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Edna Mullenax holds the right side of the ribbon prior to its being cut to open the Pendleton County Family Support Center. She has directed the facility since its December 2023 founding.

Mullenax To Conclude a Career of Nearly Four Decades of Caring and Compassion

By Stephen Smoot

"When I started being a parent volunteer for EACHS Head Start in 1988, I never dreamed of where it would take me."

So said Edna Mullenax, director of the Pendleton County Family Support Center, who will soon retire after decades of service to the community.

Within a year, Mullenax took an assistant teaching position that became less of a job and more of a true vocation. "My passion has always been working with children and families," she explained.

That did not start with employment, however. Mullenax shared that her grandparents, Grant and Ruth Long, had more than 100 grandchildren with her born second from that group. Understanding the sometimes natural orneriness of farm and country kids, she noted that "someone had to lead the children in activities so we didn't all get into trouble."

"So that was me, taking the lead for our family get-togethers."

Handling the responsibilities for keeping kin in line led naturally to looking after the welfare of children in Mullenax's work.

Roger Dahmer, Pendleton County commissioner, shared that "I've known Edna for a while. She is a very Christian lady. She has a heart for helping people."

A decade after taking on the role of assistant teacher, Mullenax ascended to a full teaching position at EACHS Head Start. "Teaching children for eight years was one of the best experiences of my life," she stated.

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Pendleton County Commission Meeting Features Contentious Budget Discussion

By Stephen Smoot

On a slightly unseasonably cool June day under blue skies and bright sun, the Pendleton County Commission meeting room at times saw discussions that ran hot and an atmosphere more stormy than usual.

Bradley Kimble, Pendleton County sheriff, and April Mallow, Pendleton County prosecutor, came to protest cuts to their budgets and found the commission unwavering in their response.

Before all of that, however, Roger Dahmer, commissioner, opened with the customary invocation, praying "Father, we pray that you would be in these proceedings, that you would be with us, Lord, we always pray for Your guidance."

Attendees then rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the meeting officially commenced.

Rick Gillespie reported that the Emergency Management Performance Grant, awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Administration and distributed through the State of West Virginia, had dropped to $17,745 from approximately $30,000 in the past few years.

Its purpose, according to FEMA, provides "state, local, tribal, and territorial emergency management agencies (to) support efforts to build and sustain core capabilities across the prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery mission areas."

Gillespie posed the question of how the state distributes the funds and suggested that the distribution take more into account than simply population. He added that "$18,000 doesn't do much" and that a new vehicle "costs exactly the same as Kanawha County."

"I checked. All the counties have seen the decline," said Gillespie.

Next, Karen Pitsenbarger, Pendleton County administrator, shared that Phase III in the courthouse project had started. This includes deliveries of furniture, laying down flooring, and other details in the original structure as offices settle into new spaces.

She then asked if Carl Hevener, Pendleton County Commission president, would wish another year of service on the Board of Potomac Valley Transit Authority. He was confirmed by vote after assenting.

Commissioners turned to Annie Humes, executive director of the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau, to see if she had an update. She shared information on the new CVB policy of holding a regular open house for the community, particularly businesses in the area, to engage the organization when needed or desired.

She then provided an update on Pendleton County's America 250 mural project, sharing that "the grant paperwork has been filed and should be received by the county." Humes went on to add that "we were awarded $5,000 from the West Virginia Department of Arts, History, and Culture, which covers most of the cost of the grant." The Town of Franklin covered the remaining cost of the mural while $500 came from the Pendleton County Arts Council. She added that she will request support from Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority, the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce, and the CVB in the coming weeks.

"We're very close to being all the way there," shared Humes. Help also came from "Wayne Holloway (who) was able to give us a generous discount on the boom lift" that will help the artists access the higher parts of the walls.

"We've had a great response. Everyone's been enthusiastic about contributing towards that," she said.

Mike Alt, training officer for Pendleton County Emergency Rescue, provided a report on the stalled implementation of the most recent salary enhancement program for EMS in West Virginia. Lawyers are still examining the legislation, but Alt shared, "It doesn't sound too favorable and that once a determination is made I'll pass that along to you all."

He went on to discuss how a contractor helping with the Upper Tract Volunteer Fire Department facility called in an official asbestos inspector to check out the structure. While the building was cleared by the inspector, Alt informed the Commission that upon looking into the matter that asbestos regulations have changed and that permits may be required

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Community CALENDAR

All Night Prayer Event Planned

An All Night Prayer event, praying for the country and community, will take place from 7 p.m. Friday until 7 a.m. Saturday at the Pendleton Community Center in Franklin. Come anytime, for 15 minutes or all night.

VBS Is Underway At Christ Central

Vacation Bible School, "Junk Yard Redemption," is being held from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Christ Central Community Church in Upper Tract. All children ages 4 to 12 years are invited to come learn how God takes broken things and makes them new.

'Celebration of Faith' To Be Held Sunday

St. Paul Independent Lutheran Church is having its annual "Celebration of Faith" at 10 a.m. Sunday at Thorn Spring Park. Heavenbound, the bluegrass/gospel group from the Elkins area, will be sharing the gospel in music. A picnic meal will follow.

Those attending are asked to bring a dish/dishes of food to share and enjoy the day.

Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate one's faith in Jesus.

New Franklin Mural Emerging



Kelson Thorne's extension of his original mural takes shape on the side of the Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority building in Franklin. He uses a "scribble" technique in planning to help keep proper proportions for images used.

FBI Investigates as Local Classic Car Owner Defrauded by Scammer

By Stephen Smoot



This 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air was stolen from a Grant County resident as part of an intricate organized car theft scheme.

In the wake of multiple investigations by the West Virginia State Police and Hardy County Sheriff's Department over fraudulent foreign schemes to use false drivers' licenses to sell land, one of which occurred in Pendleton County, comes an incident from Grant County in which a resident's classic car was stolen.

J. T. Miller, Hardy County's chief deputy, reported that what he has concluded were foreign criminal operatives had created fraudulent drivers' licenses using publicly available identifying information and invented details for categories that were not available. Using identification that appeared legitimate, con artists used these to fool real estate agents into selling vacant property out from under unsuspecting owners.

What appears to be a similar false identification variant scam has deprived a Grant County man of his classic car and proceeds from the sale thereof.

As Faron Shanoltz explains "My father-in-law, Buzz Hinkle, was selling a 1957 Chevy Bel-Air that he had restored."

He went on to explain that the vehicle was stolen from "an 83-year old that proudly restored this car over several years." Shanholtz went on to add that "anyone who knows Buzz knows his honesty and enthusiasm for meticulously restoring vehicles."

On June 11, a man had arrived to purchase the vehicle. As Shanoltz related, "There were several phone calls to discuss the car and negotiate an agreed-upon price." The would-be buyer drove from South Carolina and brought a trailer. After test driving the vehicle and agreeing to the price, "he wanted to finalize the purchase with a cashiers check."

Hinkle tried to protect himself from potential fraud. The deal made included a photograph of the drivers license that the would-be buyer had and "my father-in-law kept the car's title."

As Hinkle finalized the purchase, two other men remained in the vehicle driven from South Carolina. "One was a middle-aged adult, the other appeared to be late teens in age," shared Shanholtz.

The man who negotiated the purchase stated that he wished to drive the car and the group left town. "The next morning," Shanholtz related, "the check proved to be fraudulent. The phone num-

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Sweetwater Farms Harvests a Vision for Southern Pendleton County Recreation

By Stephen Smoot

When Experience Learning established a program at Sweetwater Farms near Sugar Grove, as Melinda Brooks explains, "we were just starting with the idea of having a trail center." As work has gone forward, they have established 12 miles of trail and opened up two miles of farm road for hiking and bicycling.

As Brooks explained, much of the first few years of work went into taking care of "deferred maintenance" and getting the property and the community center in proper shape. The center, which serves as a focal point for activities up there, "got new bathrooms, new showers, new flooring. It's a big investment in this facility."

Melinda Brooks and her husband, Jason, staff the Sweetwater Farms facility for Experience Learning.

Along the way, they have found other opportunities to help to develop the property and add to what Experience Learning can offer there. "We're now figuring out how to create a space where people would want to come here."

Expanded offerings include two primitive rental cabins on the hill above the community center. Also she added, "We installed 10 tent pads in a shaded grove area." Initially, as she explained, people were encouraged to camp in an open field near the community center. Brooks shared that did not work well because of the more Virginia-like climate in the Sugar Grove area.

Unlike their facility at Spruce Knob with "natural air conditioning," as she described it, the grounds at Sweetwater Farms can get much more heat and humidity than the higher elevations farther west.

Although still working to obtain recognition from the international dark skies organization, Sweetwater Farms does occupy a recognized dark skies zone. Those who camp there in the right conditions can see a brilliant array of stars, as well as the Milky Way Galaxy as it snakes across the sky. The Spruce Knob facility is much better known, however, for not only night sky viewing, but also Experience Learning "star parties."

Jason Brooks shared that "astronomers say our southern sky (at Sweetwater Farms) is a little bit impeded by mountains and trees."

Investments also went to infrastructure with an eye toward sustainability and reduced cost. The facility got a loan to build a solar array that not only provides ample electric power, but the monthly loan payments for the array dip below the cost they were paying for that service. The array also powers an electric vehicle charging station installed on the property.

Another innovation developed at Sweetwater Farms helps to almost eliminate food waste while also saving money on the same product. Brooks stated that they would hold events and have sometimes as much as 20 pounds of food left over, which they used to give to their "food waste pig" who simply ate the leftovers.

"We didn't know what to do with the extra food," Brooks explained, saying that massive amounts of leftover food needed disposal after major events such as the GRUSK com-

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Obituaries



Clyde Albert Barkley

Clyde Albert Barkley, 85, of Franklin passed away June 20, 2026 at Hospice of the Panhandle in Kearneysville.

He was born Dec. 6, 1940, in Hightown, Virginia, a son of the late Ottie Brown and Janet (Helmick) Barkley.

Mr. Barkley was a longtime timber cutter and logger, and for decades owned and operated his own sawmill. Additionally, he worked as a delivery driver, as well as a cutler and knife sharpener within the poultry industry.

An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed time spent in the woods, deer and turkey hunting and digging ramps. He also enjoyed traveling to reunions and trips to eat out, most especially trips to Cicis Pizza. Most notably he will be remembered for his large garden and huge tomatoes. He truly loved his garden and found joy in sharing his bounty with community members and friends.

