region completely out of drought.

All that lay in the future. Attendees came to the Pendleton County Commission meeting on a bright, sunny, warm Tuesday morning.

Commissioner Roger Dahmer gave the invocation, praying that “all good things come through You.”

This meeting served as a milestone for the commission, its first in the new courthouse annex. Commissioners now meet in a spacious room with high ceilings and large windows, providing ample space for when citizens come with concerns.

“I’d like to welcome you to our new facility,” stated Carl Hevener, commission president.

Karen Pitsenbarger, county administrator, provided an update on courthouse annex work, sharing, “It’s 99 percent done . . . no major problems.” She also related that phase III, work on the original structure had already commenced.

Next, commissioners approved the hiring of Christy Martin for the county assessor’s office.

Annie Humes then gave an update on the America 250 mural project, stating that two separate artists were under consideration for another mural to join the Kelson Thorne work on the Franklin Innovation Hub across from the courthouse.

Commissioners then called on Mike Alt, training officer for Pendleton County Emergency Rescue. He discussed legal issues facing the recently passed EMS support funding from the West Virginia State Legislature.

Alt went on to share that requests for water have intensified

as of late and that at least one farmer in Upper Tract had started irrigating his fields from a nearby creek. “It’s starting to really get serious.” Both Hevener and Jimmie Bennett, commissioner, concurred that they had seen the same.

Rick Gillespie, Pendleton County Emergency Services coordinator said, that “while there’s no immediate concerns with area sources of public water, if it goes a couple more months, that will probably be a different story.”

Hevener added that a lot of gardens probably “got zapped” by the recent hot and dry days and said it would depend on “what June and July’s going to look like” in terms of precipitation. “I hope it doesn’t wait until August when it starts.”

The seven-day precipitation forecast as of May 19 showed that Pendleton County north of US 33 and west of US 220 could receive between 1.75 and 2.5 inches of rain in that period. The southeast quadrant south of US 33 and east of US 220 may see between one and 1.5 inches in the same period.

Board of Education Honors Wildcat Winners in Academics

By Stephen Smoot

It was a day to honor the hard work and academic accolades of students prior to the business of the day for the Pendleton County Board of Education and superintendent.

J. D. Wilkins, board president, in his invocation prayed that “You would bless us as we all gather together here to serve the business of the school system of Pendleton County.”

Superintendent Nicole Hevener recognized first the winners of the West Virginia Golden Horseshoe Award. This honor goes to students who have demonstrated superior knowledge of the history of the Mountain State.

The award has a special connection to Pendleton County. Virginia colonial Governor Alexander Spotswood in 1716 led an expedition into the Shenandoah Valley and nearly beyond. Historians say that the expedition crossed the western ridge into what is now Pendleton County west of modern Harrisonburg, Virginia.

A little way into what is now Pendleton County, Spotswood handed out the first golden horseshoes, inscribed with “Sic juvat transcendere montes,” or “thus he vows to cross the mountains.”

Weston Boyer and Hannah Heavner earned the awards from Pendleton County Middle/High School for 2026.

The superintendent then introduced Ross Pownell to deliver his state social studies fair presentation. Pownell also wowed the superintendent and board in April with his state science fair presentation. His topic evaluated the importance of extracurricular activities to student engagement and achievement, especially in a time of tightening budgets.

He posed “four main essential questions.” These included exploring the meaning of “school climate”, how do students participate and enjoy benefits, does participation in these improve how a student experiences the school, and what benefits do teachers and staff see in student participation in extracurricular activities.

After presenting a history of school-based extracurricular activities and how that changed over time, Pownell surveyed students and staff. He reported strong numbers seeing benefits in student participation. Pownell noted that Pendleton County Schools was “ahead of its time and had girls playing basketball

as early as 1952. Nice!”

Wilkins stated, “Good job putting it all together and you always do a good job with your presentations.” Hevener added praise for Hayley Craig, West Virginia History teacher at PCM/HS, saying, “She does an excellent job and we want to thank her for all that she does.”

