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Historical Society Brings More Than 250 Years Of American Tradition to Life in Upper Tract

By Stephen Smoot

All over the United States, each community has come together to celebrate and honor how American history and traditions have shaped them. Most have commissioned commemorative murals and other events to tell their own stories in their own ways.

Pendleton County's story is that of the early American frontier as it was even before the United States existed.

Historian Frederick Jackson Turner wrote an essay in the 1890s about the "significance of the frontier in American history." That essay described how a fluid frontier, and the effort of those who settled there to wring order from what they saw as chaos, shaped the development of the United States. Frontier ways still reverberate in rural areas, their values surviving even as urban areas have developed differently.

Turner wrote that "Now, the frontier is the line of most rapid and effective Americanization. The wilderness masters the colonist. It finds him a European in dress, industries, tools, modes of travel, and thought.

"It takes him from the railroad car and puts him in the birch canoe. It strips off the garments of civilization and arrays him in the hunting shirt and the moccasin. It puts him in the log cabin of the Cherokee and Iroquois and runs an Indian palisade around him.

"Before long he has gone to planting Indian corn and plowing with a sharp stick; he shouts the war cry and takes the scalp in orthodox Indian fashion. In short, at the frontier the environment is at first too strong for the man. He must accept the conditions which it furnishes or perish, and so he fits himself into the Indian clearings and follows the Indian trails."

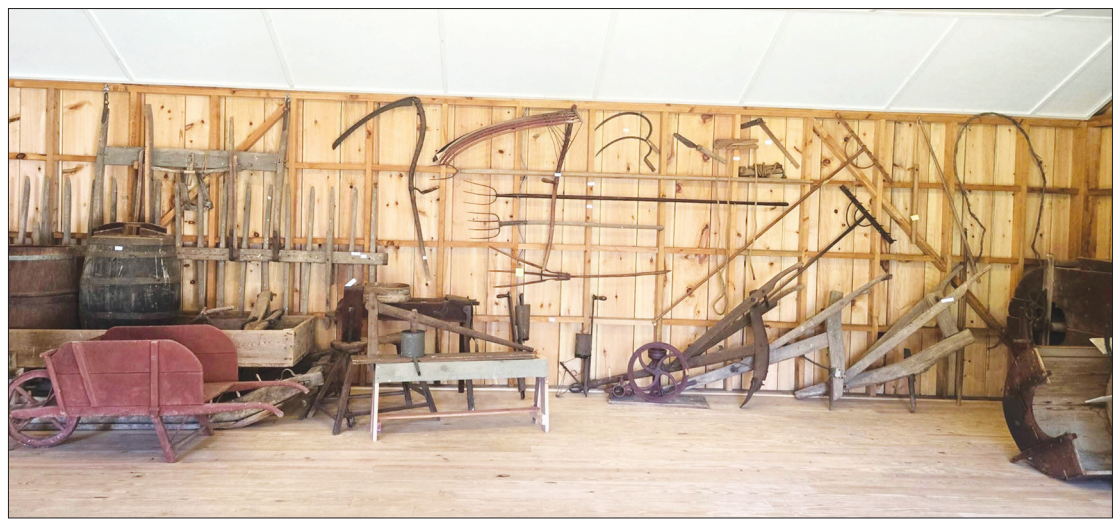


The Pendleton County Historical Society held its America 250 festivities at the historical Upper Tract Presbyterian Church.

Even though Turner taught at the University of Wisconsin, much of what he says about the impact of the frontier resonates in Pendleton County, almost 300 years after the original settlement.

This is excluding the railroad car, of course!

Continued on Page 2



On display inside were a number of tools used by people in their homes and on their farms.



The military past of Pendleton was remembered through a War of Independence exhibit and a renacted Civil War camp.



A macabre, but fascinating, display awaits those interested in learning more about death customs and ways in the area between the end of the Civil War and about the time of the Great Depression.

Museum in Franklin Features Exhibits on Music, Military, the Macabre, and More

By Stephen Smoot

"You know, there are still people in the county who don't know this exists?"

Richard Ruddle from the Pendleton County Historical Society said this in lament as he and Paul Clayton, society president, sat among an extraordinarily rich collection of old documents, traditional musical instruments, and colorful flags and banners in Franklin's Boggs House. This August structure also serves as the main museum for the organization.

These exhibits and explanations grace the atrium of the museum, with many more materials to both fascinate and educate locals and tourists alike.

Not every museum gets to count the structure that hosts it also as an exhibit, but Boggs House's different facets represent the entire history of Pendleton County itself, told through the mute, but still expressive walls.

Originally, some of those stout walls protected frontiersmen and women working hard to build a life, and then a new civilization, from the dense and, at times, dangerous forests.

Built at the same time as, but likely not officially part of, the chain of forts constructed by Virginia militia officer George Washington, what is now Boggs House was constructed three miles north of Franklin.

In those days, with both French soldiers and their allies among the Indians ever-threatening raids to steal iron tools, human beings, and other items useful to them, families often built their own homes with military needs in mind. Blockhouses with sturdy thick walls, small windows, and a defensible plan grew up in the spaces between the official Washington forts, such as Fort Seybert and Fort Upper Tract.

Logs from the fort made their way to Franklin by the 1800s to reform into a family home. By the 1870s, a mod-

Continued on Page 2

Pendleton County Schools Honors Retirees and Best of Staff and Faculty

By Stephen Smoot

For all in Pendleton County Schools, except for students already enjoying their summer break, the annual dinner and awards serves as the conclusion of the school year. The superintendent, board of education, central office staff, principals, faculty, and service personnel gather to honor those whose work shone even brighter than others during the year.

J. D. Wilkins, board of education president, waxed a bit poetic in his opening remarks. He spoke of a tree that caught his attention on the side of a mountain marking the county line between Randolph and Pocahontas counties. Wilkins described an old, weathered sugar maple standing apart from the forest, that during the years had taken blow after blow from Mother Nature in its exposed position.

Yet when he discovered the tree in autumn, it shone "with

Continued on Page 2



Employees were honored for excellence during the course of the school year in service and teaching. Those in attendance were, from left, Jeralyn Swigunski, Connie Hedrick, Pat Alt and Ron Hudson.



Retirees whose service was honored by Pendleton County Schools included, from left, Randal Smith, Vicki Lynn Bowman, Elizabeth Harper, Connie Hedrick, Lisa Jamison, Pat Alt and Ron Hudson.

Community CALENDAR

Blood Pressure Clinic Scheduled

A blood pressure clinic will be held from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday in the basement of Walnut Street United Methodist Church in Franklin. Two registered nurses will be available.

VBS Planned at Circleville Church

"Rainforest Falls" is the theme of Vacation Bible School to be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. June 22 - 26 at the Circleville Presbyterian Church in Circleville. Lunch will be provided. Anyone age 4 to 18 is welcome to attend. Pickup and drop off of children is scheduled for 9 a.m. and 12:45 p.m., respectively, at base of Big Mountain, Brethren Church, Big Run Chapel and Riverton Store. Children can also be dropped off and picked up at the church.

For more information, call 724-997-1610.

TMF Association To Meet Monday

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

Father's Day Cookout Planned

The Pendleton County Strive to Thrive Family Support Center on Main Street in Franklin is hosting a Father's Day cookout at 6 p.m. Friday at the Franklin Town Park. Come have fun with dad and enjoy free food. There will be gifts for dad.

For more information, call 304-538-7711.

Faith Lutheran To Host VBS

"Camp Chaos" Vacation Bible School will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m Saturday at Faith Lutheran Church in Franklin. Children ages 3 to 12 are welcome to attend. There will be Bible stories, art, games, songs and snacks with lunch provided.

Carrying the Legacy Forward: Batson Selected a Pillar of Agriculture

By Ron Williams
West Virginia Farm Bureau
director of public relations

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2026 the International Year of the Woman Farmer, honoring the vital role that women farmers play in agriculture. Women are critical to the success of agriculture — working the land, running operations, speaking up for the farms and ranches and strengthening rural communities.

West Virginia Farm Bureau women's leadership committee is celebrating the event by naming a Pillar of Agriculture from within each of the farm bureau's eight regions.

When the West Virginia Farm Bureau named Amy Batson of Fort Seybert its Region 2 Pillar of Agriculture in recognition of the International Year of the Woman Farmer, she described the honor as "deeply humbling." For Batson, agriculture is more than a profession — it is a family legacy, a personal calling, and a lifelong commitment to stewardship.



Amy Batson was recognized as an International Year of the Woman Farmer.

In a recent interview, Batson reflected on the path that brought her to this moment.

Rooted in a Family Farm

Batson grew up on her family's farm, a place where hogs and beef cattle once filled the barns and pastures. "I learned early what hard work looked like," she said, recalling childhood mornings spent feeding livestock and evenings helping with chores.

During the years, the farm evolved. The family stepped out of the hog business, added a Grade A dairy, and eventually transitioned to a 100

Continued on Page 3

Obituaries



Jean Mullenax Judy

Jean Mullenax Judy, 96 of Franklin passed away June 9, 2026, at Sentara RMH is Harrisonburg, Virginia.

She was born Oct. 10, 1929, in Pansy and was the daughter of the late Roland C. Mullenax and Bessie C. (Harman) Mullenax.

Mrs. Judy attended Mountaindale School in Pansy and Petersburg High School.

Her faith in God started as a child going to church with her parents at St. John's United Methodist Church and later the Upper Tract Presbyterian Church with her five children.

Her first job was being a mother to her children. She took a job at the sewing factory in Petersburg, the shirts side only. In 1964, the family moved to Fairfax, Virginia, and she worked for small companies before joining Melpar working with electronics and learning to solder circuit boards. Melpar had government contracts, one of which was with NASA, and she helped send the first rocket into space.

She enjoyed baking cookies, her favorite fudge, gardening and canning what she grew, quilting and reading romance novels.

Her husband, John W. Judy, preceded her in death.

She is survived by her five children, Linda Smith (James) of Penn Laird, Virginia, Charles "Bill" Judy (Brenda) and David Judy (Margie), all of Upper Tract, WV, Judith Flaherty of Rockingham, Virginia, and Michael Flaherty of Richmond, Virginia, and Doris Oakley Shouey (Dr. Robert) of Mt. Crawford, Virginia; five grandchildren, Kevin Judy, Nicole Wise (Darren), Andrea Judy (Travis Hinkle), Dr. David Judy (Tristen) and Christopher Oakley (Sarah); 13 great-grandchildren, Carter Judy, Ashlyn Judy, Kaden Moser, Kierstyn Moser, Kinley Hinkle, Amelia Wise, Harrison Wise, Blake Judy, Trey Judy, Kora Judy, Jax Judy, Paige Oakley and Reagan Oakley; a great-great-grandson, Emmett Knox Oakley; a brother, Roy Mullenax of Petersburg; a sister-in-law, Thelma Mullenax of Petersburg; and several nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by three brothers, Bruce Mullenax, Ernest Mullenax and Carl Mullenax.

She will be laid to rest in Cherry Hill Cemetery at Upper Tract.

The family will hold a private celebration of life at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Childrens' Hospital, ALSAC, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or the Upper Tract Fire Department.

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

Arrangements are entrusted to the Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin.



David G. McConnell

David G. McConnell, 78, affectionately known to many as "Huey," passed away on June 13, 2026, at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Born on Dec. 12, 1947, in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late Harold and Martha Estella (Propst) McConnell.

Mr. McConnell's early years were shaped in part by his education at Franklin High School, which laid the foundation for a lifetime of hard work and commitment. He proudly served his nation as a member of the United States Army during the Vietnam War, dedicating three years to military service with honor and distinction.

Professionally, his career was closely tied to agriculture and the community; he was a grower for Perdue. In addition, he worked alongside Paul Morton at State West Virginia Surveying and later embraced entrepreneurship as the co-owner of Hevener Motor Equipment Company with his wife, Dianne, following the passing of Stanley Hevener. His vocational journey reflected a man who valued hard work and community service.

Beyond his professional achievements, he was an active and valued member of various organizations. His membership in the VFW and the American Legion honored his military legacy, while his past involvement with the Franklin Moose Lodge #769, the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department and the Pendleton County Farm Bureau demonstrated his ongoing dedication to civic duty. A member of Faith Lutheran Church, his spirituality was a cornerstone of his life.

Those who knew him remember him fondly for his funny nature and loving heart, traits that endeared him to family and friends. He embraced life with a big spirit, engaging with the world around him in a way that left a lasting impression. Pride in his family was among his greatest accomplishments, a sentiment reflected in his close relationships and genuine care for those he held dear.

On Jan. 28, 1972, he married the love of his life, Dianne Christine (Hevener) McConnell, who survives in Franklin.

In addition to his wife, he leaves behind to cherish his memory a son, David "Davy" McConnell (Hillary) of Franklin; two grandchildren, Hunter McConnell (Nikki) and Reagan Christine McConnell and fiancé, Josef Armstrong; four great-grandchildren, Hunter Marston and Quinley, Hattie, and Dawson McConnell; two brothers, Gene McConnell (Joan) of Circleville and Scott McConnell (Becky) of Brandywine; and extended family including Renee Linn (Daniel), Linda, Suzanne, and Tom Stewart, George Hevener (Cary), Jordan Ronek and family, Louise Moore (Jerry) and Jared Moore and family.

He was also preceded in death by his grandparents, Glenn and Margie Propst; his aunt, Minnie Bowers; a nephew, Robert Lee McConnell; and in-laws, Stanley and Reva Hevener.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 6 p.m. today at the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin. A celebration of life will follow in the funeral home chapel with Pastor Mike Loudermilk officiating.

Memorials may be made to any Pendleton County Fire Department or to Deer Run Vacation Bible School Fund, c/o Sharon Harr, 687 Siple Mountain Rd., Franklin, WV 26807.

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

Pendleton County Schools

Continued From Page 1

spectacular color."

Wilkins used the memory of that tree as a metaphor for a school system that has withstood slings and arrows in recent years, but still shows resilience.

He stated that during the years the tree "had been hammered," but "if you are in education, you get hammered." Wilkins added that many in attendance "have been attacked and stood and survived quite well" and expressed pride in "people who have accomplished survival in tough times."

Wilkins then recognized Chelsea Simmons from Pendleton Community Bank, "who provided the awards for this dinner." Simmons related that the bank was "really happy to be able to sponsor them."

He then asked attendees to thank Mallory Roberson "who prepared all the food that smells so good." Wilkins next shared the blessing in which he prayed for thankfulness for "people who have done well in difficult times."

After that, those who attended formed lines to load plates with pork slices, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, and homemade family recipe cakes.

Ryan Lambert, principal of Brandywine Elementary School, stood first to honor the school's service person and teacher of the year. Lambert honored Connie Hedrick, saying, "Her pride, it's infectious." He added that Hedrick, both service personnel of the year and a retiree, served as a great "teammate, one of the most important people in our building."

Later, after announcing her retirement, Lambert stated that Hedrick would remain on the substitute rolls. Hedrick herself said, "This was not an easy decision."

Sandy Armstrong, teacher of the year, "has worn many hats over her career," said Lambert. He went on to say that "she doesn't have to do any talking . . . she walks the walk."

Lori Moore, principal of Franklin Elementary School, stepped forward next. She honored as service personnel of the year Jeralyn Swigunski. Moore said of her, "She didn't just run a kitchen, she builds a community" and described how "every meal she prepares is full of love and kindness."

Lea Jones earned teacher of the year as a special education teacher "who travels across the county long hours to make sure every child receives the support they need" and "sees the unique potential in every child."

Lisa Roberson, North Fork Elementary School principal, honored Candy Vance as service personnel of the year. She described how Vance "is one of the hearts of our school" with "a positive attitude that is contagious."

"She never hesitates to step in where she is needed," said Roberson, who shared that Vance "has a servant heart."

Beth Selmon earned the honor of teacher of the year for both NFES and Pendleton County Schools as a whole. The principal called her "a calm and steady presence in our building" and stated, "I deeply trust her judgment and value her feedback."