Surviving are three daughters; and two sisters, Genevieve Via and Rhoda Brown.

He was also preceded in death by two sisters, Irene (Barkley) Reedy, and Lillian Elizabeth (Barkley) Arbogast.

A graveside was held Wednesday in Blue Grass Cemetery with Rev. Andre Crummett officiating.

Pallbearers were Vernon Lambert, Albert Moyers, Thomas Renn, Aaron Sponaugle, Jeremy Townsend and Braden Moyers.

Memorial donations may be made to Blue Grass Cemetery, 3042 Blue Grass Valley Road, Blue Grass, VA 24413.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.obaughfuneralhome.com.



Darlene Thompson

Darlene Thompson, 77, of Asheville, North Carolina, passed away on June 10, 2026.

She was born May 15, 1949, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, to the late Blan and June Thompson and spent her early years on the family farm in Seneca Rocks.

Ms. Thompson attended Dixie Grade School, a four-room school in Riverton, for eight years before graduating from Circleville High School with the class of 1967.

She graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work (corrections) in 1978 from East Tennessee State University and later a master's degree in Christian counseling online.

In 1978, she moved to Asheville, North Carolina, where she began working for the Salvation Army until her retirement in 2018. She first served as a social worker then later became the director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons Community Corrections Program managed by the Salvation Army, where she remained in that role for more than 30 years.

Her mother taught her to read The Pendleton Times at age three. She remained a lifelong learner, challenging herself to learn a new word daily. The love of nature was instilled in her at an early age, influenced by her time on the farm and her father who worked for the forestry service. Throughout her life, she preferred being outdoors and loved admiring God's handiwork of nature. Asheville's mountain vistas and wildlife reminded her of her beautiful home in West Virginia. She enjoyed photographing nature and writing poems. She enjoyed taking daily walks through her neighborhood where she became a beloved friend to many. Her faith was an important part of her life with many charitable donations given to reflect her caring.

A friend to many, she will be deeply missed and her remarkable life will be remembered by those who loved her.

Surviving are a sister, Loretta Fern Barlow of Martinsburg; a brother, Dallas Harper (Doris) of Sanford, North Carolina; nephews, Robert Barlow (Kimberly) and Dexter Harper (Kelly); several great-nephews and great-nieces; and special friends, and neighbors.

She was also preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Henry Elmer and Mary Susan Harper; her paternal grandparents, Dillon and Blanche Harper; a brother-in-law, Robert Barlow; and a sister-in-law, Marie Harper.

There will be no funeral per her wishes. A memorial is planned for a later date. She requested that her ashes be spread at her home in West Virginia.

Suggestions of ways to honor her memory include donating to a favorite charity, planting a tree in her honor or donating a children's book about nature to one's local library.

Morris Funeral & Cremation Care of Asheville, North Carolina, was in charge of arrangements.



Thelma Moats

Thelma Moats left this earthly plane on June 15, 2026.

Her family will be celebrating her life at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Moatstown Chapel in Moatstown.

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

Mullenax

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Yet she always aimed to do more through learning, taking classes from Shepherd College's Petersburg branch and earning an early childhood development associates' degree.

With many years of teaching experience and an intuition for leadership, EACHS Head Start promoted Mullenax to a supervisor's position. She remembered that "it was a very hard decision to leave my children and families to support them in a different role." Those who have experienced and enjoyed leading a classroom and directly cultivating young minds will understand the dilemma for her at that point.

No one who has ever enjoyed being a teacher stops missing it when they move on to a non classroom role. Mullenax remembered that, "I had a great staff and we worked well together in our services to children and families."

The C. S Lewis Institute shares that one definition of "vocation" lies in "a summons from God to an individual or group to undertake the obligations and perform the duties of a particular task or function in life."

Mullenax's vocation led her from the Head Start into a new realm of service. As she explained, "Sometimes God opens other doors and you should always take the door that He opens."

The next door opened in 2010 when Mullenax enrolled in the AmeriCorps VISTA program. In that role, she established the first Pendleton County Community Emergency Response Team as a VISTA worker with Curtis Crigler at the Pendleton County Office of Emergency Management. In that role, she supported disaster preparedness programs and also supported efforts from the American Red Cross.

That led to an administrative role with Region 8, but work there did not match "the passion I have for working with children and families."

Then God opened another door.

"One day I decided I was taking a day off," Mullenax remembered. While relaxing on her well-earned day off, Rick Smith, chief executive officer of Eastern West Virginia Community Action rang her up to inquire if she would be interested in another job.

"I started two weeks later," she said.

Mullenax started her "journey," as she put it, with EWVCAA, now known as Eastern Action, in October 2013. In her decade of work there, she helped families find access to fundamental needs, such as those facing electric or water shut off, locating supportive resources, and "working with community partners to provide other funding support."

Part of her time in that role was spent working out of Petersburg three days a week and an hours' drive from her home, "but building relationships with the customers in Grant County was a wonderful experience."

Three years ago came the emergence of the Family Support Center program that has helped many thousands across the state. Eastern Action applied for and received grants to fund county-based centers in Pendleton, Grant, Hardy, and Hampshire. Many more emerged statewide.

Mullenax shepherded the Pendleton FSC through establishment, then a move into a Franklin storefront for easier access. One of the remarkable stories from the evolution of these centers has come in how each county facility has evolved its own slate of programs tailored to the people and culture of the area.

No two family support centers in West Virginia are alike and therein lies their strength. They rely on both the vision and the creativity of directors like Mullenax to build the most effective possible opportunities for their clients to gain the most as they work to first survive, then to thrive.

Dahmer, who also serves on the board of the Family Support Center, shared that Mullenax "is a big part of the reason why that support system is as successful as it is." He added that "she's innovative. Some of the projects and activities they do, she comes up with them."

Mullenax adds that "the success of the center wouldn't have happened without the support and partnerships with our families, friends, and community partners." That success currently resides under a shadow of uncertain budget moves going forward. Centers are only funded currently through Sept. 30 with no word on the future.

"At Christmas time," remembered Dahmer, there was a year in which staff worried that not enough presents would be available for the kids on the day of the giveaway. "She put out the word and bang! They had more than enough."

Dahmer explains that the trust that the community has in Mullenax, that she always does the right thing, helps her to garner the donated support that she does. Also, he stated, "she knows where the need is." Additionally, those in need, he said, often hear the advice of "Go see Edna." Dahmer added that's how a lot of the clients get involved.

Though moving into retirement, Mullenax has no plans to slow down, much less stop. After taking "some relaxing time for sure," she intends to go back to "working with children and families."

"I have applied for a few jobs and I hope when they see my passion and hear of the work that I have done, they will consider hiring me."

Mullenax shared a Bible verse that she felt encapsulated her vocation.

In Romans 15:14, Saint Paul as minister to the Gentiles stated, "I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge, and competent to instruct each other."

No better words could describe the decades of service from Edna Mullenax.

WARNER'S DRIVE-IN

TOY STORY 5
JUNE 26/27
RATED PG
$8 for Ages 12 & Over
Kids Under 12 FREE
(Compliments of SKSRT Riverton)
Movie Starts at Dusk

Friday Night Concert
Starlight Stage
OFF THE RAILZ BAND
7 p.m.

Snack Bar Opens at 6 p.m.
Carryouts are welcome
Keep up-to-date at WarnersDriveInWV.org
or Facebook.com/WarnersDriveInWV
3169 Petersburg Pike, Franklin, WV

4th of JULY 4th of JULY

If your Fourth of July plans don't include classic cars, bluegrass music, grilled food, and a cornhole/horseshoe tournament that gets way too competitive… we've got you covered.

ASBURY'S — AT THE CAVERNS —

Join Us for the 2nd Annual

FOURTH OF JULY CAR SHOW

Saturday, July 4
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Class Cars - $10 entry fee
Bounce House
Live Music by Maysville Express
Gem Mining
Cornhole and Horseshoe Tournament
Face Painting
All your favorite American classics on the grill
US And Plenty More Family Fun

Bring your lawn chairs, bring your classic cars, bring the family, and spend Independence Day with us in beautiful Germany Valley

After the day, join the Franklin VFD for their lawn party and fireworks

See y'all on the Fourth!

Asbury's FAMILY RESTAURANT

Germany Valley Limestone Rd., Riverton

Friday, June 26 • 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Carnivore Buffet

Carved Prime Ribs, Grilled NY Strip Steak, Rotisserie Style Chicken, Pan Seared Pork Chops, Macaroni and Cheese, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Glazed Carrots, Mixed Green Salad, Rolls/Butter and Assorted Desserts $40.00

Saturday Night, June 27

Music on the Porch With Zach Propst

Sunday, June 28 • Noon - 3 p.m.

Sunday Buffet

Carved Grilled Bistro Tenders, Herb Baked Chicken, Roast Pork Loin w/Pomegranate Sauce, Saffron Rice, Mixed Green Salad, Hash Browned Potatoes, Steamed Broccoli, Southern Succotash, 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)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pendleton County Building Permit

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

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

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

There is no fee for obtaining a building permit.

Additional requirements may apply:

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

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

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

SKSRT Awards NFES Students for Perfect Attendance



Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone awards a certificate and $25 each month, September through May, to a student at North Fork Elementary School who has perfect attendance. Monthly winners pictured with Jena Miller, SKSRT general manager were, from left, Hunter Kimble, son of David and Christina Kimble, Emilee Morris-Hedrick, daughter of Jermia Hedrick and Molly Morris, Keaton Swick, grandson of Lucy Wimer, Haley Warner, daughter of Aric and Jennifer Warner, Jayden Swain, son of Lauren Kilmer, Russell Warner, son of Daryl and Jessica Warner, and Hurikane Cross, daughter of Tom and Sudie Cross. Not pictured are Kai Michael, son of Allen and Kyomi Michael and Karlee Arbaugh, daughter of Robert and Kaitlyn Arbaugh.

Pendleton FFA Members Place First in Regional Contests



FFA members, from left, Katie Heavner, Katie Keyser, Ty Heavner and Alex Adams, will be competing in the land and homesite judging contest at the state FFA convention.

Pendleton County FFA members, Alex Adams, Katie Heavner, Ty Heavner and Katie Keyser, earned first place in the eastern region land and homesite judging events at Spring Mills in Berkley County. The team will be competing at the state FFA convention in July.

In land judging, participants learn to understanding basic soil science. They learn to classify soil profiles by physically getting into dug test pits to measure topsoil depth, texture, and permeability. Students determine land capability. Participants analyze landscape factors, such as slope percentage, drainage, and erosion risks, to place the land into specific capability classes. They select conservation practices. Based on the land classification, students recommend specific treatments to protect soil and water health, such as terracing, crop rotation, or strip-cropping.