J. P. Mowery, Pendleton County Schools treasurer, delivered the financial report. The budget for fiscal year 2027 will be \$20,635,000 compared to \$20,252,009.97 for the previous year, a two percent increase. He then shared that “if you factor out the pay raises and associated fixed costs, it would be a slight decrease based on the actual budget to be presented.”

That includes the yearly \$50,000 set aside for the permanent improvement fund. Charles Hedrick, former superintendent, established this during the COVID years and it has never been tapped into. By the end of fiscal 2027 the fund will have accumulated \$350,000. “It’s not required that we have that done, but we’ve been setting it aside,” said Mowery.

He added that no funds were needed for purchasing buses with recent purchases filling out the fleet’s need.

Mowery anticipated another healthy “carryover” as well from fiscal year 2026 into 2027, which starts July 1. Last year that came out to approximately \$1,500,000 and this year his “conservative” estimate of that is \$1,767,000, though Mowery noted that figure could rise. Later in the meeting, he described the number as “significant,” but “it’s still less than the state recommends.” Mowery explained that “they’d like to see us at probably closer to two and a half or three million” carried over from fiscal year 2026 to 27.

“It’s a very full budget. It’s a balanced budget,” Mowery reported.

Looking forward, Mowery anticipated a decrease in federal funding next year. He stated, “That likely means a position paid for out of federal funds in the past will be moved . . . to the general budget for 2027, which we can obviously afford.”

Mowery shared that the ending balance for the month of March was a little more than \$2,961,995.73. March’s end of month balance for 2026 was \$3,226,562.75. He said, “That’s certainly solid, the fact that we are holding our own and increasing a little bit.”

Board members then received a thorough presentation on how the nutrition costs are calculated and met. Towards the end, the price of adult and visitor meals in school lunch rooms was discussed. Years have passed since the \$4 breakfast and \$5 lunch prices had been examined.

With the cost for the school to produce a breakfast now \$5.19 and lunch \$6.90, the Board approved recommended raises in price for adults and visitors.

Travis Heavner provided the facilities report, sharing that a presentation for a state grant for facilities work will take place on June 23. He added that the project to address the atmospheric pressure at Franklin Elementary School would start in that same month.

A Homeland Security grant that was temporarily frozen during the last federal shutdown is still in that status, Heavner shared. He stated that an automatic email said it may take as many as 60 days “to catch up.”

Also in June, Heavner stated that a critical response group will help with a state-funded mapping of school facilities for emergency response purposes. It will help to create a grid pattern map, check on safety features, and work to enhance communications with 911.

Later in the meeting, Heavner addressed maintenance needs and concerns in the central office building in Franklin. Those included replacing a gutter in the rear of the structure and adding snow guards to the pitched roof. “The two projects combined should cost \$5,486,” he stated.

Carrie Nesselrodt then gave the nine-month attendance report, sharing, “These are the numbers we like to see more than the last couple of times that we’ve viewed it during illnesses.” She reported the “amazing” percentage for North Fork Elementary’s third grade at “almost 98 percent.”

Franklin Elementary had the best school percentage at 95.19 percent. Third grade at all three elementary schools topped other grades at 96.27. Pendleton County’s school population as a whole attended at 93.69 percent.

“I’ve been tracking just daily attendance for the last couple of weeks,” said Nesselrodt. “It’s looking really great . . . everybody’s in a good position . . . so I think we’ll finish the year strong.”

Pendleton Senior and Family Services Works to Shore Up Facility, Expand Reach

By Stephen Smoot

About a year ago, the Pendleton Senior and Family Services facility was under siege from stormwater racing down the hill and backing up into the building. Janice Lantz, director, and staff formed a bucket brigade to bail out the building before the water could cause serious damage.

With slow-moving storms bringing concentrated and intense rainfall to areas, addressing this problem served as a major priority for Lantz.

“We applied to the Chesapeake Bay Trust,” she shared, adding that “we got the first grant for planning purposes, going through the planning stage like the Town did.”

The Town of Franklin earlier obtained a similar planning

grant that assisted in putting forth potential solutions for excessive stormwater that flows downhill from downtown. Pendleton County Commission reacted to the issue by purchasing a new building for state and county offices on higher ground.