Later when recognizing her countywide award, Nicole Hevener, superintendent, said of Selmon that "her dedication to students is easy to see" and praised her "high standards mixed with a sense of humor."

She described how Selmon never sat down while teaching, saying, "If you ever pass by her class, she is always up and moving."

Speaking of sense of humor Derek Lambert, outgoing principal of Pendleton County Middle/High School and soon-to-be superintendent of Randolph County Schools, honored Pat Alt, financial secretary there. He stated that her position "is the most important person in the building" because "she keeps me off J. P.'s naughty list." He jokingly referred to J. P. Mowery, PCS treasurer.

He added of the retiring Alt how much her kindness had meant to him as both a student at PCMHS and as his staff when principal.

Lambert then shared a list of the positive attributes and adjectives used to describe other teachers of the year named, but smiled and said that "none of that applies" to Ron Hudson from PCM/HS. On a serious note, Lambert stated that the impact of Hudson's more than three decades of service as a teacher of agriculture left an inestimable impact on Pendleton County agriculture that would be felt for generations.

Next came accolades awarded to central office maintenance and transportation person of the year. Kristy Tritapoe announced Chuck Miller and "all of the important work he does" and thanked him for being "always willing to help out wherever he can." He collaborates to come up with ways to better improve student transportation and also travels out during threatening weather to help officials determine whether to delay or close schools. Miller was also recognized as the PCS service personnel of the year.

Hevener announced that service personnel of the year from the central office was Brooke Selmon, who runs accounts payable. "She is quick to serve staff, parents, and community," Hevener noted.

Lambert returned to honor BES retirees, starting with Hedrick. He then shared that Donita Kimble would retire after 36 years. "He described her as a person whose dedication to her work was less a job and more of "a life, it's who you are, it's what defines you."

Roberson announced that Elizabeth Harper would retire from NFES after five years, saying the Communities in Schools worker "is nothing short of inspiring" and "has truly made a difference in the lives of students and teachers."

PCMHS has three retirements this year, including Alt, Hudson, and also Vicki Lynn Bowman. Lambert praised her devotion to not only building the theater program, but also the confidence of the students in it. "She has . . . dedicated numerous hours to the theater program and the students and the arts program at the high school is better for it."

Tritapoe returned to the podium to honor the retirement of Randal Smith after 36 years of service, saying that "he was a faithful employee who held several positions" and whose dedication was "such a blessing to everyone."

The final retiree recognized was Lisa Jamison, who Hevener stated was a blessing when she came from Summit Bank to serve as financial secretary of the high school. Jamison then became executive secretary to the superintendent. Hevener thanked her for her "dedication, professionalism, and collaborative approach to the task at hand" and shared that "she was always three or four steps ahead of everybody."

Next came the genuine excitement over the announcement of the winner of the attendance cup, jokingly referred to as the Ivan "Sonny" O'Neil cup after the board member. All schools had improved their key numbers from the year prior.

First came the news that the fourth and fifth grade classes at NFES had no chronically absent students at all, meaning that everyone came to school more than 90 percent of the time.

PCM/HS placed fourth with 92.9 percent average daily attendance and 17.6 percent chronic absences.

BES came in third with 93.9 percent and 15.2 percent.

NFES placed second with 94.3 and 10.6

FES won the attendance cup with 94.7 and 9.4.

Tritapoe announced how the schools finished and said, "I want to thank everyone for making attendance a priority again this year." To conclude the dinner, Wilkins thanked all who came.

Historical Society

Continued From Page 1

Indeed, one could have called the celebration at Upper Tract "America 270" since that is about when George Washington of the Virginia colonial militia ordered construction of a fort there to defend against attacks from the French and their Indian allies.

Also, one could have also called the Upper Tract celebration Pendleton County Historical Society 100, as the organization celebrated its centenary as well.

Attendees could peruse a replica of the John Dahmer house, complete with furnishings, a collection of farm tools from Johnny Arvin Dahmer and others, traditional children's crafts and games, demonstrations, and exhibits from the War of Independence and also the Civil War.

Paul Clayton, president of the Pendleton County Historical Society, noted that a team of volunteers worked hard the day prior to set up the property for the day. Festivities took place on the grounds of the historical society's property centered on the former Upper Tract Presbyterian Church. Much of the time was spent in painstakingly organizing for display the collection of tools in the replica of John Dahmer's house.

About 120 came to enjoy a hands-on educational experience of history and tradition with 78 signing the book at the replica house, according to Richard Ruddle citing numbers provided by Dwayne Borror, all part of the historical society's leadership.

"We were really pleased with the crowd," shared Clayton. He added that among the visitors, "We had a pretty good mixture. A lot came over from the valley," Clayton added.

Richard Ruddle gave a history of the church and also of the Pendleton County Historical Society in general.

Music from the "Dulcimer Dames" provided traditional sounds that helped to put attendees into the old-time mindset. Crafts demonstrations included a wool demonstration where artists carded and spun it, creating little lambs and other keepsakes. Sabrina Nesselrodt, Robin Kile, and Holly Hubbs worked the spinning machine. Vickie Skavenski showed attendees how traditional split-bottom chairs were made.

Clayton stated that they "really appreciated the Upper Tract Volunteer Fire Department letting us use their lot for parking. That was a big help. Mike Alt didn't hesitate when I went to him and asked." That freed up the lot at the church for handicapped parking, serving those who faced more challenges getting around.

He added that "Tina Eye provided the food," which included a number of old-fashioned church picnic style favorites such as macaroni and cheese, hot dogs, baked beans, cole slaw, hamburgers, and much more.

Of course, Pendleton County's history is forever intertwined with that of the conflicts fought on and for the land. Greg Adamson displayed and described artifacts from the War of Independence while Dwayne Borror and Austen Whetzel set up a representation of a typical Civil War camp one might see in the mountains back then.

The historical society held its business meeting during the official presentation, appointing Pat Alt as treasurer. She had recently retired from Pendleton County Schools.

Museum in Franklin

Continued From Page 1

ern exterior, kitchen, and porch appeared on it. By 2008, Grace Dyer left the historic home to the Pendleton County Historical Society.

In the atrium of the building, many displays greet the eye from colorful historical flags and banners to musical instruments played in bygone days placed on the walls. In the far corner, under glass and away from destructive natural light sits a large collection of historical documents and manuscripts.

Ruddle noted, "Here's a book from the Old Wilfong Church written in German" among other papers and publications from the county over the centuries.

Many of the original founding frontier families stayed on for generations, spreading around the county. Their family names are woven into the fabric of Pendleton County history. That makes the museum unusual in that it shares the history of not only a community, but the families who lived in, built on, and raised their own families on the land here.

All that said, a museum can offer the widest variety of interesting exhibits, stories, and programs, but all of that history and heritage remains untold if people do not come to experience it. As Clayton and Ruddle lament, too few do, despite its being open during regular days and hours in the summer and by appointment almost any other time.

Clayton explained that the board had looked at ways "to make the museum more accessible." Ruddle stated that when visitors do come to examine the surprisingly large amount of material on display for the size of the museum they "are always complimentary. They're surprised at what we have here."

One of the most interesting exhibits, put in place relatively recently, features the death and funeral ways of Pendleton County in the time between the frontier period and about the time of the Great Depression. It includes a coffin, displays of interior fabric, photographs from the then-common practice of photographing children who passed at, or directly after, birth, and more.

Ruddle pointed out an intricately carved tombstone to explain the different meanings of certain carved features on it. These images speak a language all their own, understood well in the 1800s, but not in the 21st century. Fortunately, a helpful guide posted on the wall explains them.

The Civil War in Pendleton County quite literally pit brother against brother, making the topic one of enormous importance. Ruddle pointed out photographs of Brigadier General James Boggs (C.S.A.) of the 31st Virginia and his brother, Captain John Boggs (U.S.A.) of the Pendleton Home Guards. They fought on different sides of the county on different sides of the war, but one can learn the story of the brothers in the room sharing Civil War history.

As befits a proper historical museum, the exhibits tell the story of the men who fought for either side with even-handedness. The displays honor men who stepped forward to defend their homes, their farms, and their community, regardless of which banner flew over their heads in battle.

With important research published by society member Brenna Mitchell and a collection of letters, photos, and other documents assembled by H. M. Calhoun, the museum and society have rich resources from which to conduct research on that and other topics. Through the website, online visitors can access databases in a number of different libraries.

While the accumulation of collections and the assembly of dynamic and instructive exhibits is quite impressive, it does no good if people do not travel up the hill and experience it for themselves.

The Boggs House Museum is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., or later.

Pillar of Agriculture, Batson

Continued From Page 1

percent beef operation in the 1990s. Those changes shaped her understanding of resilience and adaptation — qualities she would carry throughout her career.

Her youth was steeped in agricultural involvement. Batson spent 12 years in 4-H showing cattle and judging livestock, and she remained active in FFA. She later joined the livestock and poultry judging teams at West Virginia University, graduating in 1988 with a degree in agriculture.

"Those experiences taught me confidence," she said. "They taught me to trust what I know."

A Career Built on Hands-On Experience

After college, Batson accepted a position managing the farrowing unit on a 1,000-sow farm in southern Virginia. "It was intense, demanding work — but I loved it," she recalled. After a year, she returned closer to home and spent the next 13 years working as a poultry service technician, gaining a deep understanding of animal health, production systems, and producer support.

When her twin boys were born, Batson shifted into part-time substitute teaching from 2007 to 2023, all while continuing to farm. "Agriculture never left my life," she said. "It was always there, waiting for me."

Stillhouse Farm: A New Chapter

Today, Batson and her husband, Randy, own Stillhouse Farm, a 110-acre operation located just four miles from her family's 320-acre home farm. Together, the two properties represent more than land — they represent six generations of dedication.

The family's agricultural roots stretch back to 1869, when William Adamson immigrated from Ireland and eventually settled on the present farm. Over time, the operation grew under the leadership of Batson's late father, Bob Adamson, and her late uncle, Ben Adamson. "They built the foundation we stand on," she said.

Batson and her brother, Jim Adamson, now co-own the family farm through A&B Livestock. Her brother, who lives in Illinois, returns home to plant and harvest corn and handle equipment maintenance. Day-to-day operations fall to Amy and Randy Batson, who manage the cattle, goats, and crop work.

Goats, Cattle, and Conservation

In 2012, Batson added Boer goats to the operation, raising both registered stock and show wethers. She maintains a herd of 40–45 brood does and has become a respected breeder in the region.

The cattle operation includes 140 brood cows that are good agricultural practices, all-natural certified. The farm also produces 80 acres of hay and 50 acres of corn, supplemented by several rented properties.

Conservation is central to their management philosophy. "We've practiced no-till for years," Batson explained. "We use rotational grazing and plant cover crops, usually barley, to protect our soil and improve our pastures." These practices reflect her belief that good farming means leaving the land better than you found it.

Service Beyond the Farm

Batson's commitment to agriculture extends into community leadership. She currently serves on the Pendleton County Farmland Protection Board, is treasurer and a board member of the Blue Ridge Boer Goat Breeders, and is active on the Tri-County Fair goat committee.

Her involvement, she said, is driven by a desire to support other farmers and strengthen rural communities. "Agriculture is a team effort," she noted. "We all depend on each other."

Honoring the Past, Building the Future

When her father was diagnosed with cancer in 2023, Batson stepped into full-time management of the cattle farm. After his passing in 2025, she and her brother inherited the operation. The responsibility is one she carries with pride.

"Every day, I think about the generations before me," she said. "I think about what they sacrificed so we could be here. And I think about the generations who will come after us."

As the International Year of the Woman Farmer shines a spotlight on women shaping agriculture, Batson stands as a powerful example — a farmer whose life reflects resilience, dedication, and deep respect for the land.

"I'm honored," she said simply. "But more than anything, I'm grateful. Grateful to farm. Grateful to carry this legacy forward. Grateful to be part of something bigger than myself."

America250 Poetry Contest Announced

Governor Patrick Morrisey announced the launch of the America250 Poetry Contest, inviting West Virginians of all ages to submit original poems celebrating the history, heritage, and shared values of West Virginia and the United States as the nation prepares to commemorate the 250th anniversary of American independence.

"West Virginia has played an important role in our nation's history, and as we prepare to celebrate 250 years of freedom, I encourage West Virginians of all ages to share their creativity and love of country through this poetry contest," said Morrisey. "America's story is told through the people, places, and events that shaped our nation, and I look forward to seeing how West Virginians capture that spirit through poetry."

The contest provides an opportunity for residents to reflect on the people, places, and defining moments that have shaped both the Mountain State and the nation while sharing their own voice through poetry.

Submissions will be accepted through June 24. One winning entry will be selected, and the author will be recognized as part of West Virginia's America250 Celebration at the State Capitol in July.

For a complete list of rules and submission details, go to wvtourism.com/american250/poetry-contest/.

Interstate Movement Requirements Declared Following New World Screwworm Findings

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture has issued a special movement notice establishing additional interstate movement requirements for warm-blooded animals entering West Virginia from areas impacted by New World Screwworm.

These movement requirements are effective immediately and are issued under the commissioner of agriculture's authority granted in West Virginia Code §19-9-2 to prevent, suppress, control, and eradicate animal diseases.

The action follows confirmation of New World Screwworm in the United States and is intended to protect West Virginia livestock, companion animals and animal industries while allowing for continued movement of animals under enhanced safeguards.

"West Virginia remains free of New World Screwworm, and these requirements are being implemented out of an abundance of caution to protect our producers and animal owners," said Kent Leonhardt, WV Commissioner of Agriculture. "Our goal is to maintain business continuity while reducing the risk of introducing this pest into our state."

Under the order:

- All warm-blooded animals entering West Virginia from an identified New World Screwworm infested zone (NWS Confirmed Detections) must comply with national continuity of business movement guidance and obtain an entry permit from WVDA at least 48 hours prior to movement.
- Animals entering West Virginia from outside an infested zone but within a designated surveillance zone or high-risk county must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection completed within seven days of movement and certifying the animals are free of screwworm larvae infestation.

Livestock producers should note these requirements do not replace existing federal requirements related to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in livestock.

Permit requests should be submitted during normal business hours (Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. ET) by emailing wvpermits@wvda.us.

Animal owners, veterinarians and transporters can review state movement requirements at InterstateLivestock.com and determine current infested, surveillance and high-risk areas at NWS Confirmed Detections.

WVDA Animal Health staff are available to assist in determining shipment eligibility and movement requirements. For questions, contact WVDA Animal Health at 304-558-2214 or email wvpermits@wvda.us

Call WVDA Animal Health about NWS in domestic animals, WV DNR for wildlife NWS queries, and WV state public health regarding questions about NWS in people.

The WVDA urges animal industries to closely monitor animals for signs of disease and appreciates one's cooperation with new movement requirements designed to protect West Virginia's agricultural economy and the livelihoods of animal industry stakeholders.