Homesite evaluation is a program that teaches basic principles of soil science and how these soil properties can influence the suitability of a site for home construction. Participants learn to look for things that make one soil different from another — why some soils are dry and others wet; how "mottling" is a clue to drainage; how soil texture is determined by rubbing soil between one's fingers; and how to judge depth, erosion, slope, and permeability. These soil factors are used to evaluate whether the soil on the site is suitable for building foundations with basements, can grow plants for lawns and gardens, and if the soil can be used for on-site wastewater treatment systems.

In homesite evaluation, the suitability of the soil and site are judged for the intended use of home construction.

Homesite evaluation in West Virginia focuses on the soil's suitability for the intended home site use. Many of the factors used in land judging are also applicable to evaluating sites where homes will be constructed. Homesite evaluation is a natural extension of the land judging program and provides another dimension to soil and water conservation education in West Virginia.

Forest Road 19 to Dolly Sods Closed for Repairs

Forest Road 19 on the Cheat-Potomac Ranger District, which provides access to the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area on the Monongahela National Forest, was closed June 22. Access to the Dolly Sods Wilderness is still available from FR19 via Jordan Run Rd near Hopeville. The closure will limit access on FR 19 from the west at the existing gate near Laneville and extend to the intersection with FR75. Foot access on FR19 is permitted and visitors are asked to avoid construction areas. The closure is in place to protect public safety while repairs are completed. The closure timeline is still being determined.

Visitors are asked to respect all posted closures and avoid attempting to bypass the affected area.

Updates will be shared on the Monongahela National Forest website at fs.usda.gov and social media as new information becomes available.

Heavner Earns Doctorate Degree

Janice Heavner of Upper Tract received a doctor of education degree in educational leadership in May during the 168th commencement ceremony at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland.

County Commission

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for private property work.

Jerry and Jeff Davis came to speak about confusion involving whether the State of West Virginia or the United States Forest Service had authority over Rough Run Road where it extends eastward from Sweedlin Valley Road. Issues included forest service tickets for the use of four-wheelers on the road, as well as the disassembly of a gate put on the road, but not locked.

Ultimately, Gillespie stated that he would investigate the current status of the road under his authority to monitor road names and statuses for 911.

Kimble entered the meeting next. Hevener asked, "Do you want to discuss your questions and concerns of your budget?"

Kimble informed commissioners that for deputies' overtime, "we're not going to have enough to last throughout the year" and cited a "$30,000 cut on that." Hevener replied that there was no $30,0000 account, but that each deputy had $5,000 cut from their individual overtime allotment while the bailiff saw his overtime cut by $12,000.

He explained that his office takes the overtime allotted to each deputy and placed it in common. It was also revealed that deputies collected pay when assigned to be on call. Hevener asked if deputies always took the calls when assigned to be on call, then informed the sheriff that they had not, citing 911 records. The sheriff replied that the deputy might not respond in person, but might still be needed via phone or in some other capacity and Hevener said, "I'm still researching some of that."

Hevener also questioned why overtime hours continued to increase when a new deputy hire was approved to address that issue. He went on to add that "every time you've come here and asked us for anything . . . we'd give it to you" then shared later that "we feel you've taken advantage of us every chance you got."

Kimble then informed the commission, "There will be a lawsuit, heads up on that." He explained that would be based on the commission cutting the sheriff's budget and not other agencies. Hevener responded that other agencies had not received what they requested, to which Kimble fired back that does not represent a cut.

"You didn't give me what I asked for, but you also cut my budget," noted Kimble.

The requested budget for deputies' overtime for fiscal year 2027 totaled $85,000. They will receive a total amount of $53,000 for overtime in FY 2027.

Gillespie then shared that he had asked for a voluntary cut to the budget for the Pendleton County Office of Emergency Management to help in the overall effort to balance the overall ledger. "I want the sheriff's department to have all the resources it can have, just like I want 911 and OEM to have all the resources we can have. But we had to cut the budget," Gillespie replied.

Additional cuts mentioned included $15,000 from the county clerk's election budget and the county commission's loss of approximately $190,000 from its share, among other reductions.

Dahmer then read from a list of categories of the sheriff's department budget, comparing numbers from fiscal year 2021 to amounts budgeted for 2027. Each category increased and the total rise went from $289,098 to $765,893. He also shared a list of case examples where the West Virginia State Supreme Court of Appeals had sided with county commissions in similar cases.

Later in the meeting, Mallow entered to also discuss cuts to her budget. "I understand what you're going to do," she stated, then added that "I'm to the point to where, by myself, without an additional attorney, I'm having trouble meeting my obligations and duties."

She added that "I had a budget for less than a year for a prosecutor which I couldn't fill at that rate," also saying that salaries for assistant prosecutors had increased in recent years. Mallow then said, "I need somebody additional, but that position's being cut when I couldn't fill it in less than a year."

Dahmer gave Mallow a copy of the case examples as well. She left while answering a call from magistrate court.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Immediate Service Transition and Facility Closure Notification

Issued by: Potomac Highlands Guild, Inc.

Notice is hereby given to the residents, clients, and community partners of Pendleton County, West Virginia, that Potomac Highlands Guild, Inc. is transitioning its behavioral health service delivery model.

Daily operations at our physical facility located at **30 Maple Ave., Franklin, WV 26807** have **ceased effective immediately.**

To facilitate a smooth transition for our clients, a final, single-day in-person clinic will be held at the Franklin facility on **Thursday, July 2, 2026**. This will be the final day any services are rendered at the 30 Maple Ave. location.

Please be assured that patient care is not being terminated. Potomac Highlands Guild, Inc. will continue to provide uninterrupted behavioral health services to Pendleton County residents through the following options:

- **Telehealth Services:** All current appointments (except those scheduled for the July 2nd clinic) are transitioning immediately to our secure telehealth network, allowing patients to meet with providers virtually from home.
- **In-Person Care:** Patients desiring or requiring in-person treatment are welcome at our regional hub located at **7 Mt. View St., Petersburg, WV 26847**.
- **Public Transportation:** For individuals requiring transit to the Petersburg facility, local transportation options are available through the Potomac Valley Transit Authority (PVTA). Inquiries and ride scheduling can be made by calling PVTA at **(304) 257-1414**.

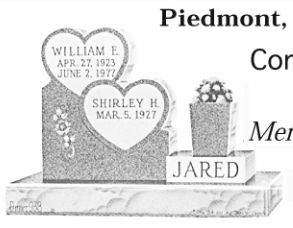
All active patient clinical records remain entirely secure and accessible within our electronic system. For questions regarding scheduling, telehealth setup assistance, or medical records, please contact our administrative team immediately at (304) 257-1155.

Options for immediate mental health crises:

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- Contact the West Virginia 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline by calling or texting **988**
- Contact Potomac Highlands Guild, Inc. after-hours crisis hotline **800-545-HELP**

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Times Past

10 Years Ago
Week of June 23, 2016

RAZE Balloon Lands In Maryland Yard

A balloon, released by the Pendleton County High School RAZE club on May 12, made it all the way to Annapolis, MD, over 200 miles away, before landing. Bryan Youngblood, PCHS physical education teacher and RAZE sponsor, was contacted by a former school teacher who reported finding the balloon in her backyard. Youngblood proceeded to have club members sign a card of thanks that included information about the school and RAZE activities.

RAZE is part of an anti-tobacco initiative that was designed to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco and its use. Youngblood commented that receiving word of the balloon's final destination certainly brightened his day.

Week of June 30, 2016

Car Club Visits Hatchery

"We meet every eight years," Dave Alt remarked. Alt was referring to Franklin Gage, a member of the Antique Automobile Club of America's regional touring group that visited the county on Tuesday.

Alt serves as supervisor of the state operated fish hatchery at Reeds Creek, a stopping point for the group's annual event.

Gage last visited Alt at the hatchery in 2008 when he brought the Six-Cylinder Chevrolet Tour, a subset of the AACA, through the area.

The group includes 30 automobiles from nine different states.

Other stops on this year's trip include Spruce Knob, Seneca Rocks Discovery Center, Blackwater Falls, Lost River Artisans Cooperative and a ride on the Potomac Eagle train.

20 Years Ago
Week of June 22, 2006

Project NOAH Endorsed By County Commission

It's called "Project NOAH (No Other Angel Harmed)" for the late grandson of Dr. H. Luke Eye (who perished in a house fire in Harrisonburg), and the Pendleton County Commission and the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department hope this new program will be embraced county-wide.

The program began with a grant of $250 received by the fire department in Harrisonburg, Va.

That fire department wishes to share $100 with the FVFD to place smoke detectors in homes, particularly in homes where finances may be an impediment to the installation of smoke detectors.

Bland Honored For Service to Schools

Mary Bland was recognized for 40 years of volunteering at North Fork Elementary/ Circleville Elementary and High schools. The staff and students are grateful for all the time she has spent helping in the schools, as well as after-school events.

Bland was presented with a rocking chair from the Cracker Barrel.

30 Years Ago
Week of June 27, 1996

Frequent Rains Slow Hay Making

Frequent rains have all but shut down hay making in Pendleton County this spring. According to local weather observer Gene Scott Hammer, rain fell on 12 of the first 23 days in June, with total precipitation amounting to 6.54 inches.

High temperatures at Hammer's weather station averaged 77 degrees for the first 23 days in June.

Friends Run Area Hit By Flooding

The Friends Run community several miles west of Franklin was battered recently on two different occasions by torrential rain storms which caused flooding and much property damage. Driveways were washed out, water collected in cellars and slides and debris blocked roads.

Four inches of rain fell in a short period on Sunday, June 16, and 2.7 inches fell in two hours on Wednesday, June 16, and 2.7 inches fell in two hours on Wednesday, June 19.

SUGAR GROVE

Times Have Changed— Bed With Clean Sheets Cost Four Cents

Prices for entertainment at hotels or restaurants were fixed by the county court in 1746. It was a breach of the law to charge more than that authorized price. A hot meal was 12-1/2 cents with a cold meal being eight cents. A bed with clean sheets was four cents while a feather bed with clean sheets was $6.00. Cider, per quart, in 1790 was 17 cents and in 1796, lodging for the night was 12-1/2 cents! The following fees were allowed in 1819 to the sheriff: hanging, $5.25; arrest, 63 cents; whipping a free man, 42 cents; putting a person in the stocks, 21 cents; killing a deer between January 1 and August 1, $5.00. Times certainly have changed since then in Pendleton County.