Lantz explained that she expected that the grant would provide potential solutions, including deepening the current drainage ditches or looking for ways to divert the water. “It’s not a quick fix,” stated Lantz, “it’s the start to the fix.”

With addressing the stormwater problems underway, Lantz identified another issue for the center and its mission, saying, “We still have people out in the community who don’t even know we have a senior center. We’re trying to get

the word out more . . . let people know we are here.”

That includes getting more information out about services, both fundamental to the center’s mission and those set up for the recreation and enjoyment of visitors.

Lantz identified in-home services as among those “most needed,” adding that they now have a waiting list for those needing help remaining independent in their residences. Because funds are “not unlimited,” but the need remains great, she said the center “maxed out on funding.”

Another service area that might face limitations on delivery is the senior farmers market vouchers from the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. These are used to purchase fresh produce at farmers markets, roadside stands, and other approved sales sites. They will be available June 1 at the Franklin facility from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and also between 1 and 3 p.m. On June 2, they will be available at the former North Fork facility that now houses Country Décor and More.

“We have a waiting list each year,” said Lantz. “We only get so many. We hand them out on a first-come, first-serve basis,” she added. She noted



Pendleton Senior and Family Services has expanded classes, outings, and events. Here, the Pendleton County Middle/High School guitar class entertains those who gathered to hear the tunes.

that funding for the program may have had cuts, making them more limited.

Farmers with excess produce or wish to help can deduct from their state taxes the donations of food from their farms to senior centers and other non-profits.

Always seeking ways to bring seniors in, Lantz described different classes offered at the center. “We’re looking to add a new tai chi class,” she said, adding that “we got our instructor certi-

fied.” A popular recent addition has been a “drums alive” class that “is really fun for the seniors” and is held usually on Wednesdays.

Meal times have always served as a focus for senior centers. Pendleton Senior and Family Services from time to time offers evening meals complete with live musical performances. “They really have fun with that. They bring family members that normally don’t come out for lunch.”

About once a month, sometimes more, seniors have the chance to go on day trips. Many of these require some payment from those going, but the center works to keep prices down through efforts such as including a packed box lunch so they don’t have to spend at

a restaurant.

A recent trip took them greenhouse hopping in Hampshire County, where they got 10 percent off discounts for purchases. Later in the summer, the center offers a trip to Monticello, Thomas Jefferson’s home in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Lantz smiled and said, “They love their ice cream. We always have to stop for ice cream.”

With studies showing that independent living for seniors is not only best for their health, it also eases the need from taxpayers. Senior centers remain a vital part of any community.

“We are here for service to the community. We want to help the community. We want to be a part of the community,” she stated.



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NFES Students Get Their Feet Wet Doing Science with Experience Learning

By Stephen Smoot

North Fork Elementary School fifth and sixth grade students got to enjoy what must be a rarity in public education nationwide.

As they approached the end of their school year, they got to cross the highway, make their way to the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac, and then wade into the gurgling river.

All in the name of science.

Melinda Brooks from Experience Learning and her team joined with teachers and students in the river excursion. While jumping in the river certainly is an attraction to the kids, even on the rainy day of the program, the main point is more academic than recreational.

"This is part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed," explained Brooks, who added, "it's important to teach kids about its vitality."

Experience Learning took the students to the river to conduct a series of experiments and observations about the river's status on that particular day. Brooks referred to it as a "snapshot" of data that then gets added to other professional and citizen efforts to gather information on the river and its immediate surroundings.

Because of the importance of getting objective data in a scientific fashion, Brooks explained that the team strives to focus on teaching techniques of scientific data collection, then applying that to the scientific method to evaluate the observations made.

Brooks explained that instructors and staff intentionally stay away from controversial topics that sometimes have



Students from North Fork Elementary School enjoyed a rainy day hike to the North Fork River for science and fun. Experience Learning helped to teach the scientific method during the outing.

become political debates. Their goal lies in teaching students how to conduct science, how to evaluate it, and then how to form educated conclusions based on that.

She also noted that students should gain more understanding through their work on "upstream and downstream connectivity," reminding all that what goes into the river even on the North Fork, will flow through and past Washington, D.C., and into the Chesapeake Bay.