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Incredible views of the Highlands of Pendleton County. Both lots are within walking distance of the Clubhouse and Driving Range and overlook hole #4.
- Can be purchased separately or as one outstanding lot.
- Lot #5 consists of 1.0 Acre and is listed at 129,900.
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Praying For Our Country & Community
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7PM to 7AM
Pendleton Community Center
200-299 Confederate Rd.
Franklin, WV 26807
Join us anytime, for 15 minutes or all night
Lamentations 2:19
"Arise, cry aloud in the night
At the beginning of the night watches;
Pour out your heart like water
Before the presence of the Lord;
Lift up your hands to Him
For the life of your little ones
Who are faint because of hunger
At the head of every street."
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Seafood Buffet
Friday, June 19 • 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Crab Legs, Steamed Shrimp, Fried Calamari, Shrimp Creole, Scampi Style Scallops, Fried Clams, Fried Oysters, Roast Beef w/Gravy, Herb Baked Chicken Breast, Hush Puppies, Steamed Rice, Corn, Buttered Potatoes, Cheddar Bay Biscuits, Assorted Desserts $40.00
Cruise-in
Saturday, June 20
4 - 7 p.m.
Father's Day Buffet
Sunday, June 21 • Noon - 3 p.m.
Broccoli Salad, Pasta Salad, Carved Prime Rib, Blackened Catfish, Chicken Virginia, Caulifower Au Gratin, White and Wild Rice, Glazed Carrots, Mashed Red Skinned Potatoes, Rolls/Butter and Assorted Desserts $30.00
RESTAURANT HOURS:
Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday Noon - 5 p.m.
(Sunday Buffet Noon - 3 p.m.
Menu Items Available All Day)

MENU
Pendleton Senior & Family Services
FRIDAY, JUNE 19
CLOSED Juneteenth CELEBRATING FREEDOM
MONDAY, JUNE 22
CLOSED Happy West Virginia Day! JUNE 20
TUESDAY, JUNE 23
Cornflake Crusted Haddock
Cheesy Potatoes
Spinach, Cantaloupe
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24
Cheeseburger Deluxe
Potato Wedges
Broccoli Salad
Ambrosia Salad
THURSDAY, JUNE 25
EVENING MEAL @ 5PM
Pork w/Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Strawberry Parfait
NATIONAL STRAWBERRY PARFAIT 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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Times Past

10 Years Ago
Week of June 16, 2016

Closing Date Set For Navy Base Auction

What has become known to national media outlets as the "West Virginia town for sale," but known to Pendletonians as the Navy base, will host the third open house for prospective buyers today.

The General Services Administration made the announcement on June 9.

GSA was charged with disposing of the property after Navy Information Operation Command, Sugar Grove was disestablished on Sept. 1, 2015. The property was vacated and gates were locked on Sept. 30.

This property includes nearly 123 acres and 105 structures with many modern amenities including an administration facility, fire/emergency services center, youth and fitness centers and recreational lodging. Eighty housing units and 53 housing suites, representing 106 rooms, round out the site's resources.

CORRECTION...

The bird pictured on the front page of last week's edition of "The Pendleton Times" was incorrectly identified as a blue heron. Several observant readers informed the "Times" that the fowl should have been identified as a Sandhill Crane a very unusual sight around this part of the United States. According to wildlife biologist, Chuck Waggy, "That bird should be in the Arctic tundra with its young right now."

Hedrick Wins County Farm Bureau Poster Contest

Katelyn Hedrick, a fourth-grade student at Franklin Elementary School, won the Pendleton County Farm Bureau's "Picture Agriculture in West Virginia" poster contest. Second place in the county contest went to Kinley Hinkle with Dusty Smith earning third place.

20 Years Ago
Week of June 15, 2006

Rural Fire Hydrants May Help With Fire Insurance

Pendleton County fire departments and landowners have the opportunity to take advantage of grant money for the installation of dry hydrants in the county to aid in fire prevention and control.

Dry hydrants are non-pressurized hydrants permanently installed in water sources, such as ponds or streams, which provide a supply of untreated water in areas where standard hydrants may not be available. In the event of a fire, having a limited supply of water and long travel distances can be disastrous for property owners in rural areas. Rural areas are the most common locations for dry hydrants because of the limited availability of standard treated-water hydrants. Due to the lack of standard hydrants, fires in rural areas are often more difficult to contain and to control with the lack of water resources.

30 Years Ago
Week of June 20, 1996

Seneca Rocks Man Winner in 1997 WV Calendar Contest

A Seneca Rocks man was one of 11 winners in the 1997 Scenes of West Virginia calendar.

Harrison Shull of Seneca Rocks submitted a photograph entitles "Crack of Dawn," showing a man climbing one of the mountains at Seneca Rocks. The photograph will be one of 13 scenes highlighting the state that will appear in the calendar which is printed and produced by Easton Printing Company of Parkersburg.

Shull said he is very pleased with being selected. Shull's winning entry was one of almost 500 slides and photographs that were submitted in the contest.

"The Scenes of West Virginia calendar is the only state calendar that is photographed by West Virginians and is printed and produced in this state," said Easton Printing manager, Carole Easton.

40 Years Ago
Week of June 19, 1986

Old Log Church in Smoke Hole Is Site for Sunday Service

In the Smoke Hole sits a small log church. In 1850 it began its life as a Methodist Church. By 1900 it was empty and forgotten. In 1931 it began a new life as an Episcopal Church. In the 1949 flood much of the area was destroyed and the church slowly moved to oblivion. After the 1985 flood the building still sits on a hill above the South Branch River and it is always open for prayer and meditation. It is a serene and peaceful place and it is worth a visit.

Rev. Frank Carr, Suffragen Bishop of West Virginia, will conduct a service at St. George's Episcopal Church, Smoke Hole.

No Easy Way to Remove Tree Stumps

Looking for a quick and easy way to remove a tree stump from your property? Sorry, no such method exists.

Chemical methods are available, but they require several years for results. And, some of these chemicals can be hazardous.

The old, tried-and-true method of removing stumps still seems to be the best. That means physically and manually removing the stump.

One approach is to dig around the stump and pull it out with a tractor. Another is to dig around the stump and cut it off six to 12 inches below soil level. Treat the stump with insecticides to prevent termites and cover it with soil.

As the stump decays, you will need to put on additional soil. Beware that mushrooms may sprout in the yard as the stump and roots begin to decay.

Machines called "stump chippers" do just that — they chip out the stump 18 to 24 inches below the soil line. If you want to remove many stumps, this device could be very useful.

ROPS Could Save Your Life

What is ROPS? It's a Roll Over Protective Structure, a sturdy steel frame that could save your life or protect you from a disabling injury.

According to the National Safety Council, several hundred American farmers are killed in tractor overturns each year and many more are disabled. But, studies show that injury severity has been greatly reduced and deaths practically eliminated in overturns of tractors equipped with ROPS and safety belts.

In the event of an accidental tractor overturn, ROPS reduces the tendency for the tractor to roll over completely, and it protects the operator wearing a safety belt from being crushed.

If you have a tractor that doesn't have this protection, check with your equipment dealer to see if a ROPS can be installed. And remember, your ROPS attachment will only provide the intended protection when it has been certified for your particular tractor model, when it's properly installed, and when you buckle up.

50 Years Ago
Week of June 17, 1976

Pendleton Begins 21-Day Flag Salute

"Let us renew our faith in the true spirit of the Stars and Stripes and the heritage which it reflects.

"Let us so act in our daily lives, in our relationships with our fellowmen, in our responsibilities of citizenship and in our willingness to bear the burdens of freedom that our children's children will have grateful reason to bless the memories of their fathers and mothers, as we have to bless those who established our great nation and those who preserved our freedom heritage for all of us to enjoy."

These were among the remarks made by Richard Homan last Saturday morning at the official inauguration of Franklin and Pendleton County's Bicentennial 21-day flag salute.

Ruddle Church Built in 1881

The Ruddle Presbyterian Church will have a celebration on Sunday, June 27, beginning with worship service at 9:45 a.m. This is in commemoration of the church building, built in 1881, which is the oldest Presbyterian church building in Pendleton County.

Small Post Offices May Get Reprieve

WASHINGTON — The senate post office and civil service committee ordered and reported on Friday a postal bill containing a moratorium on the closure of small post offices throughout the nation until February, 1977. A commission on postal service was established to study problems facing the postal service and make recommendations. It is hoped that the recommendations will contain provisions for subsidies for continuation of the operation of smaller post offices.

U. S. Senator Jennings Randolph, ranking majority member of the committee, offered and the committee accepted an amendment which would prevent the closing of any post office serving less than 35 families unless 60 percent of those families served by the facility agree.

70 Years Ago
Week of June 14, 1956

Wimer Pitching For 9th Division 'Redlegs' in Germany

GOEPPINGEN, Germany—Army Pfc. Thomas E. Wimer, Jr., 21, whose parents live in Franklin, is playing baseball in Germany with the 9th Division Artillery's "Redlegs" team.

Wimer, who is a pitcher with the team, is regularly assigned to Battery C of the division's 26th Field Artillery Battalion as a gunner.

The former Potomac State College student entered the Army in December 1954 and arrived overseas in June 1955. He is a 1953 graduate of Franklin High School.

Virginia Motorcade To Visit Pendleton

The annual Harrisonburg-Rockingham Good Neighbor tour, sponsored by the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled to visit Pendleton County on Wednesday, June 20.

The motorcade, made up of about 200 persons, including the Harrisonburg High School Band, will visit in Brandywine, Sugar Grove, Monterey, Blue Grass and McDowell.

The group will make a 20 minute stop in Brandywine at 7:40 a.m., and will then proceed to Sugar Grove where they will stop for breakfast at 8:20 a.m. Lunch will be served at Monterey, Va., and dinner at Grottoes, Va.

EDITORIALS

***A Warning in Time* – – –**

In last week's edition of the 'Times' we carried a story of a truck wreck that occurred on Alleghany Mountain June 1 resulting in approximately $10,000 damage to the truck and its payload. On April 29 a large tractor-trailer wrecked on Alleghany Mountain just 1/4 mile from the scene of the wreck written up in last week's paper. In that wreck the driver of the tractor was killed. There have been numerous other wrecks on Alleghany Mountain in recent years, many of which were large trucks carrying heavy loads.

Is there anything that could be done to reduce the number of these accidents? Certainly every effort should be exerted to prevent as many as possible because of the danger to life and limb, and because of the great property damage that often results. It is especially important to Pendleton County to keep its highways free of accidents because of its need for a large volume of tourist trade. And since the county is not served by a railroad and must depend entirely upon trucks for freight transportation, it would seem that we should leave no stone unturned to avoid highway accidents.

It has been suggested by a number of persons that one possible method of reducing the number of accidents on our mountainous highways is to employ the use of a type of road sign that is not used in Pendleton County and possibly not in the whole state. This particular type of road sign would be used on mountains in places where there is very little grade, but which descend into sections of road that are steep. This would warn the motorist who is driving down the mountain that he should not assume that he is off the mountain simply because he has reached a section of the road that is not so steep.

This type of sign would be especially important to truck drivers who sometimes shift out of the lower gears when they reach a section of road that is relatively level and then when they find themselves on a steeper grade, the weight of their truck is so great that their brakes will not hold them back and they lose control.

There is a section of road near the foot of Alleghany Mountain in Pendleton County where a sign of this type is especially needed. It is the scene of many truck accidents, some of which may have been avoided had the driver seen a sign which read, "WARNING—STEEP GRADE AHEAD."

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Smith Creek/ Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

It is that time of year when farmers get their equipment out to start working on several of their hay fields. This is only the beginning as there is all summer and early fall for cutting the hay.

Smith Creek and Friends Run Churches of the Brethren: shut-ins — Bucky Moyers, Pam Riner, Anna Tesi, Larry Moyers, Sandy Washburn, Mary Alice Simmons, Anna Lee Mitchell, Carol Propst and Ramona Luckel; prayer list — Richard Campbell, Joshua Shirk, Kenny Williams, Ruth Bauer, Rick Waggy, Gloria Moats, Jim Fawley, Ruthalene Judy, Jessie Simmons, Minny Rhoads, David Berg, Troy Bennett, Danny Nelson, Sherry Hedrick, Tom and Judy Borror, David M. Parkinson, Cleo Simmons, Jimmie Bennett, Tom Butterworth, Bobby Parsons, Robert Bennett, Rick Phares, Virgil "Bub" Yokum, Hannah Hedrick, John Moyers, Norma Auville, 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 Borror, Holly Beachler, Cameron Beachler, Marcia C. Warner, Keith Kimble, Lisa Dingess, Kitty Waggy, Gretta Pope, Mary Lou Wagoner, Lucy Westfall, Donna Bennett, Peggy Pitsenbarger, Amy VanMeter, Lynwood Pennington, Alvy Humphreys, the family of Johnnie Kaufman, the family of Caroll Lee Sponaugle and the family of Dave McConnell.

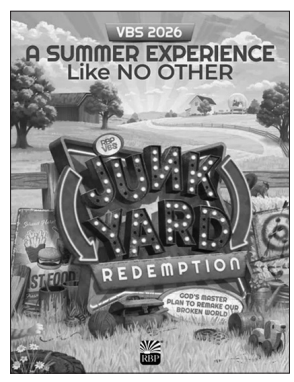
Prayer thought: "Saving God, please help me to release my fears to You as I walk on the way of holiness. I long to be with you."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for June 8 through June 14, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: June 8 - 82°, 57° (74°, 62°, .34"), June 9 - 74°, 65° (81°, 59°), June 10 - 82°, 67°, .55" (77°, 61°), June 11 - 88°, 68°, .02" (82°, 54°), June 12 - 92°, 64°, .01" (89°, 58°), June 13 - 83°, 59° (88°, 62°, 1.26") and June 14 - 81°, 57°, .32" (81°, 64°, .27").

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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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL


Christ Central Community Church
Upper Tract
Wednesday - Friday,
June 24 - 26
5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday, June 27
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
For Children Ages 4 - 12
Van rides will be available. Pick up locations are
•Family Dollar in Brandywine
•Pendleton Community Building in Franklin
Call 304-567-2020 for more information.
To register, go to
www.christcentralcommunitychurch.com
Come have fun with us!
We will learn how God takes broken things and makes them new!

Top Accelerated Readers at BES Named



Top Accelerated Readers in each grade at Brandywine Elementary School were, from left, Harley Bowers, Vianca Henderson, Vencen Rawson, Gaige Eye, Dylan Hensley, Gwen Bodkin and William Marsh.

Ryan Lambert, principal at Brandywine Elementary School, has announced the top 10 Accelerated Readers for the year and the top student in each grade level.

The top 10 Accelerated Readers for the year at Brandywine Elementary School were Vencen Rawson, fourth grader, 455.2 points, first place; Harley Bowers, sixth grader, 447.1 points, second place; Sylas LaMotte, sixth grader, 425.3 points, third place; Harper Marsh, sixth grader, 305.9 points, fourth place; Bethany Teagarden, fourth grader, 260.1 points, fifth place; Hunter Bowers, fourth grader, 246.2 points, sixth place; Vianca Henderson, fifth grader, 231.2 points, seventh place; Carson Mitchell, fourth grader, 221.8 points, eighth place; Macie Mitchell, sixth grader, 218.1 points, ninth place; and Gaige Eye, third grader, 209.7 points, 10th place.

The students with the most points in each grade level were William Marsh, kindergarten, 113.1 points; Gwendolyn Bodkin, first grade, 92 points; Dylan Hensley, second grade, 93.4 points; Eye, third grade, 209.7 points; Rawson, fourth grade, 455.2 points; Henderson, fifth grade, 231.2 points; and Harley Bowers, sixth grade, 447.1 points.



Brandywine Elementary School students earning the top Accelerated Reader points during the school year were, from left, front row, Gaige Eye, Carson Mitchell, Hunter Bowers and Bethany Teagarden; and back row, Vianca Henderson, Vencen Rawson, Sylas LaMotte, Macie Mitchell, Harley Bowers and Harper Marsh.

Grant County to Gain 500 Jobs from TerraSpark Energy Campus Development

By Stephen Smoot

The news resonated loudly from the Oval Office to Grant County. A next generation coal-fired electric power plant with advanced efficiency and emissions capture technology is on its way to Grant County.

TerraSpark received $18.5 million from the United States Department of Energy to construct an energy campus in Mount Storm near the existing plant operated by Dominion. Upon completion, it will generate 1.6 gigawatts of power while also using "Waste to Value" emissions capture technology.

"When it was announced at the Oval Office, we were excited. We're extremely excited about the opportunity," shared Kevin Haggerty, president of the Grant County Commission, who added that "we want to be one of the energy capitals of West Virginia." He noted that Grant County has embraced the "all of the above" energy development model touted by United States Senator Shelley Moore Capito and others.