40 Years Ago
Week of June 26, 1986

State to Develop Low Cost Housing Site At Franklin

Governor Arch A. Moore, Jr., announced today an important development in his flood relief initiative. These new sites are located in Franklin, Parsons and Marlinton and bring the number of sites approved to seven.

The Housing Development Fund will convert the Franklin site from a temporary mobile home site into a permanent housing development with room available for 42 homes.

Governor Moore said, "These sites will provide families who lost their homes in the November disaster an opportunity to locate in a fully developed neighborhood."

The seven subdivisions will provide 120 building lots with room to expand depending upon the demand.

50 Years Ago
Week of June 24, 1976

Local Nursing Home Has Flag Raising Service

A flag raising ceremony was conducted Saturday afternoon at Pendleton Nursing Home in Franklin when a large new flag was hoisted to the top of a new flagpole which had been erected at the entrance to the nursing home.

The new flagpole and flag were provided by the Women's Auxiliary of the nursing home. The auxiliary under the leadership of Mrs. Virginia Rexrode, president, has accepted a number of challenges at the home. Some have required sizeable amounts of money. A quality piano was provided for the solarium. Money is authorized for large print hymnals. Rhythm band instruments have been furnished. A shopping cart will make possible the long-needed "Country Store." The auxiliary recently gave a sizeable contribution to the Garden Club to help with their landscaping expenses. All these projects are a tribute to the members' sacrifice of time, effort and finance.

Community support has made the auxiliary a success. Bake sales are one avenue for funds. Readers of The Pendleton Times have responded most liberally to the requests for assistance. Dues from members also provide income.

County Girl Wins Dance Marathon

Carol Bolton, formerly of Brandywine, has been named the winner of the 1976 Cancer Dance Marathon held at Allegany Community College in Cumberland, Md. Ms. Bolton and her partner, Ray Spataro, danced for 24 hour and collected $1,500.

The total amount raised in the marathon was approximately $7,600 and all proceeds were donated to the Maryland Chapter of the American Cancer Society.

DAHMER

The Arlin Dale Jamison family moved from their home near the town spring to their new modern brick home on Halls Hill.

An early custom was when people moved to another location, the first animal to be moved was the hog, because it roots forward and the last thing to be moved was the chicken, because it scratches backwards.

Forest Trails Offer Hiking

The Dry River Ranger District on the George Washington National Forest, Bridgewater, Va., does more than just fight wildland fires.

Recently trail crews have maintained approximately 25 miles of forest trails. Bech Lick, Clay Lick and California Ridge are three of the trails receiving maintenance this year.

Most of these trails were established back in the 1930s by the CCC program and used effectively in the firefighting program. They wind upslope off the valley floor providing some of the most scenic views in the Shenandoah Mountain. They are favorable for hiking, backpacking, camping, etc.

International Botanists Visit Area

International botanists recently visited the Monongahela National Forest on a nine-day tour of the Northeastern United States. Thirty-nine scientists from this country and 13 other countries were on the bus tour.

This members of the International Society for Vegetation Science were meeting for the North American Assembly of 1976.

The bus tour started at Valparaiso University, Indiana, then through lower Michigan, south of Cincinnati, Ohio, east to Parkersburg and Spruce Knob. From there, they traveled northerly through Pennsylvania to Tupper Lake, New York.

60 Years Ago
Week of June 23, 1966

EDITORIALS

Area Offers Many Attractions – – –

During the past weekend a group of teenagers under the supervision of several Shepherd College professors used Thorn Spring Park as their headquarters for a science field trip to this area.

During the few days that they were here, they visited Spruce Knob and Seneca Rocks in Pendleton County, the Cranberry Glades and the radio astronomy observatory in Pocahontas County, and the Spring Run fish hatchery and Smoke Hole Caverns in Grant County. Other places in the area they probably would have found interesting if they would have had more time are the Naval Radio Research Station at Sugar Grove, the Brandywine Recreation Area, Seneca Caverns, Smoke Hole, Dolly Sods, the Sinks of Gandy and many more.

It is a shame that the facilities at Thorn Spring Park are not more fully utilized. It took a great deal of effort and interest on the part of many people and many organizations to provide them, but no matter how fine a park we have, it is no good unless it is used.

70 Years Ago
Week of June 21, 1956

$5,955,722 Worth of Products Sold Off County Farms In '54

The value of products sold in 1954 by operators of 1,322 farms in Pendleton County was $5,955,722, according to a preliminary report of the 1954 Census of Agriculture published by the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce.

The value of all crops sold was $155,145 and included $117,970 for field corps, $804 for vegetables, $36,371 for fruits and nuts.

The value of all livestock and livestock products sold was $5,676,607 and included $70,307 for dairy products, $4,302,795 for poultry and poultry products, and $1,303,505 for livestock and livestock products.

The value of forest products sold from the county's farms was $123,970.

EDITORIALS

To Prevent Flood Damage – – –

One of the largest engineering projects that has involved Pendleton County in recent years is the South Fork Watershed Program. The biggest feature of this project is the construction of retaining dams across tributaries emptying into the South Fork River. According to present plans, 20 of these dams will be built, five of which will be in Hardy County, 14 in Pendleton and one in Highland County.

The construction of these dams will cost a tremendous amount of money—far more than could be raised locally. It has been estimated that each of the dams will cost in the neighborhood of $50,000, and that the entire program will cost several million dollars.

The funds for this type project are provided for by Public Law 534 passed by Congress in 1944. The law provides, however, that before a watershed program may be authorized, the benefits to be derived from it must exceed the cost.

So far as the South Fork Watershed program is concerned, government engineers have made a careful study of the area and they have reported that such a program in this area would result in a savings of millions of dollars to farms and other property along the river. According to their report, the savings would amount to far more than the cost of the program, therefore the project is feasible.

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Smith Creek/ Friends Run

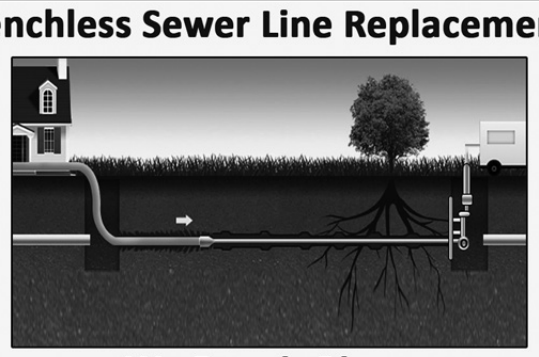
by Dave Ellis

Good-bye spring, hello summer. Now the daylight will be leaving or fading away since summer started. It won't be noticeable for several days, but residents still have to face the heat for the next three months.

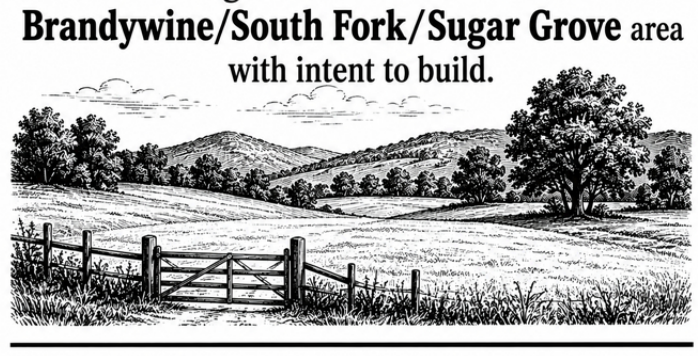
Smith Creek and Friends Run Churches of the Brethren: shut-ins — Bucky Moyers, Pam Riner, Anna Tesi, Larry Moyers, Sandy Washburn, Mary Alice Simmons, Anna Lee Mitchell, Carol Propst and Ramona Luckel; prayer list — Richard Campbell, Joshua Shirk, Kenny Williams, Ruth Bauer, Rick Waggy, Gloria Moats, 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, Peggy McLaughlin, Alvy Humphreys, Amy Berg and the family of Dave McConnell.

Prayer thought: "Creator God, I trust your wisdom and righteousness even when I don't understand it."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for June 15 through June 21, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: June 15 - 71°, 56° (75°, 61°, 2.46"), June 16 - 74°, 46° (73°, 62°, 1.03"), June 17 - 81°, 54° (80°, 65°, .52"), June 18 - 77°, 60°, .2" (81°, 64°, .24"), June 19 - 79°, 59° (84°, 65°), June 20 - 80°, 56° (81°, 53°) and June 21 - 82°, 56°, .02" (87°, 58°).

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Influence of Fathers Adds to the Equation of Parenting

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

Juneteenth and West Virginia Day are in the historical books. Father's Day was a day that proved to be outstanding. Temperatures were in the eighties, with a cool breeze to beat. So, celebrations were definitely in order for fathers.

To define the image of a father, one must take a look at some actions. One of the greatest actions for his children would be modeling respect and love towards the children's mother. No doubt another action would be that he would want his children to be greater than him. Not only that, his love should remain steadfast with the children knowing that they are unconditionally loved.

Sure, fathers should provide space for their children to make mistakes and learn from their failures, stepping in only when there is a physical danger.

A father can be an uncle, a stepfather, or even a grandfather. It takes a firm and loving hand to guide the family. Actually, the worth of a father cannot be measured.

Sunday found many folks owing their father a debt of gratitude and honor. Fatherhood is a noble calling and a privilege. One of the greatest rewards of parenting is seeing a small part of oneself in the offsprings. So dads, don't walk too fast; one's off spring may be following one's footsteps. May God bless the fathers of this land, every day. Help them to be the fathers who will lead their children on the right path.

An unknown author wrote the following:

"What makes a Dad

God took the strength of a mountain. The majesty of a tree,

The warmth of a summer day, the calm of a quiet sea, the generous soul of nature,

The comforting arm of night, the wisdom of the ages, the power of an eagle's flight,

The joy of a morning in spring, the faith of a mustard seed, the patience of eternity,

The depth of a family need, then God combined these qualities, when there was nothing more to add,

He knew His masterpiece was complete, And so...He called it...Dad!"

May every day be Father's Day!

Life's daily lessons for this week are listed. Some small acts have a ripple effect…that's how the world changes.

1. Let someone in a person's lane.
2. Teamwork is the best work.
3. Be humble when victorious.
4. Pick up a piece of trash.
5. Return one's shopping cart.