West Virginia has consistently ranked as a top state in the Chesapeake Bay region in terms of stream health and reducing pollutants below federal mandates. Much of the pollution that ceased flowing from the Potomac Highlands has had a direct and salutary effect on the restoration of blue crab and other commercially important aquatic life populations there.

That said, the rest of the states in the region have struggled to reach

the same success as West Virginia. Voluntary programs, citizen help in gathering data, and the work of different organizations has done much to accomplish those goals for the Mountain State.

Work done in the area has also helped to restore brook trout habitats in Pendleton County and nearby. Scientists often use the health of brook trout populations, where present in a natural habitat, as a benchmark for the health of a stream.

"We live in such a special place," noted Brooks, who then shared that the area boasts "resources and rich and unique biodiversity."

Students conducted different physical analyses, such as marking erosion patterns, noting human impact on areas close to streams, and looking for signs of pollutants. Data then goes into a West

Virginia Department of Environmental Protection database.

Students were mentored and monitored by both NFES teachers and Experience Learning instructors. As they worked, a surprise guest in the form of a small non-poisonous snake wriggled through the rocks on the bank. As students gathered to see, instructors reminded them to stay back and not touch the snake.

Kelly Waddel, NFES school counselor, praised the program as she watched students performing experiments and occasionally immersing themselves into the water. She noted, "What better way to learn science than to do it with their hands?" Waddel also added that students getting outside more often is proven to support good mental health and also reinforce the learning done on site.

Brooks furthermore shared that what students learn can help them to explore opportunities close to home in different jobs related to monitoring the health of the environment, or even doing citizen research to support DEP efforts. The field trip to the river could serve as a first step toward a life of fulfilling work and/or giving back through volunteer assistance.

"They love it," said Brooks. "They live here. This is their home. It's a part of them. It's a part of their community."

And now it is also a part of their education and memories of their hometown childhood.

County Four-Her's Participate in Sheep, Goat Judging Contest

Ten Pendleton County 4-H members competed April 24 in the West Virginia Sheep and Goat Judging Contest as part of the WV Purebred Sheep and Goat Show and Sale. The contest included live animal evaluation, and stockmanship stations.

Pendleton 4-H senior team finished sixth overall. The team consisted of Phoebe Pownell, 12th overall individual, Branson Smith, 16th overall individual and Aiden Whetzel 22nd overall individual.

Placing 14th overall was Pendleton's junior team 1. Members of the junior team were Kallie Keyser, 36th overall individual, Tori Heavner, 49th overall individual and Bella Hoover, 67th overall individual.

Junior team 2 received 17th overall. Gracie Hedrick, 20th overall individual, Colton Whetzel 44th overall individual and Jonah Seymour, 71st overall individual, were members of that team.

Olivia Seymour competed as a PeeWee individual and placed 53rd overall.



Pendleton County 4-Hers applying their livestock knowledge during the sheep and goat judging contest were, from left, Gracie Hedrick, Olivia Seymour and Jonah Seymour; and back row, Kallie Keyser, Phoebe Pownell, Branson Smith, Aiden Whetzel, Bella Hoover, Tori Heavner and Colton Whetzel.

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2021 LINCOLN CORSAIR AWD SUV, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., silver, 82K miles, very sharp.....	\$24,900
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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 INFINITI QX60 LUXE AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., pearl white, 94K miles.....	\$19,500
2019 FORD EDGE SEL AWD, 2.0 liter, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., charcoal, 131K miles.....	SPECIAL \$47,900 \$15,900
2018 FORD EXPLORER XLT "SPORT PKG" AWD, 2.3 4-cyl., auto., ldd., dark cherry, 115K miles, very sharp	SPECIAL \$18,900 \$17,900
2017 JEEP WRANGLER 4-DR SPORT 4X4, V-6, auto., ldd., white, 89K miles.....	\$18,900
2017 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA 4-DR HARDTOP 4X4, V-6, auto., ldd., charcoal, only 81K miles.....	\$21,900
2017 FORD EXPLORER XLT AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., copper color, 118K miles, sharp	\$14,900
2014 FORD E-250 CARGO VAN, 5.4 liter V-8, auto., ldd., white, 140K miles.....	\$12,900
2013 FORD EXPLORER XLT AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., sage, 143K miles.....	\$7,995

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- To make a microwave oven smell fresh, fill a microwavable cup with water and mix 1 tablespoon of lemon juice. Heat the water at full power for 1 minute.
- To remove crayon marks from painted walls, scrub with a dab of non-gel toothpaste.
- To remove chewing gum from clothing, chill it with a piece of ice. The hardened gum can be crumbled and brushed off.
- To remove mud or soot from a rug, sprinkle the stained area with salt. Allow the salt to dry or settle before vacuuming.