Grant County currently has a coal-fired plant and a windfarm, with hydrogen fuel production slated to come in the not-too-distant-future as well.

"We're very thankful for everyone who had a hand in this, especially President Trump," stated Haggerty.

One of the first public mentions of a project such as this at Mount Storm came in a meeting of the Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority in Franklin in September 2024. Mark Bayliss, a member at the time of the Federal Communications Commission advisory council and president of the West Virginia Broadband co-op, presented the proposed project.

The proposal at the time envisioned that a microgrid style plant would pump excess carbon dioxide into large greenhouses, which enables 200 percent faster growth with 60 percent less water. It is unclear if this aspect is a part of TerraSpark's plan at this point. It is also not clear yet from where TerraSpark will purchase the coal for its plant.

In a release from TerraSpark, said Bill Tolpegin, partner at the company "Electricity demand in the United States is growing rapidly, and we need infrastructure that can keep up. This project is about delivering reliable power when it's needed, creating skilled, good-paying jobs, and helping advance carbon management technologies that strengthen America's energy future."

TerraSpark's website illustrates some of the new technology that will be used on what they call their "energy campus." To address water usage concerns, the plant will utilize a closed loop system that keeps the same water in use all of the time with minimal need to take in more or discharge.

The "Waste to Value" system will take other byproducts commonly cast out by similar plants and "converting them into useful products." As of now plans center around creating materials for use in the construction industry with an eye to "other marketable outputs."

Haggerty shared that the plant will create approximately 500 jobs and explained that it would require a large number of workers to help with construction. Furthermore, he shared that revenues from the new development will bring a boost to the county's tax revenues and help to pay for needed services.

He added that many have asked him if the plant was built to specifically serve data centers. The commission president explained that the construction of this and other plants is meant to create sufficient supply to meet power demands going forward in West Virginia and other states.

While data centers do consume power on a large scale, the digitalization of recreation and entertainment has also placed increasing demands on the grid. More power plants are necessary to ensure that customers have a consistent supply of electric power, particularly in times of peak need such as the hot summer and cold winter months.

West Virginia is part of the PJM Interconnection system. Power produced here goes into the multi-state network that serves the Mountain State and many others in the Mid Atlantic going into the Midwest. There is no possible gateway in existence, nor would one be practical if it did, that ensures that "the electrons" as engineers in the field state, will stay in one place and not flow into another unless the network of power lines was self-contained, which none are or will be. Additionally, power exported from West Virginia means outside dollars returning to the state.

Should supplies of power constrict while demand increases, either power will be rationed or the price will rise to significantly high levels. Rationed power means periods without access to electric, as many Third World nations generally experience due to lack of infrastructure in power plants, power lines, or both.

The White House in a statement shared that the creation of new power plants, which will increase supply considerably, will help to save $50 billion in energy costs by creating ample supplies.

During the Oval Office event, Governor Patrick Morrissey told the president, "All West Virginians are deeply grateful to you for your focus on protecting their energy jobs. Coal miners know the incredible importance of why we are here today."

Haggerty stated that commissioners have shared with the governor that "Grant County is looking for opportunities "beneficial to the citizens and the tax base."

Morrissey has touted the expansion of power generation capacity in West Virginia as a signature policy. While in the early industrial era, raw materials were extracted and shipped out of state for further production or refinement, today's push envisions upstream, midstream, and downstream financial and other benefits to the Mountain State.

Trump stated that the measure would in total "protect 14 coal plants and 42 coal mines." Another coal-fired plant in the region in Cumberland, Maryland, will be recommissioned.

He also shared that $350 million would go towards upgrades to a coal fired plant in Puerto Rico, an American territory struggling with an archaic plant and grid system for many years.

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NFES Students Earn Academic Recognition

The staff of North Elementary School has released the following honor rolls and attendance records for the fourth nine-week's grading period, second semester and the school year.

A Honor Roll
Fourth Nine Weeks

First grade — Elias Cooke, Noah Goldizen, Takota Kimble, Wyatt Malcolm, Brody Nelson, Shepard Pysell and Skylar Sponaugle;

Second grade — Gracie Thompson, Jason Thompson and Timber Tingler;

Third grade — Braxton Barkley, Makenna Bell, Hurikane Cross, Oakley Dahmer, Benaiah Glover, Benson Harper, Gavin Hedrick, Ellie Huffman, Hunter Kimble, Marley Kimble, Blake Long, Israel Martin, Allison Nelson and Delaney Thompson;

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

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

Sixth grade — Declan Shane, Kimberly Sponaugle and Sadie Wimer.

A/B Honor Roll
Fourth Nine Weeks

First grade — Russell Warner;

Second grade — Waylonn Bell, Aurora Infante, Mason Simmons and Jayden Swain;

Fourth grade — Oliver Cook, Leland Dove, Kaden Kimble, Jace Nelson, Jace Ours and Hannah Sponaugle;

Fifth grade — Brooklyn Vint; and

Sixth grade — Emilee Morris-Hedrick

Perfect Attendance - Fourth Nine Weeks

Kindergarten — Lynleigh Glover, Braxton Long, Benson Phares, Haleigh Sponaugle and BrantLee Vint:

First grade — Ivy Huffman and Samantha Sponaugle;

Second grade — Cambrie Ours and Jayden Swain;

Third grade — Makenna Bell, Benaiah Glover, Benson Harper and Ellie Huffman;

Fourth grade — Kaden Kimble and Kinsley Shane;

Fifth grade — Darek Greathouse and Haley Warner; and

Sixth grade — Tommy Waybright.

Faithful Attendance
Fourth Nine Weeks

Kindergarten — Adalynn Grapes, Isaiah Hedrick, Micah Vandevander, Wyatt Haddix and Gabriella Roberts;

First grade — Wyatt Malcolm, Brody Nelson, Shepard Pysell and Haleigh Hedrick;

Second grade — Waylonn Bell, Aurora Infante and Timber Tingler;

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

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

Fifth grade — Taylor Arbaugh, Eli Nelson, Daniel Thompson, Andelyn Vance and Brooklyn Vint; and

Sixth grade — Levi Arbaugh, Aaliyah Martin, Emilee Morris-Hedrick, Dakota Vandevander and Allison Warner.

A Honor Roll
Second Semester

First grade — Takota Kimble, Wyatt Malcolm and Brody Nelson;

Second grade — Jason Thompson;

Third grade — Hurikane Cross, Oakley Dahmer, Benaiah Glover, Benson Harper, Ellie Huffman, Marley Kimble and Delaney Thompson;

Fourth grade — Vera Selmon;

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

Sixth grade — Declan Shane and Sadie Wimer.

A/B Honor Roll
Second Semester

First grade — Elias Cooke, Noah Goldizen, Shepard Pysell, Skylar Sponaugle and Russell Warner;

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

Third grade — Braxton Barkley, Makenna Bell, Gavin Hedrick, Hunter Kimble, Blake Long, Israel Martin and Allison Nelson;

Fourth grade — Karlee Arbaugh, Oliver Cook, Leland Dove, Kaden Kimble, Jace Nelson, Jace Ours, Kinsley Shane and Hannah Sponaugle;

Fifth grade — Brooklyn Vint; and

Sixth grade — Emilee Morris-Hedrick and Kimberly Sponaugle.

Perfect Attendance
Second Semester

First grade — Ivy Huffman and Samantha Sponaugle;

Third grade — Benaiah Glover; and

Sixth grade — Tommy Waybright.

Faithful Attendance
Second Semester

Kindergarten — Lynleigh Glover, Adalynn Grapes, Wyatt Haddix, Isaiah Hedrick, Braxton Long, Benson Phares, Micah Vandevander and BrantLee Vint;

First grade — Brody Nelson;

Second grade — Cambrie Ours and Jayden Swain;

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

Fourth grade — Karlee Arbaugh, Leland Dove, Kaden Kimble, Jace Nelson, Hannah Sponaugle and Layla Warner;

Fifth grade — Darek Greathouse, Eli Nelson, Andelyn Vance and Brooklyn Vint; and

Sixth grade — Aaliyah Martin and Allison Warner.

A Honor Roll – Year

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

Second grade — Jason Thompson;

Third grade — Braxton Barkley, Makenna Bell, Hurikane Cross, Oakley Dahmer, Benaiah Glover, Benson Harper, Gavin Hedrick, Ellie Huffman, Hunter Kimble, Marley Kimble, Israel Martin, Allison Nelson and Delaney Thompson;

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

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

Sixth grade — Declan Shane and Sadie Wimer.

A/B Honor Roll - Year

First grade — Ivy Huffman, Brody Nelson and Elijah Pysell;

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

Third grade — Blake Long;

Fourth grade — Leland Dove, Kaden Kimble, Jace Ours and Hannah Sponaugle;

Fifth grade — Brooklyn Vint; and

Sixth grade — Kimberly Sponaugle.

Perfect Attendance Year

Third grade — Benaiah Glover; and

Sixth grade — Tommy Waybright.

Faithful Attendance – Year

Kindergarten — Lynleigh Glover, Isaiah Hedrick and BrantLee Vint;

First grade — Ivy Huffman and Samantha Sponaugle;

Second grade — Cambrie Ours and Jayden Swain;

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

Fourth grade — Karlee Arbaugh, Kaden Kimble, Jace Nelson, Hannah Sponaugle and Layla Warner;

Fifth grade — Darek Greathouse, Eli Nelson, Andelyn Vance, Brooklyn Vint and Haley Warner; and

Sixth grade — Aaliyah Martin and Allison Warner.

PCM/HS Honor Roll Recipients for Fourth Nine-Weeks

Alie Judy, school counselor, has released the fourth nine-weeks honor rolls for Pendleton County Middle/High School.

Principal's Honor Roll
All A's

Seventh grade — Braxton Beachler, Olivia Botkin, Landon Bowers, Eli Boyer, Ava Davis, Tori Heavner, Alaina Hedrick, Addy Huffman, Alexandria Jameson, Breymann Keesecker, Madison Kirk, Callen Kisamore, Madison Mallow, Doyle Plaugher, Roscoe Pownell and River Zutaut;

Eighth grade — Beckett Aumann, Kinley Bennett, Anthony Bowman, Vaylee Harper, Alayna Huffman, Noah Kobetic, Journey Rowe, Lainey Simmons, Branson Smith, and Aniayah Spencer;

Ninth grade — Ava Bowers, Laney Bowers, Tia Heavner, Cohen Hiett, Isabella Jameson, Ziva Jones, Abigail Judy, Carolina Kimble, Mason Miller, Katelyn Myers, Evie Nulph, Jude Propst, and Ashlyn Wimer;

Tenth grade — Jax Bennett, Chesnee Colaw, Callina Dunn, Sam Eason, Dylan Eye, Alaena Fertig, Lukas Halterman, Mason Harper, Katie Heavner, Katie Keyser, Chloe Kisamore, Zachary Landon, Phoebe Pownell, Ben Puffenbarger, Albert Ramos-Rivera, Colton Roberson, and Kaylee Teter;

Eleventh grade — Alyssa Bennett, Spencer Hartman, Ty Heavner, Callie Judy, and Susan Vincell; and

Twelfth grade — Breena Bowers, Emily Conrad, Kaylin Cooper, Mason DiFalco, Jaiden Mitts, Leah Nesselrodt, Vivian Pownell, Gabriella Trail, Carolyn Varner, and Brynlynn Waggy.

Regular Honor Roll
3.0 Average

Seventh grade — Cambree Alt, Sadie Armentrout, Chloe Barkley, Blayke Bennett, Emily Boggs, Austin Bradfield, Kenden Champ, Owen Champ, Isabella Cooper, Skye Dahmer, William Dove, Serenity Elkins, Emma Graham, Nickolas Harper, Alexis Hedrick, Chelsea Hedrick, Cambri Hiett, Alaska Kimble, Garrett Lambert, Tucker Minor, Jackson Moyers, Nolin Nededog, Emma Nesselrodt, Chevelle Noble, Loralei Price, Elaina Raines, Paige Warner, Marion Williams, Bentley Wimer, and Levi Wimer;

Eighth grade — Reagyn Atkins, Allison Barbour, Greyson Boggs, Weston Boyer, Kya Brogan, Eulaila Dahmer, Mackenzie Day, Abigail Eye, Bella Eye, Remington George, Daisy Hartman, Hannah Heavner, Cayden Hensley, Ty Johnson, Kallie Keyser, Miley Kimble, Cheyenne McLane, Hadassah Milstead, Maiya Mongold, Carmella Paugh, Emma Puffenbarger, Taylor Rexrode, Chase Rohrbaugh, Ava Sherman, Aliviah Smith, Kynleigh Sponaugle, Josie Verdoni, Azalea Waddell, Lori Wehrle, Aiden Whetzel, and Makynna Whetzel;

Ninth grade — Emma Alexander, Case Alt, Haileigh Alt, Tatum Aumann, Lily Brogan, Marley Champ, Blaine Cook, Yaslin Cruz, Landon Davis, Kaylee Ellinger, Timothy Ferris, Kiley Johnston, Allie Hedrick, Anthony Henderson, Caleb Hunt, Carly Kimble, Hayden Kimble, Kolby Kimble, Kinsley Price, Bryce Propst, Elijah Ruddle, Jazminn Severance, Aiden Shirk, Jaxon Simon, Jacey Thompson, Addison Traub, Makayla Turner, McKenzie Vandevander, Lauren Williams, and Jackson Wimer;

Tenth grade — Charity Chan, Victoria Chan, Shayne Clutter, Jordyn Gibson, Kasen Hammer, Kayla Harper, Logan Hawk, Tanner Hedrick, Aubriana Holloway, Wyatt Hoyt, Candace McQuain, Alanna Miller, Eric Miller, Jr., Travis Owens, Allison Reuss, Jonah See, Lauren Sisson, Cooper Smith, Alyssa Swain, Lexy Tingler, and Danielle Warner;

Eleventh grade — Alex Adams, Zander Adams, Arianna Alt, Carson Alt, Trey Armentrout, Cayson Armstrong, Bryce Basagic, Matthew Cheesman, Olivia Gonshor, Cole Harper, Wyatt Hinkle, Summer Hull, Trace Lambert, Autumn Lockard, Britton Lough, Jaidah Nesselrodt, David Noble, Cain Nulph, Jessica Parker, Bryn Reel, Hannah Schell, Colby Simmons, Liam Simmons, Jayden Smith, Madison Sword, Alex Tracy, Kourtney Whetzel, Brody Wimer, and Brennan Wyatt; and

Twelfth grade — Madison Arbaugh, Zackary Boggs, Landon Champ, Evelyn Ditch, Corbin Dove, Bethany Eye, Tildon Graham, Garrett Hartman, Ethan Hawk, Kiera Heavener, Makinley Hedrick, Dakota Huffman, Braylin Hull, Cashton Kisamore, Gena Lambert, Ruby McClanahan, Kaitlyn McQuain, Orrin Merrick, Jameigh Miller, Nichole Mullen, Chase Owens, Emily Poling, Clara Raines, Kammron Redman, Emily Schell, Madison Simmons, Jonas Turner, James Waybright, Knoxx Wright, and Isabelle Zirkle.



I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful cards for my 101st birthday.

Ed Keller

LAWN PARTY
Mt. Zion U.M. Church
Deer Run
Saturday, June 20, 5:00 'til ?
Homemade Ice Cream
Country Ham Sandwiches
Homemade Pies and Cakes
Good Eats
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WARNER'S DRIVE-IN
TOY STORY 5
JUNE 19/20
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$8 for Ages 12 & Over
Kids Under 12 FREE
(Compliments of Judy's Drug Store in Petersburg)
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7 p.m.
Snack Bar Opens at 6 p.m.
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HARMAN OFFICE:
THURSDAY, June 25th
3:00pm - 4:00pm
RIVERTON OFFICE:
FRIDAY, June 26th
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Elder Abuse Includes:
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*No patient denied services because of inability to pay!
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County Young Writers Contest Winners Share Stories

A Home

By Dylan Eye

10th Grade, Pendleton County Middle/High School

I am your house. I watched as your parents carried you through me for the first time. I watched as you grew up, running in and out until you wore a path through the living room. You would play outside for hours, dashing outside to play games with the girl next door, who you liked immensely. Even if you were tired, you'd always turn right back around to play for a little longer.