Much needed rain has fallen. More than an inch was well received. Between showers, farmers are making hay, with the outcome being much smaller than usual. June 21 has come and gone. This being the longest day of daylight (summer solstice), it embraces the days that will follow with shorter daylight hours. The shorter days of sunlight will become more noticeable over time. Flowers continue to add their beauty to the eye of the beholder.

Quotes for the week are as follows:

"Remember, half the doctors in this country graduated in the bottom half of their class."...Al Mcauire

'In every outthrust headland, in every curving beach, in every grain of sand there is the story of the earth."...Rachel Carson

"Life is short and there will always be dirty dishes, so let's dance." — James Howe

'My father taught me to work; he did not teach me to love it." — Abraham Lincoln

"Any fool can be a father, but it takes a real man to be a daddy." — Philip Whitmore

Sitting out on the patio is the best place to hear the "Talk of the Grove."

"Pidge" Anderson took off her first tomato on Thursday. Good eating! She still has lots of tomatoes at the greenhouse.

Saturday was the annual Mitchell reunion which was held at the VFW pavilion. A group of George Mitchell's descendants took a field trip to Dry Run to see where George's homeplace was. It was here that his father, Peter Mischler, (the Lutheran preacher) came to live with him, and upon his passing was taken by sled to the Old Propst Church cemetery where he was buried. The group was met by Dennis Mitchell who was the tour guide, showing where various family members once lived, stopping by the Mitchell Cemetery to pay tribute to those who lived so long ago.

Justin, April, Colby and Chloe Simmons, along with Ronnie and Tammy Lambert, enjoyed a week at Holden Beach, North Carolina. While on vacation, they enjoyed looking for shells and shark teeth, fishing, eating a lot of yummy food and playing mini golf.

Father's Day picnics were had on Sunday. St. John and Calvary Lutheran churches joined to enjoy a hymn sing service, as well as a picnic following. Much celebration took place for all the fathers living in this community.

Clickety-clacks for the chin waggers are as follows:

- "The Lord of the Rings" movie was filmed in New Zealand.
- King Tut was 19 years old when he died.
- China invented silk material.
- President Bill Clinton was a Rhodes scholar.
- President Theodore Roosevelt worked to save football from being banned in the United States.

Concerns are for Charles Anderson, Sheila Armstrong, 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, Willa Nelson, Alda Propst, Sheldon Propst, Eldon Rexrode, Bernie and Margaret Sasscer, Robbie Sites and Edwin Wimer.

Family Resource Centers Tailor Programs to Meet Local Needs

By Stephen Smoot

Every county in West Virginia has different needs, different issues, even different subcultures that present an insurmountable barrier to planners who seek neat, tidy, "one size fits all" solutions.

Local family support centers craft their slate of programs based upon all of those factors. Operating without a central or regional authority to direct operations, the different centers have prioritized the areas of need in their communities and worked to address them.

In fact, lack of central direction has served as one of the key reasons for their success statewide.

Edna Mullenax has directed the Pendleton County Family Support Center in Franklin since its opening three years ago. In 2025, it served 26 households, including 75 children and 46 adults. Services provided there focus on mobility coaching, job preparation, financial management, and child development skills building.

Partnering with the Pendleton County Commission, the FSC received support to house a SPOKES center using technology to access opportunities and build skills. This project of the Eastern Panhandle Instructional Cooperative provides opportunities to search for jobs, get a GED, and skills education "so that they don't have to go to Petersburg or Moorefield" for those. This is housed at the FSC/ Though it is not an official FSC program, those working with the FSC can use it/

The FSC also has partnered with the area Ministerial Association, Living Faith Church, the Salvation Army, and a number of other organizations to help enhance their capabilities to provide direct support. That includes, but is not limited to, donations for coats and clothing for the Warm the Children drive, toys for Saint Nick's Toy Box to make sure children have presents at Christmas, and more.

Tina Persinger, director of the Calhoun Family Support Center, explains that "our main focus is preventing child abuse and neglect. "We have per capita a high substance abuse rate and high child abuse and neglect for our population." In a recent year of data collection, Calhoun County suffered 92 such cases with Gilmer having only 10 in the same period.

She went on to add that they work hard to prevent Child Protective Services cases while also trying to help those who have had cases opened on them. While many children have seen some form of abuse, other cases focus on "neglect beyond poverty," with homes cluttered to unsafe levels and extremely unhygienic conditions.

Calhoun's FSC currently works with 175 families, "and they all have a different story," she notes. Persinger also described situations where the FSC helped to move families past the conditions that led to CPS involvement. In most cases of removal, most families working with the FSC were reunited.

Assistance to those in drug recovery has served as a focus for Calhoun's FSC with recovery a fundamental step toward resiliency. Persinger also shared that many children in Calhoun County are partially or fully raised by grandparents. In some cases, this creates dysfunction if the grandparents themselves did not have positive parenting skills. As Persinger stated, "Generational trauma is generational abuse" and their team works to break those cycles.

In other cases, grandparents come into raising grandchildren with good intentions, but lack knowledge and skills to engage a 21st century child, especially a teenager.

"Sometimes it is as simple as getting your child to sleep," she stated, sharing that grandparents may not know recent research-based techniques of getting small children to sleep quickly and restfully. One grandparent was a registered nurse and "very educated" but needed to learn how to monitor social media and even hold a conversation based on mutual exchange rather than one-way direction.

Food is fundamental. Many of today's parents did not grow up learning how to cook in traditional ways that maximize nutrition while minimizing cost. Different FSCs approach this in different ways.

In Hardy County, the FSC based in Moorefield runs not only cooking, but also canning classes to help to preserve fresh foods, even meats. Calhoun's FSC has "Foodie 101" classes. Adam Hamrick teaches families how to make restaurant or fair and festival quality foods that both parents and kids love, but for much less money than at a restaurant or booth and healthier than ultra-processed options from the store. Brooke Alt, Pendleton County's West Virginia University extension agent, has also taught basic cooking skills at the FSC there.

Like all FSCs socialization for both children and families is a key priority. Parents or guardians and children get to enjoy respite from lives filled with stress over money and other issues. Households that may be normally closed off from social contact get to make connections with models of well-functioning families. Children construct healthy peer-to-peer relationships.

Both Pendleton and Calhoun's FSCs have partnered with local organizations to have days for their families at the local swimming pool. They also put on parties for the major holidays. Ryan Runion, director in Hardy County, organized a partnership with local ministers and others to expand a Wardensville-based teen social night program into their Moorefield facility. Ties between FSCs and local churches and ministerial associations have led to a tremendous impact in most areas.

Staff have ample opportunities at these social events to observe, then offer helpful hints and advice as they see how families interact with each other and internally.

Adults can get training in basics of both parenting and adult life that may not have been passed on to them when they grew up. Financial planning, budgeting, conflict resolution, and basic skills are commonly taught at these centers.

FSCs also have pantries that can provide direct help to immediate needs, such as with diapers, cleaning supplies, hygiene products, and other items excluding perishable foods.

For many families, being open and available is the best possible service. FSCs remain open during business hours on business days to receive families or family members at any time. Some come for respite, some come so their children can play with other kids, others come to vent about their frustrations or ask advice. Having a place for good advice and "steam release" can prevent the kinds of frustrations that can lead to serious problems if unaddressed.

Sweetwater Farms Vision

Continued From Page 1

petitions.

Brooks admitted that the "food pig" was occasionally not a joy to work with, so they ended up purchasing a commercial freeze dryer for foods. She described how it "takes prepared foods, pulls the moisture out, and makes it shelf-stable for 25 years. The process takes frozen foods and uses technology that instantly vaporizes the water content, removing the substance that attracts bacteria to food in the first place.

Jason Brooks showed the final products. In one bag, five pounds of cooked, shredded chicken was reduced to about eight ounces. Other bags had freeze-dried ramps and even baked ziti. He stated that even with meats, when properly rehydrated, they retain the same texture and taste as they had prior to the process.

Practically, this allows Experience Learning to use the leftover foods on their multi-day educational sessions in the forest. "We use these for our wilderness-based programs," she explained. Backpackers can take foods made from fresh ingredients rather than hyper processed foods often sold for that purpose.

Brooks shared that she would much rather see young people eating those foods than cheap ramen noodles, chips, or other similar victuals. Additionally, it reduces the weight they must carry into the woods, creating a "closed loop food waste system" that not only reduces food waste to practically nothing, but also saves thousands of dollars a year in food costs.

The Brookses envision that in the future, they could figure ways for the public to access the freeze dryer, whether through renting their commercial kitchen at Sweetwater Farms or in some other fashion. "In August, we will be hooking up with the Pendleton County Farmers' Market to see how we can be in service to local producers," she said.

Brooks added that revenues "from biking and the trail are not quite enough" to sustain the facility so they seek to "diversify the revenue stream and business model," particularly in less labor-intensive ways. She explained that "we have a staff of 20 on Spruce Knob (at the Experience Learning center there) but "only two of us at Sweetwater Farms."

"There's nothing like running this program in Pendleton County," she stated. Connection to the Mon Forest Towns organization has made Sweetwater Farms a "gateway" facility to the Monongahela National Forest, but also within close proximity to the George Washington National Forest.

Brooks added that the reactions of children from urban areas such as Washington, D.C., and Baltimore to the area and the beauty of wide-open spaces cradled by the Allegheny ridges reflects a true sense of wonder. That said, many of the programs have an emphasis on bringing in local children to develop their sense of home and place.

Brooks added, "I'm so thrilled to be working for an organization that celebrates Pendleton County."

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With Heartfelt Gratitude

I would like to thank everyone for the calls, cards, visits, and gifts for my 101st birthday.

Your thoughtfulness made my day special.

God's blessings to you,

Stanley Kile

Pitsenbarger Concludes More Than 40 Years in Education as She Completes Her Board Term

By Stephen Smoot

The week before last, Pendleton County Schools honored retirees from schools and the central office.

Last week, the Pendleton County Board of Education and superintendent said farewell to Wilma Pitsenbarger who was elected to serve out a vacant term on the board.

J. D. Wilkins, board president, announced that "we have a board member who served in their last meeting tonight" and then provided Pitsenbarger with a certificate of appreciation. "Miss Pits," the nickname under which Pitsenbarger ran to earn the seat, said, "I was figuring up the other day that I have 43 years of teaching under my belt from the time I started in this county and in Highland County [Virginia] combined, and I'm going to try and retire this next year, which gives me 44 years."

She finished with "so I've given 44 years of my life to the kids in this county."