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Supplies, 52 Mountaineer Drive, Franklin, Friday, 4:00-8:00 p.m., Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Lots of tools, household items, clothing and so much more! Priced To Go! 1c

167 Dogwood Drive, Franklin, Thursday, 12:00-6:00 p.m., Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lots of "Like Brand New" women's tops, jeans, shorts; men's clothing, house decor, fishing, hunting and so much more! 1c

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LAWN PARTY—Lawn 20, Mt. Zion Church, Deer Run. 5-21-2c

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

"NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING"

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection has scheduled a public meeting on June 17, 2026, at 9:30 am to discuss the **Draft Fiscal Year 2027 Intended Use Plan** for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds Program. A part of the Intended Use Plan is the Fiscal Year 2027 Priority List. The meeting will take place in person at the WV DEP's Headquarters in Charleston, WV. An option to attend remotely or call-in is below. A copy of the draft Fiscal Year 2027 Intended Use Plan is available, and may be requested by calling, writing, or sending an email request to the address below. The plan can also be viewed on DEP's web site.

Contact

Katheryn Emery
WV Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water & Waste Management
Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds
601 57th Street, SE
Charleston, WV 25304
(304) 926-0499 Ext. 43830
Katheryn.D.Emery@wv.gov

Google Meeting information

Video call link: meet.google.com/hfk-ktgm-fei
Dial in number:
(US) 1-352-888-6340
PIN: 710 382 982#
5-28-2c



LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

PENDLETON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2027

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
PENDLETON COUNTY, to wit:

In accordance with West Virginia Code §11-8-12 as amended, the PENDLETON County Board of Education proceeded to make an estimate of the amounts necessary to be raised by a levy of taxes for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, and doth 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:

GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND	
Estimated revenues:	
Local Sources:	
Property taxes (Net of allowances).....	\$ 4,062,700
Other local sources	90,000
State Sources:	
State aid to schools.....	7,824,110
Retirement, Insurance, Retirement Liability.....	3,708,500
Other unrestricted.....	20,000
Step 7	426,900
Local Share - Technology	284,200
Federal sources:	
Unrestricted.....	215,000
Total estimated revenues.....	16,631,410
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	
	57,200
Estimated beginning balance	1,767,400
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	\$ 18,456,010
Estimated expenditures:	
Instruction.....	\$ 8,462,510
Supporting services:	
Students	1,190,300
Instructional staff.....	646,700
Central administration	499,700
School administration	1,009,700
Central services/Personnel	400,800
Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	1,753,200
Student transportation	1,784,400
Food services	31,200
Community services.....	34,800
Debt service:	
Principal retirement.....	200,900
Interest and fiscal charges	10,000
Total estimated expenditures.....	16,024,210
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	817,900
Reserve for contingencies	1,613,900
Total estimated expenditures, other financing uses, and reserves	\$ 18,456,010

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND

Estimated revenues:	
Local Sources.....	\$ -
State Sources	-
State aid to schools.....	-
Other	-
Federal sources	-
Miscellaneous sources	-
Total estimated revenues.....	-
Total Beginning Balance.....	-
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources.....	50,000
Estimated beginning balance	-
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources.....	\$ 50,000
Estimated expenditures:	
Instruction.....	\$ -
Supporting services:	
Students.....	-
Instructional staff.....	-
Central administration	-
Business.....	-
Food services	-
Community services.....	-
Capital outlay.....	50,000
Total estimated expenditures.....	50,000
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses.....	-
Total estimated expenditures and other financing uses	\$ 50,000