I watched you run up to your room after a long, grueling day at school. You'd stand at the top step, striking poses like the superheroes from your favorite comics. When you saw the girl next door coming over, you'd slide down the banister to get to the front door quicker. I watched as you and her sat on the bottom step, talking and laughing for hours. You gradually started to like her, until she became your first crush.

I watched as you breathed on my windowpanes to draw pictures. You would press your face up against the glass to stare at the clouds as it rained, and you smiled when you saw a rainbow. I watched as you became obsessed with golf for a week, and as you accidentally hit a ball through one of my windows and into another neighbor's cup of tea. I watched as you admired the girl next door, completely besotted with her ethereal beauty. In your eyes, she was like an angel that had fallen from Heaven.

I watched as that girl started to come over more often. You and she fell in love, becoming obsessed with each other. I watched as you worked up the courage to ask her out on a first date, and I also watched the many dates that followed. I watched as you searched online for a ring to buy her, and I saw the face that you made when you saw the price of the one you picked out. I watched as you got down on one knee to propose to her, and as tears of happiness flooded her eyes when she said yes.

I watched as you brought home your new wife from the church. I watched you carry her through my front door, you in the tuxedo your dad bought you and she in a magnificent wedding gown. I watched as you and her sat and watched the sun set every day, and as the baby in your wife's belly grew, until one day you carried a beautiful baby girl through my front door. I watched as you three stared at the sunset, enjoying the sublime shades of gold, pink and amber.

I watched you and your wife play with your daughter. I watched as you three ran around the trees, playing tag in the sultry summer air. I watched you push your daughter on the swing, and watched you lay in the soft, warm grass as you watched the stars. I watched your daughter's first birthday. I saw how happy the three of you were. While I watched your daughter grow faster and stronger, I also watched you start to become weaker. I watched you become skinnier and frailer, and I watched as your wife became worried for you. As you came home from the hospital with your cancer diagnosis, I watched you hold your wife, telling her that it would be okay. However, that wasn't the case.

You started to become very frail, until you could barely stand. Since you couldn't play anymore, your daughter sat and watched movies with you until she fell asleep in your arms. I watched as every breath you took became labored, and as your heart struggled to beat. As your wife held tightly to your hand, I watched as the tears rolled down her cheeks while you told her that it would be alright. I watched as you told her your last words, which were, "I love you."

I watched as your wife and daughter cried. Their tears fell onto my floorboards, next to where you lay, and they kept falling until neither of them could cry anymore. Your wife wiped away your daughter's tears, repeating your last words to her for the rest of the night.

After your death, it was like time had completely stopped for your family. Your wife and daughter had many sleepless nights, and even more tear-filled days. Your wife knew that they had to move on, but she couldn't bear the thought of living in a world without you. Her mind started to spiral like a top, only her mind just kept spinning faster. The world felt warm and soft while you were still there, but now it felt colder than the arctic. Your wife thought her life was over, until your daughter decided to bring her outside for the first time since you died.

The yard was overgrown with weeds and grass. It looked as if your wife and daughter lived in a jungle. As they waded through the yard, your wife looked up to the most stunning sunset she had ever seen. It was filled with alluring shades of orange and pink, with the clouds shining a vibrant yellow. It made the tears that formed in your wife's eyes look like drops of fire. As she gazed upon this, she decided that she wouldn't dwell on the past any longer. After all, that is what you wanted.

While I'm physically made of boards and nails, I'm filled with your memories and experiences. I watched your whole life. From your very first days on this earth to your very last, I was there. Through thrilling and troubled times, stormy and sunny days, I was there. Although I may have started as a house, it was through your life that I became a home.

Milly and Rose

By Carly Mitchell

First Grade, Brandywine Elementary School

Once upon a time, a girl named Rose went to the beach with her friends and her horse named Milly. Rose loved to swim in the ocean and she loved the beach and looking at all the fish and shells. She loved hanging out with her friends and her horse, too.

Rose wanted to go swimming and look at the fish. She told her friend she was going to the water to look at fish. Rose got up and walked into the ocean. She saw a crab and a little goldfish and some jelly fish. She saw some shells, too. Rose started walking back to tell her friends about the shells and the fish. Suddenly, Rose got pushed by the waves to the middle of the sea. She tried to come back, but the waves pushed her again. She was very scared and she cried loudly.

Milly heard Rose crying and Milly went to the ocean. Milly swam hard, but the waves pushed her back to the beach. She tried again but the wind pushed Milly back. Milly was mad because it kept pushing her back to the beach. Milly tried one more time. This time, Milly got there before Rose sunk! Rose grabbed Milly's harness and Milly pulled Rose up. Rose got on Milly's back and Milly swam back to the beach. Milly was happy and Rose was happy, too!

Orange Jelly

By Bethany Teagarden

Fourth Grade, Brandywine Elementary School

Once upon a time, in Oklahoma there was a fifth grade girl named Emma. Emma's teacher, Mrs. Kate is a very nice teacher, but she would occasionally get super hyper and silly because she would only eat sugary foods. One day while Emma was outside at recess, the ball that she was playing with rolled into the woods. When Emma went into the woods she saw a mysterious orange jelly-like object. Not knowing what it was, Emma quickly grabbed the ball, ran out of the woods, and told herself that she imagined it.

On the way home from school, Emma saw some beautiful daisies and decided to pick them. While she was picking the flowers, one of them slipped from her hand and landed in orange jelly that looked exactly like the orange jelly she found in the woods not long ago. When the flower landed in the orange jelly, it developed a layer of what looked like a mixture of clear gelatin and crushed ice. Flustered, and not wanting to be frozen Emma ran home knowing she had to find out what the orange jelly was. That night in bed, Emma thought about the orange jelly that she saw at school and by the daisies, it didn't look alive, so she figured they were two different blobs.

The next day, when the recess bell rang, Emma snuck into the woods instead of lining up! At that time, Mrs. Kate was in one of her sugar rush spells, so she didn't notice Emma sneaking into the woods. When Emma got into the woods she found a trail of the mysterious orange jelly. She followed the trail through the woods. Emma was about to follow it over a hill when she heard a sound. Emma stopped, the noise, it sounded like, crying? Emma raced over the hill where she found a monster that looked like a bigger version of the orange jelly but was alive! Emma slowly walked closer to the orange monster and whispered, "Please don't hurt me." The monster looked up and said, "I won't hurt you, my name is Bob, and I just want friends, that's why I'm crying." "Those blobs of jelly are your tears?" Emma asked. "Yes," confirmed Bob. "Do you have any family?" questioned Emma. "My mom's an orange jelly monster, that's why I'm orange! My dad is an ice monster, that's why my tears and spit freeze what they touch!" Upon seeing Emma's scared expression, Bob said, "Don't worry they can't freeze you!" Emma was relieved. She said, "I'm Emma and I think I can find you some friends!"

At that moment, Mrs. Kate lost her sugar rush and noticed Emma was missing! She ran out the door pushing kids aside as she frantically searched for Emma. Just as Mrs. Kate was about to call 911, she saw Emma coming out of the woods saying, "Mrs. Kate, we have a new student."

Bob then became part of Emma's class and was friends with everyone.

Take A Chance on Me

By Macie Mitchell

Sixth Grade, Brandywine Elementary School

My name is Ruby, and no, just because I'm in a wheelchair doesn't mean that I need help writing this story. Listen, there's no need to have pity on me; I am capable of anything I set my mind to. Some of you might remember me from being on American Idol, when my finale song won me a million dollars. I never in a thousand years thought that I would be a star. Some people are lucky enough to be born with talent, but others must work for it. I was one of those people.

I was born without any legs. My parents were embarrassed about having a legless child, so I was put in foster care. I've bounced from house to house ever since, because my "parents" always find me too obnoxious. Even though I've always been obnoxious, there was one person and one person only who could handle me, and that person was Emily. I was 12 and had just been dropped back off at the foster center when a beautiful lady walked in. She was looking for a child but couldn't find "the one." When she started to leave, she saw me. It was love at first sight. Emily took me home and made me hers. I had everything; a house, a bed, toys, but most importantly, a mother. Emily had an amazing singing voice. She gave me singing lessons every Sunday after church. Our life was great until Emily suddenly died of cancer. It broke my heart having to leave that life after living it for three years. Now I am back in foster care.

The day after I returned to the foster center, I sent my application to American Idol. The only reason I sent my application was for Emily; she taught me everything I know. I needed to make her proud. The next month I received a letter inviting me to audition for American Idol! The letter said, "We would love to hear your voice tell your story on our show." Emily would be so proud.

I just had to talk my caretaker, Fred, into letting me go all the way to L.A. It took some convincing, but he eventually agreed to let me go. I was thrilled he was the adult taking me because he is so devoted to the foster center, that he never has time for himself. I got to go on a plane for the first time, and we got to ride in the first-class section. We could basically get whatever we wanted. I got strawberries, and Fred took a nap. We landed in L.A. after a two-and-a-half-hour flight, and a limousine drove us to our hotel! A limousine! I couldn't believe it! It was even better than I'd imagined. Our hotel, Lavendar Resort, was very fancy. It had complimentary chocolates, a pool, an arcade, restaurants, and even a theater. Everything was more than I imagined! I didn't understand how anyone could afford such a place. Fred said that I could do anything until six p.m., and then I had to eat food and then go to bed. The next day was the competition, and we had to be there at seven in the morning. I couldn't wait.

I could have never imagined how big the set would be. On TV it looked very small. Fred and I woke up at 5:30 a.m. Even though the set was only five minutes away, I was rushing to get ready. I had so much to do to get ready, and I was giddy to get on set. We finally got to the set, and I was extremely nervous. To top it off, I was the first to go on stage. Nobody ever tells you that the world stops when you are having the best time. The world stopped for me that day. I made it past the entry round, then the semifinals, and then the final. The finale included two of us, a girl named Bree and myself. It was Bree's turn, my palms were sweaty, and I had my song ready. She was good, but I knew I could beat her. I was singing the song that Emily and I wrote together. It was called, "Take a Chance on Me." It was my turn. I thought my heart was going to leap out of my chest. Everything around me stopped, and that's when I knew it was my time to shine. I rocked it and ended up winning! Fred rushed out on stage, and he was jumping with joy. I had just won half a million dollars. I wasn't excited because I won money, I was excited because I won it for the one person who took a chance on me, Emily.

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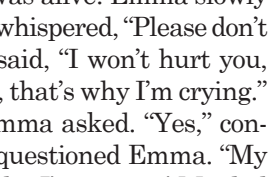
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FIREFIGHTERS' PARADE
Saturday, June 27 • 6 p.m.



Registration will start at 5 p.m. at the firehouse in Brandywine.
Line-up at the Cinder Bin on Rt. 33 following registration
Parade will end at the fire department on Rt. 21
Trophies Will Be Awarded!



Sincere Appreciation

The family of Greg Lantz wishes to thank our friends and family for their many acts of kindness, words of comfort, messages of sympathy, flowers, food and other offerings in our bereavement.

It is truly a blessing to live in a community where everyone supports and loves one another as family.

Thank You,
Mary Ruth, Dillon, Elizabeth and Todd, Mike and Tori

NOTICE TO MON POWER CUSTOMERS WITH RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACROSS THEIR PROPERTY

Mon Power has contracted to maintain portions of its rights-of-way with an aerial saw consisting of approximately ten 24-inch rotary blades powered by a motor and suspended on a vertical boom beneath a helicopter. This maintenance method allows for the quick, safe, and efficient trimming of trees along our transmission lines. The aerial saw will be operating April through September 2026 in the following counties in West Virginia:

Tucker-Randolph-Pendleton Counties (William-Seneca # 160 138 kV)
A transmission line in Tucker, Randolph and Pendleton Counties, extending in a southeasterly direction from William Substation near Thomas, WV. The line crosses State Route 93 approximately one and one-half miles north of Davis and then travels in a straight-line east of Davis continuing through Canaan Valley, near State Route 32 and running along the ridges east of Harman. The line crosses the Allegheny Mountains near the Randolph/Pendleton County line, continuing near Onego and Teterton and ending near Germany Valley Limestone Company at Seneca Substation.

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Franklin, WV 26807
Telephone: 304-358-2207
Email: kristy.tritapoe@k12.wv.us

Wildcats Roar in Huntington but Are Overcome by Near Perfect Pitcher in Semi-Finals

By Stephen Smoot



The Wildcats gather before the game, fired up and ready to go. Photo courtesy of WVSSAC.

Pendleton County had its swan song in the state baseball tournament in Huntington last week. In heat and humidity typical for that end of the state, but rare in the mountains, the Wildcats battled as hard as they could.

But what they met in their second game was a pitcher about as close to perfect as one gets. Luke Tagliente of the Sherman Tide brought with him a 13 win and no loss record. He allowed zero earned runs, eight walks, 20 hits, and struck out 99 during the course of the season. Tagliente had 18 total appearances on the year.

With that in mind, Pendleton County gave him as much trouble on the mound as he has faced all year, garnering two hits and two walks against the star hurler.

Travis Owens led off the game for the Wildcats and saw firsthand why Tagliente has dominated this year. The pitcher brought both velocity and movement on his fastball, striking out the Wildcat leadoff hitter.

Sam Yokum, head coach, after the game noted that "we ran into a wall. That pitcher, his ball has pop and it tails a lot."

Jaxson Simon followed and went down quickly to no balls and two strikes. He then fouled a pitch straight back, normally a sign that the batter has timed the pitcher, which he had. Simon sliced the fifth pitch to him past third base and down the left field line. He reached base, but was caught in a run down by a wily throw to first for the second out.

Chase Owens patiently worked Tagliente to a walk, but the inning ended with a strikeout.

Sherman had some early success against pitcher Chase Owens. The first batter drove a triple to left and the fielder appeared to lose the ball in the sun. The next batter got a single and a run batted in. Then the third batter earned a walk.

Yokum had seen enough – of the Sherman player on second base not so subtly stealing the signs that Simon used to communicate with his pitcher. Catchers and pitchers will communicate what pitches they want to throw and the other team stealing those signs is a part of baseball. Once he went to the mound and reset what pitcher and catcher were doing, the Tide had a much more difficult time with Chase Owens' pitching.

Mason Miller led off the top of the second with a triple of his own. Mason Harper came up next to bunt him over. Harper laid down a strong bunt on a squeeze play down the first base side that rolled a bit faster on turf than it would on grass and dirt. The turf-experienced Tide first baseman ran up and fielded it quickly, then gunned down Miller as he tried to slide in for the tying run.

Tagliente settled in and adjusted to the Pendleton County hitters and retired the side.

Sherman came out hitting in the bottom of the second, singling to lead off with the next batter sacrificing the lead off man into scoring position. Tagliente came up with a man on and hit a line drive to left that scored Sherman's second run. The third run came on a double to center.

Chase Owens then induced the next two batters to fly out to left. The third out came as Travis Owens dove and secured the ball in his glove to end the inning.

Sherman got the Wildcats retired in order in the top of the third, then got the leadoff man on to start the bottom of the stanza. The Pendleton County pitcher bore down, getting the first two away via swinging strikeouts, getting the third to fly out to right.

Chase Owens led off the top of the fourth by earning a walk on five pitches, but the Sherman fielders helped Tagliente allow no more action from the Wildcats in the inning.

After the first out in the bottom of the fourth came through strikeout, Sherman's second batter singled to get on base. The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission has established limits on pitch counts in baseball tournament play so Yokum sent Miller to the mound. Miller had stymied Class AA tournament qualifier Lincoln in the tune up game last week.

He stepped in against Sherman like he had not missed a beat.