The meeting opened with the customary invocation by Wilkins, who prayed "Almighty God, as we gather, we thank you for the opportunity to be here representing the people of Pendleton County and we ask that you would bless our decisions that they may serve the students of the county."

Public comment appeared first on the agenda. Wilkins explained the laws governing public comment in government meetings, noting that the inability of elected officials to respond could be "an awkward piece."

"So, all we do is listen as you speak," he said.

Attendees who signed up to speak discussed their perception of how the school handled referrals to Child Protective Services and other accusations. Speakers called the resulting investigations "harassment" and stated that CPS workers claimed that reports came primarily from the school system. They also presented a petition to remove the superintendent with a list of names as signatories.

The board later in the meeting heard the concluding report on attendance for the school year 2025-2026.

"We finished the year in a pretty good place," reported Carrie Nesselrodt, director of student services. She reported that "all of our schools, except for Brandywine, are higher than they were last year." Brandywine Elementary School, however, did have exceptionally high numbers in the previous year as well.

She explained that "they had a lot of different things that went through their school this year."

For average daily attendance in the full school year, Brandywine scored 93.89 percent, Franklin Elementary School 94.69, North Fork Elementary School 94.25, and Pendleton Middle/High School at 92.62, with the county as a whole at 93.69.

Nesselrodt noted the chronic absence rate, when a student misses 10 percent or more of days in the year, of each school and the county. She stated that "ideally we want to be below 10 percent." The West Virginia Department of Education placed a priority on reducing that statistic this year. BES had a chronic absence rate of 15.3 percent, which Nesselrodt speculated "was just something wonky this year."

FES "is in a really great place" at 9.4, NFES at 10.6 percent "which is just really, really great" and PCM/HS was at 17.6 percent. High schools typically have more challenges in meeting attendance expectations for a variety of reasons, but Nesselrodt noted that "in 2023 they were at 27 percent" which indicates a 10 percent improvement since.

Nesselrodt stated that the results were "phenomenal," especially when compared to similar counties struggling with one fourth or more of students chronically absent. Pendleton County Schools has improved attendance significantly in recent years

Board members also heard the year-end enrollment figures. In the count used for State purposes in October, the system had 843, but by the end of the year had lost 15. BES lost most of those through families moving out of state, which likely also affected attendance scores.

BES had 115 by the end of the year, FES 246, NFES 98, and PCM/HS 369. Wilkins pointed out that the BES end of year student population remained somewhat higher than a few years prior. Nesselrodt added that "a lot of our out-of-state families that come in end up at Brandywine . . . we've seen a pretty large increase and they are from all over."

Board members then discussed the developments related to Liberty Community Programs and how they could benefit that area.

Additionally, leases were renewed for the Christian Assistance Network and Tiny Tots Day Care, both renting PCS owned facilities.

Finally, it was decided to table Derek Lambert's, outgoing PCM/HS principal, proposal for a cost-free weight room facility until a new principal was in place there.

Correction



The photo for the softball article last week portrayed Kinsley Price, not Jess Parker. Whether behind the plate or crouched by it in a hitting stance, all state catcher Parker is a weapon.

Potomac Highlands Stars Compete in Charleston



Chris Hahn, East Hardy basketball coach, commented on coaching Chase Owens of Pendleton County High School and Kaleb Kuhn of Petersburg High School in the North-South basketball game last Friday. "I had a great time coaching Kaleb and Chase in the North-South game. After spending the last four years coaching against them, it was a real pleasure to work with them and see firsthand just how athletic and talented they are. I was impressed more by how they treated the other players and teammates. They are fine young men." Donna Kuhn provided the photo and quote. These men represented their communities so well.

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Rural County Education Systems Will Face Struggles if Federal E-Rate Cancelled

By Stephen Smoot

Earlier this month, the trades publication Broadband Breakfast reported on a public draft of a Federal Communications Commission inquiry. That document asked for comments "into its $2.5 billion-per-year broadband subsidy for schools and libraries, asking commenters whether or not the program should see its funding reduced or sunset."

This program, now in its third decade, was created to, as Broadband Breakfast states, "to address a lack of internet access in education centers." It stated that the draft notes "that in the decades since, most schools report having broadband and infrastructure expanded widely."

School systems in West Virginia, however, report that the need for the funding persists, especially as funding sources from the federal and state governments have dwindled.

The FCC document addresses two main concerns, first that "screen time" has been proven damaging to children and also that the original goal of the program was fulfilled. As the FCC document shares, "Congress enacted the E-rate program to ensure that schools and libraries across the country 'have access to advanced telecommunications services.'" It goes on to state that "virtually all schools report having broadband connectivity."

The document notes increasing parental and expert concern over children's "screen time" and cites a study that shows that 84 percent of that occurs at school. It adds that parents have expressed concerns that their children may be able to access harmful or inappropriate materials while at school. In recent years, this has been addressed by Congress.

In 2023, Senators Shelley Moore Capito, Ted Cruz, and Ted Budd promoted the "Eyes on the Board Act." It mandates that schools using E-Rate "block social media access on subsidized networks and services and to adopt policies that limit screen time in school." The West Virginia State Legislature followed through and passed an act requiring school districts to adopt personal device limitation policies in the classroom.

Subsequent federal legislation also tightened rules on using E-Rate funded technology and services to access social media.

The draft document poses a number of questions for which the FCC wishes to receive comments. Many of these relate to the effectiveness of federal, state, and local laws and regulations on use of technology and what children are able to access at school

One significant question worries school systems, however. "Should the E-Rate program be limited or sunset to reflect today's extensive connectivity rates?" It relates closely to "at what point should policymakers conclude that the core objective has been achieved?"

As J. P. Mowery, Pendleton County Schools chief financial officer and treasurer, explains, the issue of connectivity has shifted from making the connections to maintaining them. He stated that "we receive over $50,000 annually, primarily for data circuits and access to the internet."

He noted what the program calls "Category 2" expenses, which include the "option to apply for internal connections such as cabling, switches, routers, servers, et cetera," E-Rate reimburses for 90 percent of those costs.

Funding shifts dramatically from year to year. In 2025, PCS received almost $97,000, but $51,537 for 2026. PCS budgets conservatively, assuming that they would receive a lower amount.

Calhoun County Schools also relies on E-Rate to support its technology program. Bonnie Sands, chief operations officer of curriculum and instructional technology, shared that the program is a substantial help in maintaining vital high speed connections. "Calhoun County Schools relies on E-Rate to help fund our data connection to the West Virginia Department of Education network in Charleston," she explained. Sands also added that student enrollment and participation in the Community Eligibility Provision determines the discount rate. The Community Eligibility Provision "allows high-poverty schools to provide free meals based on direct certification through programs such as SNAP and TANF."

For internet and transport, Calhoun gets a 90 percent discount which covers almost all of the $74,100 cost of connection. For category two, an 85 percent discount does "support refreshing our Wi-Fi infrastructure and replacing routers at each location." The five-year category two budget for Calhoun is $225,000.

The FCC draft document expresses concern about mission creep when it notes that schools have mostly been connected to broadband since the program started. That said, the funds now are used to maintain, rather than establish, those connections.

Another, longer term telecommunications support program has evolved alongside the technology it was meant to support. A 1930s era program used to connect land line telephone service in rural areas provided a reimbursement to rural telecommunications cooperatives that they could then reinvest into expanding connections.

Hardy Telecommunications and Seneca Rocks Spruce Knob Telephone are two West Virginia based telecommunications cooperatives that date to that era. They now take the fee paid for land line connection and invest it into expanding internet service. While the original need has long passed, the evolved program continues to serve the purpose of rural communications.

Mowery and Sands argue that the E-Rate program remains relevant. Sands stated, "As a small rural county, we deeply appreciate the support these funds provide." She added that "E-Rate allows us to maintain essential infrastructure while preserving local dollars for direct investment in students, teachers, and classrooms."

This reflects the balancing, and at times juggling act, that school systems enact to stay within parameters set by the state and also the limitations of the funding formula.

Mowery noted that "it would be another added concern to the overall budget picture if we were to lose all or part of that funding." Pendleton County receives Secure Rural Schools funding based on the presence of the Monongahela National Forest to compensate for economic activities there. That funding is perpetually debated as well.

He added, "I don't believe we would cut access or reduce internet speed, but we would have to reduce expenses in other areas."

"It has been a crucial funding source for all these many years, particularly when breaking even was our yearly reality," he concluded.

MENU
Pendleton Senior & Family Services

Friday, June 26
Meatloaf
Scalloped Potatoes
Beets, Applesauce
Chocolate Pudding
Monday, June 29
Steak & Cheese Sub
w/Peppers, Onions,
Lettuce & Tomato
French Fries, Apple
Tuesday, June 30
Chicken Parmesan
w/Noodles
Peas & Carrots
Tossed Salad
Garlic Bread, Melon
Birthday Cake
Wednesday, July 1
Country Fried Steak
Mashed Potatoes, Beets
Baked Apples
Thursday, July 2
Chili Bun, Tator Tots
Bean Salad
Watermelon
Patriotic Cupcakes
Punch



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.
304-358-2421

FBI Investigates Scammers

Continued From Page 1

ber was no longer active." This was reported and is an active investigation. He explained that once the Grant County Sheriff's Department exhausted its options for investigation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation took over the case.

Shanholtz shared that the group who stole the car likely did so as part "of an organized car theft ring." One detail that disturbs Shanholtz is that "the other two men that sat in the vehicle for the incident had a purpose for being there." While he says, "We will never know the purpose," he speculated that "it's conceivable they came to take the car by whatever means necessary."

As Shanholtz explained, Hinkle had conducted business like this with automobiles that he restored for years, with small town friendliness and "the same trusting manner."

"We understand that we will likely not see this car again," he lamented.

Though new to this area, these scams have been perpetuated for years. In 2014, the FBI described "an international auto theft operation in which defendants purchased U. S. vehicles using stolen identities and then shipped the cars to Ghana, Africa, for resale before victims became aware of the fraud.

In this case, but not necessarily the same as what happened to Hinkle, a conspirator in Ghana directed operatives in the United States using false credit cards and driver's licenses purchased from a dark web site based in Singapore. The conspirators identified by the FBI targeted car dealerships, not individual sellers.

NBC Washington reported in 2022 that many fraudulent driver's licenses are created with information garnered from massive data breaches.

Shanholtz's goal lies in making "the criminal in the driver's license photo famous" and shares that "the world could use more people like Buzz Hinkle as he harbors no hate and simply cannot fathom how someone could do such a horrible thing."