SPECIAL REVENUE SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUND

Estimated revenues:	
Local Sources.....	\$ -
State Sources:	
State aid to schools.....	288,000
Federal sources	1,287,700
Total estimated revenues.....	1,575,700
Total Beginning Balance.....	-
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources.....	500,100
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	\$ 2,075,800
Estimated expenditures:	
Instruction.....	\$ 828,620
Food services	1,201,700
Total estimated expenditures.....	2,030,320
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	45,480
Total estimated expenditures, and other financing uses.....	\$ 2,075,800

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Estimated revenues:	
Local Sources.....	\$ 17,200

Eyes Forward, Don't Drive Distracted

In partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, West Virginia is sending a clear message to all motorists: **Eyes Forward. Don't Drive Distracted.**

Distracted driving is a national crisis. Between 2019 and 2023, more than 16,000 lives were lost in crashes involving diverted attention. In 2023 alone, there were 3,275 people killed in traffic crashes involving at least one distracted driver, accounting for 8 percent of all traffic fatalities that year. An estimated additional 324,819 people were injured in traffic crashes involving distracted drivers in 2023.

"Distraction isn't just about a quick text; it's any activity that takes your focus off the road," said Jack McNeely, GHSP director.

"When you look away, you aren't just risking your own life—you are endangering every passenger, pedestrian, and cyclist around you."

To keep West Virginia roads safe, the following tips are recommended:

- Designate a Texter: Let one's passenger handle the phone.
- Park to Post: If a person must send a message, pull over safely first.
- Silence the Noise: Use "Do Not Disturb" to eliminate incoming pings.
- Out of Reach: Keep the phone in the glove box or back seat to remove temptation.
- Eyes on the Road: Avoid scrolling social media or checking apps entirely.
- Law enforcement will be on the lookout for people using their phones while driving.

"These are our communities, too," stated First Sgt. Eric McClung, traffic records director for the West Virginia State Police. "We write these citations to keep everyone, including you and us, safe on the roadways. Our moms, grandpas, sisters, best friends, high school football coaches, coffee baristas, and everyone we know travels our roads. We want all of them to be able to get to and from their destinations safely."

Remember: Eyes Forward. Don't Drive Distracted.

State Sources:	
State aid to schools.....	-
Federal sources	-
Total estimated revenues.....	17,200
Total Beginning Balance	-
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources.....	36,000
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	\$ 53,200
Estimated expenditures:	
Instruction.....	\$ 36,000
Food services	-
Total estimated expenditures.....	36,000
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	17,200
Total estimated expenditures, and other financing uses.....	\$ 53,200

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
PENDLETON County, to wit:

I, Nicole Hevener, Secretary of the PENDLETON County Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the proposed budget adopted by the board of education on the 19th day of May, 2026.

Nicole Hevener
Secretary of the Board of Education
5-28-2c

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE is hereby given pursuant to and by virtue of the authority vested in the Substitute Trustee, Pill & Pill, PLLC, by that certain Deed of Trust dated January 22, 2010, executed by the Borrower(s), Bobby G. Propst, Jr. and Shelly R. Propst, to C.T. Corporation Systems, the Trustee, of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Book 128, at Page 197. At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 10 Olie Dr., Upper Tract, WV 26866. Pill & Pill, PLLC was appointed as Substitute Trustee by an APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSION TRUSTEE dated April 9, 2025, of record in the Clerk's Office in Book 180, at Page 649. The Borrower(s) defaulted under the Note and Deed of Trust and the Substitute Trustee has been instructed to foreclose under the Deed of Trust. Accordingly, the Substitute Trustee will sell the following described property to the highest bidder at the front door of the Courthouse of Pendleton County, in Franklin, West Virginia, on the following date:

June 2, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

An out conveyance survey was conducted for a certain parcel of land located on the west side of US Route 220, approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Upper Tract, West Virginia, in Mill Run District, Pendleton County, West Virginia more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

Being part of the same tract of land situate approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Upper Tract, West Virginia, on US Route 220 as conveyed by Kennie C. & Mary R. Kimble to Clyde Kimble, Jr., Treva Margaret Smith, Judy Fay Laurie, and Debra Heinhorst, by Deed dated September 15, 1995, Deed Book 141 at Page Number 90, with reference to Tax Map 21 and Parcel Number 17, which is of record in the Office of the Clerk of Pendleton County, West Virginia.