Although Miller walked the first batter he faced, Simon gunned down a base steal attempt by firing quickly to Cohen Hiett at second. Miller gave up a single to the next batter, but induced a soft pop fly out to close the inning.

The Tide rolled through Wildcat batters in order in the top of the fifth. Miller put on a show in the bottom of the inning. He struck out the first batter with a breaking ball that arced high enough to make the batter duck, then dropped neatly into the strike zone. The next batter drove the ball to left for a stand up double.

Miller's second out of the inning produced more dramatics. He battled the hitter through 11 pitches to a full count, then painted the lower outside corner to strike him out looking. A soft grounder to short ended the inning.

Pendleton County could get no traction in the top of the sixth, but remained within striking distance as Wildcat pitchers silenced the Sherman offense. The Tide got a runner on with one out in the bottom of the frame and Travis Owens came in to pitch. The next batter up hit a quick comeback shot to the pitcher, which was fielded deftly. He wheeled to get the lead run at second and the double play was successfully turned, giving the Wildcats one more chance.

Tagliente, however, was dialed in and ruthlessly efficient, seemingly much stronger in the seventh than he had appeared in the first two. Pendleton County could not defeat him, but then again no one else this season has either. He made the 3-0 from the second inning on seem an insurmountable wall to clime with his ruthless efficiency.

"It was hard fought all the way," said Yokum. He added, "There are no easy ones here." He praised his pitchers and defense for slamming the door shut on the Sherman offense after the three runs scored early.

"All season long I have been hoping and praying for these young guys to have this opportunity," said Yokum. He has always put great stock in getting innings played in challenging environments, none more so than state tournament action and added, "We're young. We're going to be back."

As the field was cleared to prepare for the next game, players and coaches moved to the right field corner under the 330 sign. They talked for a long time, then knelt, held hands, and prayed. The team had every reason to be proud of their season, how they reached the playoffs, and beating one of the best teams in their class once there. These were the kinds of memories that, once made, endure long after the bats and balls are put away.

After the prayer, they lingered a few more minutes, then filed up the ramp to the welcoming arms of their proud parents and fans before the long drive back over the mountains to Pendleton County.

Wildcats Earn Accolades After Strong Showing in Post Season



Whether behind the plate or crouched by it in a hitting stance, all state catcher Jess Parker is a weapon. Photo courtesy of Light in Motion



Mason Miller pitched shutout baseball to keep the Wildcats within striking distance. Photo courtesy of WVSSAC.



Chase Owens shone bright on the mound and in the field. Photo courtesy of WVSSAC.



Kinsley Price emerged as a force during the Wildcat tournament run. Photo courtesy of WVSSAC.



Susan Vincell's season of dominance earned her all state recognition. Photo courtesy of WVSSAC.

By Stephen Smoot

Pendleton County athletes racked up their share of individual recognition after their teams took on the best in the state. Both baseball and softball fought through their underdog status, both coming close to earning a state title.

In baseball, Pendleton County went to Huntington with a low seed, but dreaming big. Although the Wildcats hoped to draw a first round squad they had not seen this year, it was the very familiar East Hardy Cougars who waited for them in the first round.

As the team had through the three weeks leading up to first round action, the bats got hot while the pitchers kept things cool on the mound. In the tournament, the Wildcats bested defending state champion East Hardy 8-4.

They then ran into a brick wall in the form of tournament Most Valuable Player Luke Tagliente from the Sherman Tide. Just as in every other game this season, Tagliente allowed no earned runs. Wildcat hitters, compared to the rest of Sherman's opponents, did well in getting four runners on base against the pitcher who recorded a season ERA of 0.00.

Pendleton County pitching kept the team in every inning of every game. Chase Owens and Mason Miller earned spots on the all-tournament team. In the season, Owens had a four and six record with a 3.87 ERA, his record reflecting that he pitched against the Wildcats' most formidable opponents among bigger schools. Miller had a four and four record with a 4.80 ERA in the season.

In batting, Owens hit .375 and Miller .256.

Owens pitched 6.2 innings of the East Hardy game, allowing six hits and walking two against the defending state champions and second seed for 2026. He was one for three batting in the game with a walk and two runs scored. Miller was one of three with a run batted in and a double.

In the game against Sherman, Owens pitched for 3.1 innings, holding the Tide to three runs while scattering seven hits and walking one. He struck out five during his tenure. With Owens showing fatigue after his near complete game against the Cougars, Sam Yokum, head coach, went to Miller, who allowed two hits in two innings, walking one and striking out two while barring the door on any further scoring.

The Class A all-state baseball squad has yet to be released, but Pendleton County was represented on the all-state and all-tournament softball listings. Susan Vincell and Jess Parker earned honorable mention for their efforts in 2026.

Vincell earned a 12 and two record on the season with a 1.32 ERA. She allowed 54 hits and only 16 walks, but stuck out batters 177 times. That means that walks and hits allowed only total a little less than 40 percent of her strikeout number. From the plate, Vincell hit .433 with 18 RBIs, 12 doubles, three triples, and one home run.

Jess Parker was a rock behind the plate as catcher with a sure glove and a .30-06 for an arm. Like Vincell, she hit for both power and average, .439 with 22 RBIs, nine doubles, four triples, and two home runs.

On the all-tournament team, however, Kinsley Price was named from Pendleton County. During a season in which she developed dramatically, she hit .396 with 21 hits and 19 RBIs.

Owens earned another postseason honor for his work on the basketball court this winter. He scored 21.4 points per game playing on the wing while hauling in approximately five rebounds per contest. He hit 64 percent of his two-point attempts, many times on physical drives to the post, but even more remarkably completed a little less than 50 percent of three-point shots.

On Friday, Owens will compete in the North-South All Star basketball game in South Charleston.

Smith Selected a Gold Rush Prize Winner



Nathan Smith of Upper Tract was one of seven lucky anglers to collect a prize in the 2026 West Virginia Gold Rush giveaway. He caught the 14" golden trout at the South Mill Creek Lake. He received a state park cabin stay.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2025
PENDLETON COUNTY PSD
P.O. BOX 861
Franklin, WV 26807-0861
PWS# WV3303613-Brandywine
May 23, 2026

In compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, the **Pendleton County PSD - Brandywine** is providing its customers with this annual water quality report. This report explains where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The information in this report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025 or earlier if not on a yearly schedule.

If you have any questions concerning this report, you may contact **Stephen Roberson, Jay Hartman or William Smith, Jr. (304) 358-3027.** If you have any further questions, comments or suggestions, please attend any of our regularly scheduled water board meetings held on the **2nd Thursday** of every month at **10:00 AM** in the **General Services Center, 81 Evick Drive, Franklin, WV.**

Your drinking water source is **a surface** water source from the South Fork of the South Branch Potomac River.

The intake that supplies drinking water to **Pendleton County PSD - Brandywine** has a higher susceptibility to contamination, due to the sensitive nature of the aquifers in which the drinking water wells are located and the existing potential contaminant sources identified within the protection zone. This does not mean that the wellfield will become contaminated; only that conditions are such that the groundwater could be impacted by a potential contaminant source. Future contamination may be avoided by implementing protective measures. The Source Water Protection Plan, which contains more information is available for review at WVBPH 304-558-2981.

All drinking water contains various amounts and kinds of contaminants. Federal and state regulations establish limits, controls, and treatment practices to minimize these contaminants and to reduce any subsequent health effects.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits of contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protections for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The source of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and, in some cases radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring, or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also, come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Water Quality Data Table

Definitions of terms and abbreviations used in the table or report:

- **AL – Action Level,** or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **LRAA -** Locational Running Annual Average is an average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.
- **MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level,** or the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technique.
- **MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal,** or the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level,** or the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal,** or the level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect benefits of use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **N/A** - not applicable
- **ND** - Not Detectable, no contaminants were detected in the sample(s) taken.
- **NE** - not established
- **ppt** - parts per trillion or nanograms per liter **(ng/l)**
- **NTU** – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in water
- **pCi/L** - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- **ppb** – parts per billion or micrograms per liter **(ug/l)**
- **ppm** – parts per million or milligrams per liter **(mg/l)**
- **RAA -** Running Annual Average is an average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCLS.
- **SMCL - Secondary Monitoring Contaminant Level,** or the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

Colors used in the table or report:

Table Title or Contents
Column Titles
Sample analytical results for contaminants
Table related abbreviations and definitions for them

The Pendleton County PSD - Brandywine routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The tables below show the results of our monitoring for contaminants.

Disinfection By Products

Contaminant	Location	Highest LRAA	Range 4 Samples in 2025	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Likely Source of Contaminant	Violation
Total haloacetic acids (HAA5)	Oak Flat - 46 Arlie Lane	20 ppb	12/29 ppb	60 ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No
Total trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	Oak Flat - 46 Arlie Lane	19 ppb	8/28 ppb	80 ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No

LRAA	**Locational Running Annual Average** is an average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters
ppb	**parts per billion** or micrograms per liter **(ug/l)**

Table of Test Results - Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectant

Contaminant	RAA	Range (low/high)	Maximum Goal (MRDLG)	Maximum Level Allowed (MRDL)	Likely Source of Contaminant	Violation
Chlorine (Distribution)	1.9 ppm	1.8/2.1 ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes	No
Microbiological Contaminants	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL		
Turbidity	0.06	NTU	0	TT	Soil Runoff	No
Total Organic Carbon	1.2	ppm	NA	TT	Naturally present in the environment	No

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	RAA	Level Detected or Range	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Leval Allowed (MCL)	Likely Source of Contaminant	Date
Barium	N/A	0.0464 ppm	2	2	Discharge from drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits	8/6/25
Fluoride	N/A	0.66 ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from aluminum and fertilizer plants	8/6/25
*Nitrate	N/A	0.17 ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer uses; erosion of natural deposits	8/6/25
Nitrate-Nitrite	N/A	0.17 ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer uses; erosion of natural deposits	8/6/25

RAA	Running Annual Average is an average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCL's.
ppm	parts per million or milligrams per liter **(mg/l)**

*Nitrate in drinking water at levels of 10 ppm is a health risk for infants less than six months of age.

Lead & Copper - samples were collected from 10 area residences on 8/2/2023.
These samples are collected every three years from customer taps.

Contaminant	90% of Test Levels Were Less Than	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Action Level	Number of With Levels Above EPA's Action Level	Typical Sources	Violation
Copper, Free	0.05605 ppm	1.3 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0 - out of 10	Corrosion of household plumbing	No
Lead	0.952 ppb	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	0 - out of 10	Corrosion of household plumbing	No

ppm	parts per million or milligrams per liter **(mg/l)**
ppb	parts per billion or microgras per liter **(ug/l)**

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. PENDLETON COUNTY PSD BRANDYWINE is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact PENDLETON COUNTY PSD BRANDYWINE AND TAMERA L. GEORGE. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

PENDLETON COUNTY PSD BRANDYWINE completed lead tap sampling in 2023. The results are available for review and can be accessed at the **Pendleton County PSD office.**

PENDLETON COUNTY PSD BRANDYWINE has prepared a service line inventory identifying service line materials throughout the water distribution supply. The most up to date inventory is located at the **Pendleton County PSD office.** By November 1, 2027. Our water system must develop an updated initial inventory, known as the "baseline inventory" and it must include each service line and identified connector to the public water distribution system.

If you have any questions about our inventory or if you would like information about our service line replacement plan, please contact TAMERA L. GEORGE.

Source Water Assessment and Protection

When required by West Virginia State law, PENDLETON COUNTY PSD BRANDYWINE maintains a comprehensive **Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP)** that is updated every three years and reviewed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health (WVBPH). For systems utilizing surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDI), SWPP's provide a detailed strategy for protecting intake area and the surrounding Zone of Critical Concern.
Because these types of sources are open to the environment, they generally have a higher susceptibility to contamination. This susceptibility rating does not mean your water is contaminated; rather, it indicates that conditions exist which could impact the source water if a release occurred due to the sensitive nature of the intake area. A public version of our current Source Water Protection Plan (if applicable) or further information regarding our specific source susceptibility is available for review at our office during normal business hours or by contacting TAMERA L. GEORGE. A Source Water Assessment may previously have been completed to identify potential sources of contamination and the susceptibility of our water source. You can review these historical assessment reports online at the WVBPH website: https://www.wvdhhr.org/oehs/eed/swap/search.cfm. For more information on source water protection and to learn how you can help protect drinking water sources, visit the EPA at https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection/how-can-you-help-protect-source-water.

Radionuclides

Contaminant	Collection Date	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Likely Source of Contaminant
Gross Beta	8/6/2025	0.565	pCi/L	0	15	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium - 228	8/6/2025	0.801	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations are non-enforceable guidelines regarding contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends secondary standards to water systems but does not require systems to comply.

Secondary Contaminants

Contaminant	Collection Date	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	SMCL
*Sodium	8/6/2025	6.12	mg/l	20
Aluminum	1/8/2025/ - 10/8/2025	0.279 Annual avg. Range 0.0466 - 0.508	mg/l	0.05 - 0.2
Iron	1/8/2025 - 10/8/2025	0.0462	mg/l	0.3
Manganese	1/8/2025 - 10/8/2025	0.0359	mg/l	0.05

*Sodium is an unregulated contaminant. Anyone having a concern over sodium should contact their primary care provider.

AVAILABILITY OF MONITORING DATA FOR UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS
Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that do not yet have a drinking water standard set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that this data is available.

If you are interested in examining the results, please contact: Tamera George at 304-358-3027.

During the 2025 calendar year, we had the below noted violation of drinking water regulations.

Compliance Period	Analyte	Comments
4/1/2025 - 6/30/2025	Monitoring, routine (DBP), Major	Failed to monitor/report as disinfection by-products

WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE PENDLETON COUNTY PSD BRANDYWINE MET ALL FEDERAL AND STATE WATER STANDARDS FOR THE REPORTING YEAR 2025

Additional Information

All other water test results for the reporting year 2025 were all non-detects.

Turbidity is a measure of cloudiness in water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

This report will not be mailed. A copy will be made available for review or your use upon request at our office during regular business hours. 1c

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2025
PENDLETON COUNTY PSD
P.O. BOX 861
Franklin, WV 26807-0861
PWS# WV3303611-Upper Tract
May 23, 2026

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If you have any questions concerning this report, you may contact **Stephen Roberson, Jay Hartman or William Smith, Jr. (304) 358-3027.** If you have any further questions, comments or suggestions, please attend any of our regularly scheduled water board meetings held on the **2nd Thursday** of every month at **10:00 AM** in the **General Services Center, 81 Evick Drive, Franklin, WV.**

Your drinking water source is **a ground** water source from a spring near Eagle Rocks in the Smoke Hole for Upper Tract.

The spring that supplies drinking water to **Pendleton County PSD – Upper Tract** has a moderate susceptibility to contamination, due to the sensitive nature of the aquifer in which the drinking water wells are located and the existing potential contaminant sources identified within the protection zone. This does not mean that the wellfield will become contaminated; only that conditions are such that the groundwater could be impacted by a potential contaminant source. Future contamination may be avoided by implementing protective measures. The Source Water Protection Plan, which contains more information is available for review at the WVBPH 304-558-2981.

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(Legal Continued on Page 10)

History of Father's Day...

Father's Day did not become a national holiday until 1972. Why did it take so long to pass into law (unlike Mother's Day, which was quickly embraced)? Why was it controversial at one time?

With America's history, a person might think that a holiday recognizing men would be perfectly acceptable. After all, men dominated American society in the early 20th century. In addition, a "Father's Day" or day that recognizes the role of fathers in the family is an ancient tradition. In history books, there is mention of a Southern European tradition dating back to 1508.

Certainly, in modern days, Father's Day is not given a second thought. In 1972, President Richard Nixon's administration declared the third Sunday in June a day to recognize and honor the role of fathers in society.

Father's Day Controversy

Interestingly, Father's Day was not immediately accepted when it was proposed.