June Is Elder Abuse Awareness Month

Elder abuse is an intentional act or failure to act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult (age 60 or older).

Elder Abuse Can Be Prevented By:

•Taking care of your health •Planning for your own future
•Seeking professional help for drug, alcohol and depression concerns
•Learning about domestic violence services •Having your own phone
•Posting and opening your own mail •Knowing your rights
•Not giving personal information over the phone
•Using direct deposit for all checks
•Staying active in the community and connected with friends and family

Elder abuse can be reported by calling Adult Protective Services at 800-352-6513.

*No patient denied services because of inability to pay!

PENDLETON
Community Care, Inc.

Franklin (304)358-2355 ◆ Riverton (304)567-2101
Harman (304)227-4134
www.pccnfc.org

Franklin Volunteer Fire Department
LAWN PARTY
Friday & Saturday
July 3 & 4
5 p.m. - ?
Carnival Grounds - Franklin

Music Both Nights

~Friday~
PARADE 6 p.m.
(lineup 5 p.m. at T&K Markets; ends at carnival grounds)

Fireworks ~Saturday~
At Dark

Food • Homemade Pies and Cakes
Ice Cream • Cake Raffles
Kid Games • Bingo • Dime Pitch

Come Out For a Fun-Filled Weekend and Support Your Local Firemen!

South Fork Firemen's
LAWN PARTY
Friday and Saturday
June 26 & 27
5 p.m. - ?
South Fork Fire Department (Brandywine)

~~Friday Night~~
DJ Tony Calhoun
(sponsored by Pendleton Community Bank)

~~Saturday Night~~
DJ Tony Calhoun
(sponsored by Burke & Herbert Bank)
Smokey Bear
Parade • 6 p.m.
(parade registration 5 p.m. at Brandywine Firehouse
line up at Cinder Bin on Route 33 following registration)

Fireworks at Dark

Food, Games, Bingo & Raffles Both Nights

Support Your Local Firemen!

Spring Gobbler Harvest Increased in 2026

According to preliminary data released by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, hunters harvested 12,006 bearded turkeys during the spring gobbler season, a 12.3 percent increase over the 2025 season.

The 2026 spring harvest also exceeded the five-year average of 10,812 by 7.3 percent and the 10-year average of 11,243 by 6.8 percent.

"This year's spring gobbler season was a resounding success, highlighting the incredible hunting opportunities available in West Virginia," said Brett McMillion, WVDNR director.

Harvests in all six districts increased over last year. Hunters in District 1 (Barbour, Brooke, Hancock, Harrison, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston, Taylor, Tucker and Whetzel counties) harvested the most birds, 2,838. District 6 (Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roanke, Tyler, Wirt and Wood counties) harvested 2,072, with District 4 (Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Raleight, Summers and Wyoming) 1,983, District 5 (Boone, Cabell, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Putnam and Wayne counties) 1,981, District 3 (Braxton, Clay, Lewis, Nicolas, Pocahontas, Randolph, Upshur and Webster counties) 1,783 and District 2 (Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan and Pendleton counties) 1,394.

The top five counties with the highest turkey harvest were Mason (523), Preston (436), Jackson (404), Harrison (372) and Marshall (335) counties.

This year, Pendleton County hunters harvested 190 gobblers, compared to 150 in 2025, 157 in 2024, 185 in 2023 and 126 in 2022.

Harvest in surrounding counties was 175 in Grant, 194 in Hardy, 178 in Pocahontas and 318 in Randolph.

During the two-day youth season, youth hunters harvested 875 turkeys (607 on Saturday and 268 on Sunday), which is a 28.3 percent increase over the 2025 season. The youth harvest made up approximately 7.3 percent of the total harvest. Youth harvests are included with county totals in the table linked below.

"We are excited to see such a significant jump in youth participation," McMillion said. "Passing down these outdoor traditions to the next generation is vital to the future of conservation in our state, and this season shows that the future of hunting in West Virginia is bright."

The WVDNR is also reminding hunters that there is still time to report their spring gobbler hunting activity for inclusion in the 2026 Annual Spring Gobbler Survey. For more information about the survey, visitWVdnr.gov/surveys.

To learn more about hunting in West Virginia or to buy a hunting license, visit WVdnr.gov.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS Continued from Page 9

FRANKLIN, MUNICIPALITY OF
WV3303602
Consumer Confidence Report - 2026
Covering Calendar Year - 2025

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. If you would like to observe the decision-making process that affects drinking water quality or if you have questions, comments or suggestions, please attend any regularly scheduled water board meeting held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Town Office or call the Town Office at 304-358-7525.

Your water comes from: Surface water

Source Name	Source Water Type
TOWN SPRING	Surface Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system 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).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included 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 from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in sources water before we treat it include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, 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 or farming.
Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.
Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.
Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system has an estimated population of 1402 and is required to test a minimum of 2 sample(s) per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public.

Water Quality Data

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants which were detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from the testing done January 1- December 31, 2025. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Terms & Abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the "Maximum Allowed" is 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 technology.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): recommended level for a contaminant that is not regulated and has no MCL.

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

Treatment Technique (TT): a required process intended to reduce levels of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Non-Detects (ND): lab analysis indicates that the contaminat is not present.

Parts per Million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

Parts per Billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per Year (mrem/yr): measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Monitoring Period Average (MPA): An average of sample results obtained during a defined time frame, common examples of monitoring periods are monthly, quarterly and yearly.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is not regulated for groundwater systems.

Running Annual Average (RAA): an average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCLs.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): Average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

Testing Results for: FRANKLIN, MUNICIPALITY OF

Regulated Contaminants	Facility Name	Collection Value	Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
BARIUM	TREATMENT PLANT	12/10/2025	0.0131	0.012 - 0.0131	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
NITRATE	TREATMENT PLANT	8/13/2025	0.45	0.45	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
NITRATE-NITRATE	TREATMENT PLANT	9/19/2023	0.42	0.42	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Collection Date	Highest LRAA Value	Range (low/high	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	SMITH CREEK	2025	13	4 - 9	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	SMITH CREEK	2025	16	6 - 11	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90th Percentile	Range (low/high)	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2021 - 2023	0.042	0.0094 - 0.1448	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2021 - 2023	1.2	0.2 - 14.7	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

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. FRANKLIN, MUNICIPALITY OF 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 FRANKLIN, MUNICIPALITY OF and William Waggy at 304-358-7525. 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.

FRANKLIN, MUNICIPALITY OF completed lead tap sampling in 2021 - 2023 the results are available for review and can be accessed at the Town Office (304-358-7525 – 305 North High Street).

FRANKLIN, MUNICIPALITY OF 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 Town Office (305 North High St.) 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 that is connected 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 William Waggy at 304-358-7525.

Source Water Assessment and Protection
When required by West Virginia State law, FRANKLIN, MUNICIPALITY OF 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), SWPPs provide a detailed strategy for protecting intake areas 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 William Waggy at 304-358-7525. A Source Water Assessment may previously have been completed to identify potential sources of contamination and the susceptibility of our water source. You can view 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.

Chlorine/Chloramines Maximum Disinfection Level	MPA	MPA Units	RAA	RAA Units
5/1/2025 - 5/31/2025	2.00	MG/L	1.80	MG/L

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: William Waggy at 304-358-7525.

Total Organic Carbon Lowest Month for Removal	Facility Name	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	TT	Typical Source
CARBON, TOTAL	TOWN SPRING	2/19/2025	1.3	0 - 1.3	MG/L	0	Naturally present in the environment

Analyte	Facility Name	Highest Value	Unit of Measure	Month Occurred
TURBIDITY	TREATMENT PLANT	0.19	NTU	March

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
RADIUM-228	11/13/2024	0.918	0.918	pCi/L	0	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Turbidity
Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

Percentage of samples in compliance with Std	Months Occurred	Violation	Highest Single Measurement	Month Occured	Sources	Level Indicator
100.00	12	NO	0.19	March	TREATMENT PLANT	Yes

Total Organic Carbon
The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.

TOC	Collection	Highest	Range	Unit	TT	Typical Source
CARBON, TOTAL	2/19/2025	1.3	0 - 1.3	MG/L	0	Naturally present in the environment

Secondary Contaminants-Non Health Based Contaminants-No Federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Established.	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	SMCL
SODIUM	6/11/2025	3.64	3.39 - 3.64	MG/L	20

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

Fed Rep ID	Compliance Period	Violation Type	Category	Rule	Explanation	Actions Taken by Water System
765201	4/1/2025 - 6/30/2025	MONITORING ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	MON	TTHM	Failed to monitor/ report as required for chlorine or disinfection by-products	
765200	4/1/2025 - 6/30/2025	MONITORING ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	MON	TOTAL HALOACE TIC ACIDS (HAA5)	Failed to monitor/ report as required for chlorine or disinfection by-products	
765202	7/1/2025 - 7/10/2025	CCR REPORT	RPT	CONSUMER CONFIDENCE RULE	Failed to deliver Consumer Confidence Report to the state or consumers on time	

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: William Waggy at 304-358-7525

Your CCR is available at the Town Office 304-358-7525 – 305 North High Street). To receive a paper copy in the mail, please contact us at the phone number above. 1c

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

This Week in WV History...

June 26, 1892: Pearl Buck was born in Hillsboro in the home of her maternal grandparents. She received the Pulitzer Prize for The Good Earth and was the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

June 29, 2012: A violent storm called a derecho raced across West Virginia, leaving downed trees and damaged homes in its wake. About 688,000 homes and businesses lost power for a week during a widespread heat wave.

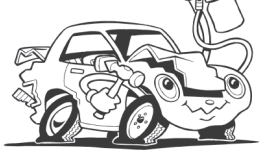
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More Uses for White Vinegar...

•Windows: Clean windows with a cloth dipped in a solution of 1 part white vinegar and 10 parts warm water.

•Toilet Bowls: Clean and deodorize your toilet bowl by pouring undiluted white vinegar into it. Let stand for 5 minutes, then flush. Spray stubborn stains with white vinegar, then scrub vigorously.

•Tile Grout: White vinegar is actually safer than chlorine bleach for cleaning grout and caulk. Spray, leave for 1 hour, and then scrub.

•Laundry: Add 1/2 cup of diluted white vinegar to your wash to help remove stains and brighten dingy whites.

— The Old Farmer's Almanac

REUNIONS

DESCENDANTS OF Mack and Eva Roberson family reunion, June 28, Ruddle Park. Picnic lunch at 1:30 p.m. All relatives and friends invited.
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

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION OF WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE, 601 57TH STREET SE, CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25304-2345 TELEPHONE: (304) 926-0440.