The hereinabove described tract or parcel of real estate granted and conveyed to the Shelly R. Propst and Bobby G. Propst, Jr., wife and husband, with right of survivorship, by Deed dated the 18th day of January, 2010, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in deed book, 184 at page 143, to which reference is herewith made for all pertinent purposes.

2) The Purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the transfer taxes imposed by the West Virginia Code § 11-22-1.

3) The Beneficiary and/or the Servicer of the Deed of Trust and Note reserve the right to submit a bid for the property at sale.

4) The Trustee reserves the right to continue sale of the subject property from time to time by written or oral proclamation, which continuance shall be in the sole discretion of the Trust-tee.

5) The Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the property to vacate said property, and any personal property and/or belongings remaining at the property after the foreclosure sale will be deemed to constitute ABANDONED PROPERTY AND WILL BE DISPOSED OF ACCORDINGLY.

6) The total purchase price is payable to the Trustee within thirty (30) days of the date of sale, with ten (10%) of the total purchase price payable to the Trustee at sale.

Pill & Pill, PLLC,
Substitute Trustee

BY:
Jonathan L. Wertman,
Esq.

Pill & Pill, PLLC
85 Aikens Center
Edwin Miller Boulevard
P.O. Box 440
Martinsburg, WV 25402
(304) 263-4971
foreclosures@pillwvlaw.com

1) The property will be conveyed in an "AS IS" physical condition by Deed

5-14-3p

Bussard, Taylor Named to SNHU Honor Lists

Two Franklin residents, Kelly Bussard and Tyler Warner, have been named to honor lists at Southern New Hampshire University for the spring 2026. The spring terms run from January to May.

Warner earned President's List recognition while Bussard was named to the Dean's List.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a

minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Students earning a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.