Officially recognized in 1914, Mother's Day came first so men in the early 1900s associated such a tribute with women and found the idea of a day for men too effeminate to their liking. To be fair, Mother's Day was couched in terms of femininity. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson called Mother's Day a way to recognize "that tender, gentle army—the mothers of America."

Men viewed the idea of Father's Day as similar to Mother's Day, which was popular with florists; for fathers, it didn't have the same sentimental appeal. As one historian writes, they "scoffed at the holiday's sentimental attempts to domesticate manliness with flowers and gift-giving, or they derided the proliferation of such holidays as a commercial gimmick to sell more products—often paid for by the father himself."

Also, according to Lawrence R. Samuel, author of "American Fatherhood: A Cultural History," men had a different role in the family during the first half of that century. It was patriarchal, so they felt that a special day to exalt fatherhood was a rather silly idea, when it was mothers who were underappreciated.

However, that sentiment changed over time for several reasons.

The Women Behind Father's Day

Grace Golden Clayton

The first known Father's Day service occurred on July 5, 1908, in Fairmont after hundreds of men died in the worst mining accident in U.S. history.

Clayton, the daughter of a dedicated minister, proposed a service to honor all fathers, especially those who had died. However, the observance did not become an annual event, and it was not promoted; very few people outside of the local area knew about it. Meanwhile, across the entire country, another woman was inspired to honor fathers.

Sonora Smart Dodd

In 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, was inspired by Anna Jarvis and the idea of Mother's Day. Her father, William Jackson Smart, a farmer and Civil War veteran, was also a single parent who raised Sonora and her five brothers by himself, after his wife, Ellen, died giving birth to their youngest child in 1898. While attending a Mother's Day church service in 1909, Dodd, then 27 years old, came up with the idea.

Continued on Page 10

Cultural Woven Baskets Provide Unending Uses

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

Most of the baskets mentioned in the Little House books are containers used by the girls and their Mamma for storage of needlework items. These baskets held knitting, sewing, and mending projects that included materials. These were brought out only when those projects were in progress.

Baskets have been around as long as there have been dry items needed to be transported or stored, although baskets could also be used for non-storage usage, such as when sifting two substances of different sizes or for catching fish. If homemade, baskets were typically woven of materials readily available and could be as simple or as elaborate as the basketmaker wanted them to be. There was a variety of sizes and shapes of baskets that were used. An open basket in which darning, knitting, or sewing items were kept could just as easily be used for the storage of foodstuffs, kindling, or garden seeds.

The early settlers understood basketmaking, many of which were formed in winter evenings. These baskets at that time were essential for gathering, transporting and processing daily goods. Materials such as hickory, ash, oak, and willow were used to construct these baskets which were specific to everyday needs.

The variety of baskets included picnic, bread, pie, Easter, magazine/newspaper, measuring, potato, bicycle, umbrella, waste, berry, laundry, storage, pea/bean, cheese and baby. So, one can readily see that baskets, at one time, were an essential part of daily living.

The elderberry pie has become practically unknown in this area. It is a tasty pie...delicious to those who are aware of its culinary flair:

Elderberry Pie
Pastry for 2-crust, 9- inch pie
2-1/2 cups fresh elderberries
3 cups sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
4 tablespoons flour
4 teaspoons vinegar or lemon juice
2-1/2 tablespoons butter

Line 9-inch pie pan with pastry. Wash elderberries thoroughly. In a bowl, mix berries, salt, sugar, flour and vinegar or juice. Mix gently with a fork. Pour berry mixture into pastry-lined pie plate. Dot the top with butter. Wet rim of pie shell lightly. Cover with top pastry, which should have 6-8 slits one half inch long in it. Trim off edge. Seal by pressing the 2 rims together with thumbs or fork tines. Place on cookie sheet in preheated 450 degree oven for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees and bake for 40-45 minutes until crust is golden brown. Serve lightly warm. Good with ice cream.

So, when elderberries are mature (sometimes along country roads), take the berry basket and pick some elderberries to be made into a delicious pie.

Life's instructions include the following:

1. Write down five things a person is grateful for.

2. Prepare everything one needs for the day the night before.

3. Do something for someone else.

4. Start the day off with a healthy and delicious breakfast.

5. Compliment at least two people every day.

The rains that have fallen have helped green nature up. Mullein is now blooming, roadside daisies are bopping their heads in the breeze, blackberry vines have bloom, orange day lilies are so welcoming, and thistles are "as high as an elephant's eye." Farmers are busy mowing hay, and gardeners are watching their gardens hoping to take care of the varmints.

Quotes for the week are as follows:

"It is hard to imagine a civilization without onions." — Julia Child

"I just make it my business to get along with people so I can have fun. It's that simple." — Betty White.

"To watch us dance is to hear our hearts speak." — Hopi Saying

"All real education is the architecture of the soul." — William Bennett

"I never tried quitting, and I never quit trying." — Dolly Parton

The best place to be to hear the "Talk of the Grove" is under a shady umbrella.

Helen and Rhonda Nash had a delightful weekend with granddaughter/niece, Myah Hidalgo and Vadim Barnakov of Richmond, Virginia. The young folks spent several hours helping with yardwork and heavy lifting for Aunt Peachy and were rewarded with a trip to Dry Run Spirits and an enjoyable visit with Jeff and Teresa Munn on their beautiful property. The weekend concluded with an all homemade feast of Greek foods in honor of Myah and Vadim's trip to Greece last year

Geneva Mongold celebrated her ninth birthday on Saturday with family and friends in attendance at the home of Evelyn Varner. Happy birthday, Geneva.

Congratulations to Helen Troutman and Kermit Wimer who "tied the knot" Sunday at the Brandywine Baptist Church.

Always on the lookout for some good music are Evelyn Varner and Rose Brackman. They enjoyed the Saturday night performance of Jeff and Sherri Easter at the Briery Branch Community Building.

The writer is sorry to hear that Eldon "Butch" Puffenbarger is in the hospital.

Clickety-clacks for the chin waggers are as follows:

Kelly Clarkson won the first season of American Idol.

The sport of curling originated in Scotland.

The loudest animal on Earth is the sperm whale.

Dr. Pepper is the oldest soft drink in America.

The oldest person to have lived is 122 years old.

Concerns are for Charles Anderson, Roger and Joan Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Dave Basagic, "Bo" and Dora Boggs, Larry Byers, Jeff Craig, Stanley Dahmer, Isaac Eye, Carl Gant, Sue Hall, Clyde Hamilton, Armanda Heavner, Starr Hedrick, Keith Hoover, Cynthia Hurry, Gary Jamison, Mike and Lisa Jamison, Tara Kelley, Lori Ann Lambert, Melissa Lambert, Roger Mallow, Yvonne Marsh, the family and friends of Dave McConnell, Jamie Mitchell, Willa Nelson, Alda Propst, Sheldon Propst, Eldon Rexrode, Bernie and Margaret Sasscer, Robbie Sites, the family and friends of Carroll Lee Sponaugle and Edwin Wimer.

the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring, or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also, come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Water Quality Data Table

Definitions of terms and abbreviations used in the table or report:

- **AL – Action Level,** or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **LRAA -** Locational Running Annual Average is an average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.
- **MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level,** or the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technique.
- **MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal,** or the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level,** or the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal,** or the level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect benefits of use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **N/A** - not applicable
- **ND** - Not Detectable, no contaminants were detected in the sample(s) taken.
- **NE** - not established
- **ppt** - parts per trillion or nanograms per liter **(ng/l)**
- **NTU** – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, used to measure cloudiness in water
- **pCi/L** - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- **ppb** – parts per billion or micrograms per liter **(ug/l)**
- **ppm** – parts per million or milligrams per liter **(mg/l)**
- **RAA -** Running Annual Average is an average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCLS.
- **SMCL - Secondary Monitoring Contaminant Level,** or the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

Colors used in the table or report:

Table Title or Contents
Column Titles
Sample analytical results for contaminants
Table related abbreviations and definitions for them

The Pendleton County PSD - Upper Tract routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The tables below show the results of our monitoring for contaminants.

Disinfection By Products

Contaminant	Location	Highest LRAA	Range 1 Sample on 8/6/2025	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Likely Source of Contaminant	Violation
Total haloacetic acids (HAA5)	Kline Booster Station	9 ppb	9 ppb	60 ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No
Total trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	Kline Booster Station	10 ppb	10 ppb	80 ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No
LRAA	**Locational Running Annual Average** is an average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters					
ppb	**parts per billion** or micrograms per liter **(ug/l)**					

Table of Test Results - Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectant

Contaminant	RAA	Range (low/high)	Maximum Goal (MRDLG)	Maximum Level Allowed (MRDL)	Likely Source of Contaminant	Violation
Chlorine (Distribution)	2.0 ppm	1.8/2.2 ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes	No
Microbiological Contaminants	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	MCL		
Turbidity	0.04	NTU	0	TT	Soil Runoff	No
Total Organic Carbon	0.57	ppm	NA	TT	Naturally present in the environment	No

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	RAA	Level Detected or Range	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Leval Allowed (MCL)	Likely Source of Contaminant	Date
Barium	N/A	0.0228 ppm	2	2	Discharge from drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits	8/6/25
Fluoride	N/A	0.86 ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from aluminum and fertilizer plants	8/6/25
*Nitrate	N/A	0.74 ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer uses; erosion of natural deposits	8/6/25
Nitrate-Nitrite	N/A	0.74 ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer uses; erosion of natural deposits	8/6/25
RAA	Running Annual Average is an average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCL's.					
ppm	parts per million or milligrams per liter **(mg/l)**					

*Nitrate in drinking water at levels of 10 ppm is a health risk for infants less than six months of age.

Lead & Copper - samples were collected from 10 area residences on 8/2/2023.
These samples are collected every three years from customer taps.

Contaminant	90% of Test Levels Were Less Than	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Action Level	Number of With Levels Above EPA's Action Level	Typical Sources	Violation
Copper, Free	0.29682 ppm	1.3 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0 - out of 10	Corrosion of household plumbing	No
Lead	0.796 ppb	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	0 - out of 10	Corrosion of household plumbing	No
ppm	parts per million or milligrams per liter **(mg/l)**					
ppb	parts per billion or microgras per liter **(ug/l)**					

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. PENDLETON COUNTY PSD UPPER TRACT is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact PENDLETON COUNTY PSD UPPER TRACT AND TAMERA L. GEORGE. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

PENDLETON COUNTY PSD UPPER TRACT completed lead tap sampling in 2023. The results are available for review and can be accessed at the **Pendleton County PSD office.**

PENDLETON COUNTY PSD UPPER TRACT has prepared a service line inventory identifying service line materials throughout the water distribution supply. The most up to date inventory is located at the **Pendleton County PSD office.** By November 1, 2027. our water system must develop an updated initial inventory, known as the "baseline inventory" and it must include each service line and identified connector to the public water distribution system.

If you have any questions about our inventory or if you would like information about our service line replacement plan, please contact TAMERA L. GEORGE.

Source Water Assessment and Protection

When required by West Virginia State law, PENDLETON COUNTY PSD UPPER TRACT maintains a comprehensive **Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP)** that is updated every three years and reviewed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health (WVBPH). For systems utilizing surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDI), SWPP's provide a detailed strategy for protecting intake area and the surrounding Zone of Critical Concern.
Because these types of sources are open to the environment, they generally have a higher susceptibility to contamination. This susceptibility rating does not mean your water is contaminated; rather, it indicates that conditions exist which could impact the source water if a release occurred due to the sensitive nature of the intake area. A public version of our current Source Water Protection Plan (if applicable) or further information regarding our specific source susceptibility is available for review at our office during normal business hours or by contacting TAMERA L. GEORGE. A Source Water Assessment may previously have been completed to identify potential sources of contamination and the susceptibility of our water source. You can review these historical assessment reports online at the WVBPH website: https://www.wvdhhr.org/oehs/eed/swap/search.cfm. For more information on source water protection and to learn how you can help protect drinking water sources, visit the EPA at https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection/how-can-you-help-protect-source-water.

Radionuclides

Contaminant	Collection Date	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Likely Source of Contaminant
Gross Beta	8/6/2025	0.505	pCi/L	0	15	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium - 228	8/6/2025	0.43	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)					

National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations are non-enforceable guidelines regarding contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends secondary standards to water systems but does not require systems to comply.

Secondary Contaminants

Contaminant	Collection Date	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	SMCL
*Sodium	8/6/2025	6.62	mg/l	20
Aluminum	1/8/2025/ - 10/8/2025	0.084 Annual avg. Range 0.0253 - 0.142	mg/l	0.05 - 0.2
Iron	1/8/2025 - 10/8/2025	0.0202	mg/l	0.3
Manganese	1/8/2025 - 10/8/2025	0.0124	mg/l	0.05

*Sodium is an unregulated contaminant. Anyone having a concern over sodium should contact their primary care provider.

AVAILABILITY OF MONITORING DATA FOR UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS
Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that do not yet have a drinking water standard set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that this data is available.

If you are interested in examining the results, please contact: Tamera George at 304-358-3027.

During the 2025 calendar year, we had the below noted violation of drinking water regulations.

Compliance Period	Analyte	Comments
4/1/2025 - 6/30/2025	Monitoring, routine (DBP), Major	Failed to monitor/report as disinfection by-products

WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE PENDLETON COUNTY PSD UPPER TRACT MET ALL FEDERAL AND STATE WATER STANDARDS FOR THE REPORTING YEAR 2025

Additional Information

All other water test results for the reporting year 2025 were all non-detects.

Turbidity is a measure of cloudiness in water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

This report will not be mailed. A copy will be made available for review or your use upon request at our office during regular business hours. 1c

Father's Day

Continued from Page 9

Within a few months, Dodd had convinced the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA to set aside a Sunday in June to celebrate fathers. She proposed June 5, her father's birthday, but the ministers chose the third Sunday in June so that they would have more time after Mother's Day to prepare their sermons. Thus, on June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day events commenced: Dodd delivered presents to handicapped fathers, boys from the YMCA decorated their lapels with fresh-cut roses (red for living fathers, white for the deceased), and the city's ministers devoted their homilies to fatherhood.

Becoming a National Holiday

The widely publicized events in Spokane, Washington, struck a chord that reached all the way to Washington, D.C., and Dodd's celebration put the idea on the path to becoming a national holiday. However, the holiday did not catch on right away, perhaps due to the perceived parallels with Mother's Day.

The first bill was introduced in Congress in 1913, but in spite of encouragement from Wilson, it did not pass.

Eight years later, President Calvin Coolidge signed a resolution in favor of Father's Day "to establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations."

In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed an executive order that the holiday be celebrated on the third Sunday in June.

In 1972 under Nixon, Congress passed an act officially making Father's Day a national holiday. (Six years later, Dodd died at age 96.)

— The Old Farmer's Almanac

Father's Day Fun Facts...

- Rose is the official flower of Father's Day.
- Dada is often one of the first "words" babies say.
- Thirty-one is the average age of first-time fathers in America.
- George Washington is a "Founding Father" of the United States and often called the "Father of His Country."





Classified Business Directory

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24-Hour Accessibility
Call 304-358-3514
6.7 miles south of Brandywine on Route 21 in Sugar Grove, WV
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Call Julie VanMeter at 304-358-7492 (after 6 o'clock)
Very Reasonable Prices

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New Self Storage Units
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More Uses for White Vinegar...

•Clogged or Smelly Sink: Pour 1/4 cup of baking soda down the sink, then add 1 cup of vinegar and cover the drain tightly.

•Dishwasher: Once a year, pour a cup of white vinegar into an empty dishwasher, then run it for a short cycle to get rid of the lime and soap build-up.

•Tubs and Showers: Saturate a cloth with vinegar and sprinkle with baking soda, and then use it to clean fiberglass tubs and showers. Rinse well and rub dry for a spotless shine.

•Prevent Mildew: Wipe down surfaces with vinegar to clean and to prevent mildew.