APPLICATION FOR A CLASS 5 UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PERMIT

Public Notice No.:
JKL-24-26

Public Notice Date:
June 25, 2026

Paper:
Pendleton Times

The following has applied for a Class 5 Underground Injection Control Permit for this facility or activity:

Application No.:
0687-03-003

Applicant:
Cave Country Store and Campground, LLC
8695 Upper South Branch Rd
Franklin, WV 26807

Facility:
Cave Country Store,
8695 Upper South Branch Rd,
Franklin, WV 26807

Latitude: 38:33:36

Longitude: 79:25:46

Business conducted:
Cave Country Store and Campground

Activity:
Dispose of solely sanitary waste into a septic tank and leachfield

The State of West Virginia will act on the above application in accordance with the West Virginia Legislative Rules, Title 47, Series 13, Section 14.24 issued pursuant to Chapter 22, Article 11 and Article 12.

Any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit and may request a public hearing in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of this public notice. Comments or requests should be addressed to:

Director, Division of Water and Waste Management, DEP
601 57th Street SE
Charleston, WV 25304-2345
ATTN: Judy Lupson, Permitting

The public comment period begins June 25, 2026 and ends July 25, 2026.

Comments received within this period will be considered prior to issuance of the permit. Correspondence should include the name, address, and telephone number of the writer and a concise statement of the nature of the issues raised. A public hearing may be held if the Director determines there is significant public interest in one or more issues relevant to the draft permit.

The application, draft permit or factsheet may be inspected by appointment at the Division of Water and Waste Management, 601 57th St SE, Charleston, WV 25304 between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on business days. For further information contact the person identified above at (304) 926-0495, or judy.k.lupson@wv.gov.
1c

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR ENGINEERING PROPOSAL

The Pendleton County Public Service District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, is in the process of obtaining engineering services to provide initial report, design, construction, and inspection services for miscellaneous water improvement projects throughout Pendleton County. Professional services will include (1) preparation of bidding and contracting documents, (2) participation in the evaluation of bids received, and (3) monitoring and inspection of construction activities to ensure compliance with plans and specifications. Procurement of said services shall be in accordance with Chapter 5G of the Code of West Virginia. Contracts are to be awarded on a fixed fee basis. All consultants interested in being considered for this project must submit a proposal detailing qualifications, technical expertise, management/staffing capabilities and related prior experience.

The aim of the competitive process is to objectively select the firm who will provide the highest quality of service at a realistic fee. Accordingly technical qualifications and experience will be weighed heavily. Selected respondents will be interviewed, and the firm judged most qualified will be asked to prepare a final proposal which would include fees for said services.

Please submit all requested information and proposals no later than 4:00 p.m., on Thursday, July 9, 2026, to Kim Ruddle, Region 8 Planning and Development Council, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, West Virginia 26847. Interested firms should contact Region 8 PDC at 304-257-2448 for a copy of the proposal format.

Attention is directed to the fact that the PSD will undertake the project with State and Federal funds. The selected firm will be required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, Section 109 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1974, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Conflict of Interest Statement and Access to records provisions and all other requirements as related to federally funded projects.

The PSD will afford full opportunity for minority/disadvantaged business enterprises to submit a show of interest in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any interested firm or individual on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, age, handicap, or national origin in the contract award.

Darrell Bodkin, President
6-25-2c

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION OF WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE, 601 57TH STREET SE, CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25304-2345 TELEPHONE: (304) 926-0440.

926-0440 APPLICATION FOR A CLASS 5 UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PERMIT

Public Notice No.:
JKL-25-26

Public Notice Date:
June 25, 2026

Paper:
Pendleton Times

The following has applied for a Class 5 Underground Injection Control Permit for this facility or activity:

Application No.:
1461-16-071

Applicant:
Ronnie & Betty Kimble
PO Box 235
Brandywine, WV 26802

Facility:
Fox's Pizza Den
(Restaurant & Motel)
US Rte 33,
Brandywine, WV 26802

Latitude: 38:37:33

Longitude: 79:14:45

Business conducted:
Pizza House/Motel

Activity:
Dispose of solely sanitary waste into a septic tank and leachfield

The State of West Virginia will act on the above application in accordance with the West Virginia Legislative Rules, Title 47, Series 13, Section 14.24 issued pursuant to Chapter 22, Article 11 and Article 12.

Any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit and may request a public hearing in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of this public notice. Comments or requests should be addressed to:

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601 57th Street SE
Charleston, WV 25304-2345
ATTN: Judy Lupson, Permitting

The public comment period begins June 25, 2026 and ends July 25, 2026.

Comments received within this period will be considered prior to issuance of the permit. Correspondence should include the name, address, and telephone number of the writer and a concise statement of the nature of the issues raised. A public hearing may be held if the Director determines there is significant public interest in one or more issues relevant to the draft permit. Interested persons may contact the public information office to obtain further information

The application, draft permit or factsheet may be inspected by appointment at the Division of Water and Waste Management, 601 57th St SE, Charleston, WV 25304 between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on business days. Copies of doucments may be obtained upon request. For further information Judy Lupson at (304) 926-0495, or judy.k.lupson@wv.gov.
1c

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

Legal Advertisements Continued on Page 8

Day at Park Word Search

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P	G	P	F	P	G	X	L	H	K	Y	M	G	P	F	G	O	S	W	M
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FHS Classmates of '76 Reminisce at Reunion



Frankling High School classmates of 1976 attending the reunion were, from left, sitting, Carolyn Bible Sponaugle, Doris Craig Dove, Julie Mullenax Vanmeter, Evelyn Harper Calhoun, Betty Hartman Kimble , Linda Roberson Mallow, Linda Thomas Teter and Eugenia Newcomb Dove; middle row, Lorenza Kimble, Kathy Sponaugle Fleisher, Jean Eye Andrews, Connie Bowers, Terry Simmons, Brenda Pitsenbarger, Donna Bowers Arrington, Donna Watts Kirkpatrick, Cathy Slusher, Lucille Lozaw Combs, Freddie Warner Sincerney, Cathy Dove and Rebecca Waggy Miller; and back row, David Hess, David Hevener, Mike Crites, Michael Kesner, Johnny Vandevander, Eddie Harper, Benny Mitchell, Lynn Miller Crites, Jeff Miller, Robert Propst, Ray Lambert, Tony Judy and Gary Hedrick.

The Franklin High School class of 1976 recently gathered to celebrate its 50th class reunion with an evening filled with laughter, memories and renewed friendships.

The reunion was held on June 6 at the Pendleton Senior and Family Services building in Franklin. Thirty-four classmates attended the reunion, along with a guest of their choice. A display of items from their high school days was on hand to bring back memories. A memorable display was also created in honor of 12 deceased classmates, Jeff Sinnett, Rick Champ, Tom Green, Virginia Whetzel, Sandra Newcomb Hinkle, Cathy Harper Neil, Charles Rexrode, Ricky Hevener, Winona Judy Hewitt, Violet Ruddle Thompson, Tom Propst and Tom Burgoyne. A moment of silence was held in their honor.

A delicious meal was prepared by Peggy Davis and staff.

Classmates enjoyed socializing, singing the FHS fight song and watching a video of pictures from past high school days. Several door prizes were given and we closed with singing "Country Roads"

The decision was made to meet again in five years. Classmates agreed that while 50 years have passed, the friendships and memories they share remain strong. The gathering closed with the singing "Country Roads."

Pendleton County CVB Announces 'Walk In Wednesday' Program

By Stephen Smoot

"We will be here. There will be snacks."

Annie Humes, executive director of the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau, hopes that people will take her up on an invitation to come, engage, and share about county tourism, especially in terms of economic impact. The office is located at 43 Maple Ave. (Pendleton Crossing) in Franklin.

She explained that her goal primarily lies in bringing in those operating businesses that could be serving tourists and helping them to engage as much as possible. Additionally, Humes said that she wants to gather ideas from the community on promoting the area and its myriad attractions to different types of visitors.

Having open hours for "Walk In Wednesday" allows for people to come and engage as they are able, no need to make an appointment. The idea mirrors "office hours" held by professors for students in college programs.

The flier created for the program stated "if you work with the public, we want to work with you." It states that one can pick up brochures from the CVB or drop off promotional material for ones' own business. Other ways to collaborate include learning ways that the CVB can help promote a business, and the sharing of upcoming events.

To create a "one stop shop" for Pendleton County events, the CVB will partner with the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce. Both organizations will use a single events calendar to populate area events, important dates, and other items of interest. The calendar will be promoted as the authoritative site for this information.

The CVB office will also serve as a hub for a different purpose. Video cameras and photography equipment will be available on a lending basis from the office. The goal of this program lies in encouraging both locals and visitors alike to use the equipment and create beautiful images of the area to share on social media.

Aspiring professionals and social media influencers would also benefit from this opportunity to use top rated equipment to create their art.

Humes also discussed that the CVB is participating in the Mon Forest Towns project taking place at Peters Mountain. Planning has started on developing the trail there, as well as renovating the former schoolhouse on the site. Interestingly, that site was made possible by an agreement between Pendleton County Schools and the United States Forest Service almost a century ago.

She stated that the USFS approved the trail design and it had passed the standard environmental review process, but still needs more work and time. Part of the next phase will include training local volunteers to maintain the trail after it gets put in place.

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Agents: Kathy Sponaugle - 304-668-3283
Gene Boggs - 304-668-2982 Angie Nelson - 304-358-8150

BRANDYWINE - 3-4 BR, 2 BA brick ranch, built-in-garage, 20'x40' pavilion, creek, on 2.01 ac.$299,900.00.

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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Jeffrey S. Bowers, Broker C 304.668.0002
Tommy A. Roberson, Sales Agent 304.668.1050
Penny K. Lambert, Sales Agent C 304.668.2975
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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, Septic. Cistern water. Property joins 9.48 acres Kile Knob Common area. Hiking trails. Gated. **$189,000.00.** SOLD

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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TRUCKS	SALE
2025 CHEVROLET 3500 CREW CAB DUALLY 4X4 UTILITY BODY TRUCK, DURAMAX DIESEL, auto., ldd., only 6K miles	$74,900
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
2020 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW SHORTBED 4X4, XLT sport pkg. 2.7 V-6, auto., ldd., silver, 118K miles	$24,900
2020 FORD F-150 SUPERCAB 6-1/2 FT BED 4X4, 5.0 liter V-8. auto., ldd., black, 90K miles	$24,900
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

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