STOP Distracted Driving

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- SGR412A** 5.69 Acres, w/1 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin, built in 2010. Loft for overflow sleeping, Septic, 1800 Gallon Cistern, Washer/Dryer, Year-round access, Outbuilding, Wood Shed. Very well maintained. Located in Dry Run area. Shared ROW. Franklin District, Pendleton Cty. ~~\$180,000.00~~
- SGR409A** 0.04 Acres w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Home located on 18 Spruce St., Franklin Corp. New Hot water heater w/expansion tank, New stainless steel appliances, New guttering system, Cement driveway, Hard wired Ring cameras with motion lights. Mini-Splits and new window installation in 2021. **\$175,000.00**
- SGR408A** 7.88 Acres w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Log Siding Cabin, Fully & Tastefully Furnished, Large Decks, Full Finished basement, Screened in Porch, Spring Water. Higher clearance vehicle recommended. Buck Ridges Development. Some Restrictions. **\$285,000.00**
- SGR407A** 8.26 acre Off Grid, one room cabin on Kile Knob. Solar panels. No septic. Cistern water. Property joins 9.48 acres Kile Knob Common area. Hiking trails. Gated. **\$189,000.00**
- SGR406A** World Class View at 3017 ft, overlooking beautiful Germany Valley & Spruce Knob. Located in Seneca Lookout Development. 70.00 Acres w/2 Bed, 2.5 Bath 1.5 Story Log Cabin. Baseboard Elec & Wood Heat, Well, Septic, Outbuilding, Joins National Forest. **\$749,000.00**
- SGR404A CABIN W/CAVE ACCESS!** 5 Acres w/1 Bed, 2.5 Bath Log Siding Cabin, Loft sleeping area, Primary bdrm has access to cave. Fully furnished. Laundry on main floor. Spring water, Septic. Sleeps 6 people. Buck Ridges Development. Some Restrictions. **Preapproval required and Cave Entry Waiver must be signed prior to showing. \$195,000.00**
- SGR403A** 15.38 Acres, w/4-6 Bed, 2 Bath Contemporary Home. Make it your Residence or it would make a great Retreat Center. Great views, surrounded by mountain ranges. Double Kitchen, dual W/D Hookups, 2 Heat Pumps, 37KW Generac backup generator, Spacious workshop/garage. Large Spring Fed Pond. Franklin District, Pendleton Cty. **\$929,000.00**
- SGR402A** 0.62 Acres w/3 Bed, 1.5 Bath Ranch Home located in Upper Tract, WV. Brick exterior, Metal Roof, Carport, Unfinished Basement, Septic, Public Water. Nice level lot. Mill Run District, Pendleton Cty. ~~\$269,000.00~~ **REDUCED \$229,000.00**
- SGR401A** Charming 2/3 bedroom, 1 bath, ranch style, with partial basement. 0.05 ac., paved driveway, covered carport, with ramp to back entrance, detached 1 car garage, LP heat/hot water, some appliances convey. House is being sold AS-IS. Franklin Corp. **\$179,000.00**
- SGR400A** 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**
- SGR392A** Custom Canadian White Cedar Log Home. 4 Bed, 2 Bath, 3,088 sq. ft. Cabin on 119.45 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 Airbnb or personal weekend getaway. Plenty of room for recreation along river. **NEW LISTING \$395,000.00 \$375,000.00 REDUCED \$349,000.00**
- SGR382A** 45 Ac. w/1 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin, Solar powered, no restrictions, Cistern & Septic, Shooting Range, Excellent Hunting, Franklin District. ~~\$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**
- SGR380A** Building Lot, 5.62 Acres, Lot #3, Dry Run Rd, Sharps Ridge, Franklin District. Electric nearby. **NEW LISTING \$39,000.00**
- SGR379A** 5994 Mount Freedom Drive, Cherry Grove 14.70 acres, 2 bdrms, 2 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. ~~\$489,000.00~~ **\$479,000.00 REDUCED \$159,000.00**
- SGR340A** 327.98 Acres, with 4 Bed, 3.5 Bath Home w/2 car garage and Barn. Property adjoins lands owned by Fisher Mtn. Golf Course. Expansive view of Shenandoah Mountain and Fisher Mountain Golf Course. Year round spring-fed creek w/several other Springs and nice bldg. sites. **NEW LISTING \$2,250,000.00**
- SGR316A** 10.35 Acres, Entry Mountain, Some Covenants & Restrictions. Nice View. **\$89,900.00**
- SGR302A** "The Hollow" Restaurant, fully furnished, at the corner of US RT 220/US RT 33W, Franklin. Property adjoins neighboring motel. ~~\$425,000.00~~ ~~\$329,000.00~~ **\$299,000.00 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 **\$22,836.00**
- SGR247 Residential lots** with town water, sewer & underground utilities. Protective covenants and restrictions. Franklin Airport Development. Lots from **\$14,630.00**

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DEER RUN - 3.13 ac residential mountain top lot. State maintained road, electric available, beautiful view of Rocky Mountain Rd., Franklin. \$28,500.

FRANKLIN - 2 BR, 1 BA Lindel wood siding home on 2.26 acres. \$180,000 \$170,000.

FRANKLIN - 4 BR, 2 BA, 2 story Pre-Civil War home with basement in town. 2 apartments, detached. Paved parking area. \$310,000.

SMOKE HOLE - 13.93 +/- ac., adjoining National Forest, 2 story cabin, 3 rental cabins, 2 ponds. \$849,000 or make offer.

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MENU

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FRIDAY, MAY 29
Pork
Baked Sweet Potato
Collard Greens
Ambrosia Salad
Birthday Cake

MONDAY, JUNE 1
Baked Potato
w/Chili & Cheese
Broccoli, Peach Cobbler

TUESDAY, JUNE 2
SPONSORED MEAL
Lasagna, Garlic Bread
Tossed Salad, Carrots
Strawberry Cheesecake

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3
Ham & Cheese Sandwich
w/Lettuce & Tomato
Potato Salad
Jello w/Fruit

NATIONAL EGG DAY!
THURSDAY, JUNE 4
Beer Battered Fish Filet
Cauliflower
w/Cheese Sauce
Cole Slaw, Banana

NATIONAL CHEESE DAY!

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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