— The Old Farmer's Almanac

HELP WANTED

NUTRITION DRIVER–Seeking a reliable, trustworthy driver to deliver meals to homebound clients. **Part-time, 3 days per week.** Must have a valid driver's license, a clean driving record, and be able to pass a background check and fingerprinting. Apply in person at Pendleton Senior & Family Services, 385 Mill Rd., Franklin, WV 26807, or online at www.psfsi.org. 1c

CLOSING NOTICES

FAITHFUL Friends Animal Clinic will be closed June 25-28. Greg Bowers, Sarah Bowers, DVM.
6-18-2c

FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE for rent in Dyer Building, Franklin, over H&R Block office. 1,2 or 3 rooms. Contact Ann Nelson, 304-358-7338 or 304-358-2501.
6-11-3c

BISSELL CARPET Shampooer for rent. Bowman's Do It Best. Call 304-358-2303.
11-7-tfn

WANTED

LOOKING FOR hunting land to lease. Small group of respectful and experienced hunters from the local area that will take care of your land is seeking land with the opportunity to manage for quality bucks for this upcoming season and beyond. 540-830-2812.
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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

NORMAN GARLAND FRALEY,
Plaintiff,
v.
Civil Action No.: CC-36-2026-3
Judge: John H. Treadway, Jr.

RONALD FRANKLIN WILT, and
LESLIE D. FRALEY,
Defendants.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of the above-styled civil action is to obtain partition, allotment, sale, and related relief concerning certain real estate situate in Mill Run District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, containing approximately 55.69 acres, more or less, and further identified on the 2025 Land Books of Pendleton County, West Virginia, as Tax Map 33, Parcel 6.

It appearing by affidavit filed in this action that Defendant Leslie D. Fraley is a non-resident of the State of West Virginia, or that her present residence, whereabouts, and address for service are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence, it is hereby ORDERED that Defendant Leslie D. Fraley appear within one month after the date of the first publication of this Order and do what is necessary to protect her interests.

If Defendant Leslie D. Fraley fails to appear and defend within said time, judgment by default may be rendered against her at any time thereafter.

A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pendleton County, West Virginia, located at Franklin, West Virginia.

The name and address of Plaintiff's counsel are G. Isaac Sponaugle, III, at Post Office Box 578, Franklin, West Virginia 26807.

It is further ORDERED that this Order of Publication be published in The Pendleton Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Pendleton County, West Virginia, as a Class II legal advertisement in compliance with West Virginia Code Section 56-3-24, and that proof of publication be filed with the Court.

ENTERED this 12th day of June, 2026.

Shalee D. Wilburn
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pendleton County, West Virginia
6-18-2c

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

ANISSA E. WORTHY, CAMERON R. WORTHY,
Plaintiffs,
v.
Civil Action No.: CC-36-2026-C-4
Judge: John H. Treadway, Jr.

ADAM R. WORTHY, AMANDA W. DOMBROWSKI, and
CAITLIN R. WORTHY,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Pursuant to the *Order Directing Partition Sale and Appointing Special Commissioner* entered May 12, 2026, by the Circuit Court of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in the civil action styled *Anissa E. Worthy and Cameron R. Worthy v. Adam R. Worthy, Amanda W. Dombrowski, and Caitlin R. Worthy,* Civil Action No. CC-36-2026-C-4, the undersigned Special Commissioner will offer for sale at public auction, to the highest bidder, the following described real estate:

A tract or parcel of real estate, together with all improvements thereon, lying and being in Franklin District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, **containing 90.70 acres, more or less,** situate in an area known as "Friends Run," and identified on the land books of Pendleton County as **Tax Map 26, Parcel 34.1**. The real estate is more particularly described in that certain Confirmation Deed dated December 21, 2020, of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in **Deed Book 214, at Page 40**.

DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF SALE: Friday, July 17, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., on the front steps of the Pendleton County Courthouse, located at 100 South Main Street, Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia 26807.

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder shall pay a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price on the day of sale, by cash, certified or cashier's check, or other immediately available funds, or such other amount or terms as the Special Commissioner finds acceptable at the time of sale, with the balance due within thirty (30) days after entry of an order confirming the sale, or within such other time as the Court may order. The deposit shall be held subject to further order of the Court.

The purchaser shall bear all costs of sale and conveyance, including without limitation deed preparation, the State of West Virginia excise tax on the privilege of transferring real estate, all recording fees and charges, and all other closing and conveyance costs. The purchaser shall further be responsible for the real estate taxes assessed against the property for the 2026 tax year in full, without proration. Real estate taxes for tax years prior to 2026, and any liens, assessments, or other charges of record affecting the real estate, shall be addressed as the Court may order, including possible payment from sale proceeds.

The real estate will be sold as-is, where-is, and with all faults, without any express or implied representation or warranty by the Court, the Special Commissioner, Plaintiffs, or Defendants as to condition, acreage, boundaries, access, marketability, title, liens, encumbrances, zoning, availability of utilities, or any other matter, except as may be stated in a deed from the Special Commissioner following confirmation by the Court. The sale conveys only the right, title, and interest of the parties to this action, subject to all easements, rights-of-way, restrictions, reservations, covenants, conditions, exceptions, leases, liens, encumbrances, matters of record, and matters that would be disclosed by an accurate survey, title examination, or physical inspection of the property.

The sale shall not be contingent upon the purchaser obtaining financing.

If the successful bidder fails to complete the purchase as required, the deposit may be forfeited and applied as the Court may direct, and the property may be resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting bidder, subject to further order of the Court.

The sale is subject to confirmation by the Circuit Court of Pendleton County, West Virginia.

Upon payment of the purchase price in full and confirmation of the sale by the Court, the Special Commissioner shall execute and deliver a deed conveying the interests of the parties to this action, subject to the terms stated herein and any further order of the Court.

Additional terms may be announced at the sale.

G. Isaac Sponaugle, III
Special Commissioner
State Bar No. 9720
Post Office Box 578
61 Chestnut Street
Franklin, West Virginia 26807
(304) 358-2337
isaac@sponauglelaw.com

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF BOND

I, Shalee D. Wilburn, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pendleton County, West Virginia, hereby certify that G. Isaac Sponaugle, III, Special Commissioner, has given bond and security as required by law.

Shalee D. Wilburn, Clerk
6-18-3c

Be Prepared When Thunderstorms Occur

By Charlotte Lane,
Public Service Commission chairman

Springtime in West Virginia brings blooming flowers, longer days, and powerful thunderstorms. These storms can pose serious risks to a person, one's family and home if a person is not prepared.

Thunderstorms cause power and internet outages, flooding, and damage to utility infrastructure. When a thunderstorm is approaching, the safest place to be is indoors.

Even if a person is inside, lightning can still be dangerous. Avoid using devices plugged into electrical outlets and refrain from running water, as lightning can travel through wiring, plumbing, and water lines.

To reduce the risk of damage, unplug sensitive electronics ahead of the storm or use surge protectors. Taking these steps can help prevent costly repairs or replacements caused by lightning-related power surges.

After a storm passes, remain cautious. If a person sees downed power lines, damaged utility poles, or smells natural gas, keep one's distance and report the issue to the utility company immediately.

Never attempt to approach or handle damaged utility equipment.

The Public Service Commission oversees utilities to ensure that electricity, natural gas, and other essential services are delivered safely and reliably, even during severe weather.

Electric utilities are required to file major event reports following widespread outages caused by thunderstorms and other severe conditions. These reports help evaluate response efforts and hold utilities accountable for restoration performance.

In 2025, the PSC also issued requirements for utilities to develop plans for timely, proactive customer notifications during both planned and unplanned outages, so customers are not left in the dark, literally.

Earlier this year, those communication plans were made even more accessible by adding a searchable feature to the PSC website, allowing customers to view how their utilities will communicate during outages at www.psc.state.wv.us/communication-plans.

Thunderstorms can be both beautiful and relaxing, but understanding the risks and preparing the home ahead of time can help one enjoy the season safely.

Remember, safety comes first, and the Public Service Commission is here to ensure the utilities are ready when the storm hits.

Check Out Our Website Pendletontimes.com

Father's Day Word Search

T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	N	F	V	I	H	A	B	H	B	G	L
W	M	G	B	E	V	K	R	U	N	H	H	A	V	K	C	T	R	L	I
I	B	E	U	C	W	I	S	D	O	M	A	B	A	R	B	E	C	U	E
R	G	N	G	N	H	C	A	O	C	L	P	H	W	V	T	T	T	K	D
H	S	E	N	A	K	S	S	E	N	D	N	I	K	N	W	B	O	T	G
C	R	R	F	D	R	E	L	I	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y	A	R	H	B
N	E	O	L	I	R	D	T	Y	H	S	I	I	H	N	H	E	U	R	Y
L	H	S	S	U	N	E	V	F	W	N	F	M	K	U	L	D	A	Y	T
G	T	I	K	G	C	A	S	G	R	L	O	S	H	A	F	V	P	Y	I
B	A	T	S	D	R	O	W	P	P	B	K	I	T	N	E	G	Y	G	N
U	F	Y	B	W	C	R	Y	P	E	K	P	E	T	R	B	L	M	O	R
F	A	T	H	E	R	H	O	O	D	C	D	H	Y	O	I	T	K	L	E
O	K	I	G	L	Y	C	A	G	E	L	T	T	E	M	V	B	T	A	T
A	K	N	O	I	T	A	I	C	E	R	P	P	A	R	I	E	G	E	A
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S	N	S	L	S	D	E	D	I	C	A	T	I	O	N	Y	T	I	E	V
G	C	L	K	I	G	R	I	L	L	I	N	G	K	D	O	W	A	G	M
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APPRECIATION
BARBECUE
BRAVERY
CELEBRATION
COACH
DAY
DEDICATION
DEVOTION
FAMILY
FATHERHOOD
FATHERS
FISHING
GENEALOGY
GENEROSITY
GRILLING
GUIDANCE
HERITAGE
KINDNESS
LEGACY
MENTORSHIP
PATERNITY
RELATED
RELIABILITY
RESPECT
TRADITION
TRIBUTE
WISDOM
WORDS

CHS Class of '76 Celebrates America's 250th Birthday



The Circleville High School Class of 1976 celebrated its 50th class reunion May 23 at the Historic Circleville High School with a covered dish luncheon. This class graduated on America's Bicentennial in 1976. Fifty years later, the CHS Class of 1976 helped America to celebrate its semiquincentennial birthday. Classmates attending the reunion were, from left, front row, Kim Dunkle Yokum, Cindy Wood, Eva Vint Lambert, Anita Sites Nelson, Nancy Bennett Colaw and Sherry Vance Smith; and back row, Sam Yokum, Roger Vance, Lysle Smith, Keith Kisamore, Tom Phares and Anita Huffman Warner.

Annual

EYE FAMILY REUNION

Sunday, July 5

Thorn Spring Park Pavilion

Franklin

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Potluck Lunch To Follow

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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~~ $749,000 or best offer.

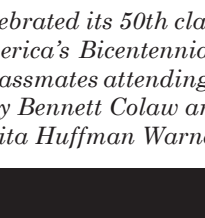
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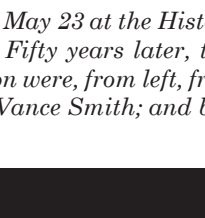
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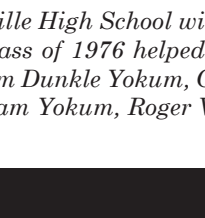
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FOR PHOTOS AND MUCH MORE ABOUT THESE PROPERTIES VISIT WWW.SUGARGROVEWV.COM

SGR416A 5.12 Acres w/2 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin w/Spacious Loft area. Cistern, Septic, Shed. New Metal Roof, New Sliding Door, Newly Sealed Deck. Access to 9 acre Common Area. Located Kile Knob Subdivision, Franklin District. **$239,000.00.**

SGR413A 3.0 Acres w/2 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin w/Loft. Off grid, Solar, generator. Access to 9 acre Common Area. Located Kile Knob Subdivision, Franklin District. **$289,000.00.**

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 private balcony. 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.** PENDING

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..**

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~~ **REDUCED $525,000.00.**

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. ~~$919,000.00~~ **REDUCED $899,000.00.**

SGR385A 11.54 Acres w/3+ Bed, 3 Bath Cabin located in Buck Ridges Dvlpmt. Screened porch, Deck, Stone Patio, Primary BD w/En-suite. Beautiful wood, Tile, Floating Linoleum flooring. Lots of natural light, Metal Roof, Board and Batten Exterior. 3080 assessed sq ft. Very well maintained. **$325,000.00.**

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.** SOLD

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

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

SGR369A 15.17 Acres w/1 Bed, 1 Bath cabin, Electric & Propane Heat, Cistern, Septic (unapproved). Located in North Fork Flats. Perfect for hunters, fisherman or outdoor enthusiasts. ~~$189,000.00~~ ~~$179,000.00~~ **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~~ ~~$320,000.00~~ ~~$299,000.00~~ ~~$229,000.00~~ **REDUCED $219,000.00.**

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

SGR441 Residential lots, public water, protective covenants and restrictions. Oak Flat Estates near Brandywine on Rte 33 East of Franklin. Lots from **$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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2025 CHEVROLET 3500 CREW CAB DUALLY 4X4 UTILITY BODY TRUCK, DURAMAX DIESEL, auto., ldd., only 6K miles	$74,900
2024 FORD RANGER STX CREW CAB 4X4, 2.3 liter, auto., ldd., red, only 23K miles	$34,900
2024 RAM 2500 CREW CAB SHORTBED 4X4 "BIGHORN EDITION," Cummins diesel, auto., ldd., white, 58K miles	$48,500
2023 FORD F-550 CREW CAB LARIAT 4X4, 7.3 gas V-8, auto., ldd., burgundy, only 2K miles, new cond.	$69,500
2021 FORD F-750 CREW CAB & CHASSIS, 6.7 dsl., auto., ldd., air brakes, etc., white, 109K miles	$49,500
2018 FORD F-250 S/CAB LONGBED 4X4, 6.7 diesel, auto., air, etc., white, 275K VDOT highway miles	$21,900
2018 CHEVROLET 2500 HD CREW CAB S/BED 4X4, 6.0 V-8, auto., ldd., white, 203K miles	$19,500
2015 FORD F-450 CREW ALUMINUM FLATBED 4X4, 6.7 dsl., auto., ldd., white, ex. cond.	$34,900
2011 FORD F-150 REGULAR CAB LONGBED 4X4, V-6, auto., air, etc., white, 180K miles	$9,450
2008 FORD F-550 4X4 UTILITY TRUCK, w/ mechanic's crane and auger, 6.4 dsl., auto., air, etc.	$26,900
2003 FORD F-550 REG CAB 4X4 FIRE TRUCK, 6.0 diesel, auto., red, ldd w/accessories, only 45K miles	SPECIAL ~~$49,500~~ $44,500
1987 CHEVROLET SILVERADO SHORTBED 2-WHEEL DRIVE, 350 F.I. auto., ldd., only 96K miles	$18,500

PASSENGER VEHICLES	SALE
2022 FORD ESCAPE SE HYBRID AWD, 2.5 4-cyl., auto., ldd., blue, 65K miles, great MPG	$19,900
2022 SUBARU LEGACY 4-DR SEDAN "Premium Pkg.," ldd w/options, perfect condition, charcoal, 111K miles	$19,900
2021 KIA SELTOS S 4-DR FWD, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., white, 96K miles, great MPG	$12,900
2021 LINCOLN CORSAIR AWD SUV, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., silver, 82K miles, very sharp	$24,900
2020 SUBARU OUTBACK AWD WAGON, 2.5 liter, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., olive green, 114K miles	$19,500
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 ~~$17,900~~ $15,900
2018 FORD EXPLORER XLT "SPORT PKG" AWD, 2.3 4-cyl., auto., ldd., dark cherry, 115Kmiles, 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