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The Pendleton Times

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Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia 26807

Thursday
June 4, 2026

Congratulations PCHS Baseball Team On Your Berth At State

Marshall University's Jack Cook Field promises to host excitement in the state baseball playoffs.

Young, Banged Up, But Ready To Play, Wildcats Gear Up

'First Time To States in a Decade'

By Stephen Smoot

"It's been a pretty good year as young as they are," said Gary Smith, Pendleton County assistant coach. "Sometimes, you've got to realize we're playing basically a JV team."

That said, "It's nice to have freshmen talented enough that they can step in and play," said Smith. Sam Yokum, head coach, added later, "They've had to grow up a lot, the freshmen and sophomores."

Travis Owens has emerged as one of the best sophomore players in the state. The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission state track meet qualifier hits .403 with 29 hits and 25 runs batted in. On the pitching mound, he has a two wins and no loss record, a 4.96 earned run average, and 23 strikeouts.

Ty Armentrout and Cooper Smith have wielded respectable bats with a .316 and .275

Continued on Page 7

From Fiddlers to Folklore and Beyond, Milnes Is a True Mountain Storyteller And a National Heritage Fellow

By Stephen Smoot

The Appalachian Mountains themselves hold stories and tales of their own that date back before even the first of the trees whose presence gives them their brilliant seasonal tones of colors, but whose roots also slowly break them down and up. They formed as chunks of Earth's crust stood on end over thousands of miles, then saw the very ground rip apart beneath them, forming a weird geological diaspora where they range through Morocco, Spain, Britain, Scandinavia, and Greenland. Waters eat the very ground from under them, producing hundreds of miles of caves that much of which no human may ever directly see.

As peoples came to fill their eroded valleys and climb their blunted peaks, they brought their own tales. Mysterious Mound Builders stand mute in history, leaving behind their curious burial structures. Iroquois and Cherokee empire builders rose into violent and brutal ascendance, then faded in the face of English, Scottish, and German settlement.

Gerald Milnes

The Allegheny range of the Appalachian Mountains in particular has often served as a contentious borderland between opposing peoples, cultures, and ideals, adding ferment to a rich mixture of traditions.

One of those who has devoted the most time, work, and care to the study of how traditional Appalachian culture has developed in the mountains has been Gerald Milnes of Davis and Elkins College. His work on traditions and cultures in the Alleghenies, particularly Pendleton County, has not

Continued on Page 3

Community CALENDAR

Community Celebration Set

The Pendleton County Historical Society will be celebrating 100 years and honoring Pendleton County history and America 250 beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday at the former Upper Tract Presbyterian Church. Bring a lawn chair and spend the afternoon celebrating the people, stories and traditions that shaped Pendleton County.

Family Support Center Sponsors Activities

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

•Today - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Teen Health Discussion, Creating Safe and Positive Space for Conversations. The program, open to everyone working with youth, is being held to assist with answering sensitive questions. Snacks and lunch will be provided.

•Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Family Fun Day at Circleville High School gym. Special guests will be Grappy's Petting Zoo and Somkey Bear. There will be free food and resources.

For more information, call 304-538-7711.

Post 9666 To Meet

VFW Post 9666 will meet at 6:30 p.m. June 11 at the post home in Sugar Grove.

Quilters To Meet

The Sew and Sews Quilt Guild will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at the Franklin Town Park. Anyone interested in quilting is welcome to attend.

Post 30 To Meet

American Legion Pendleton Post 30 will meet at 6:30 p.m. June 10 at the Moose Lodge in Franklin.

Library Friends To Meet Tuesday

The Friends of the Library will gather at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in the community room of the Pendleton County Library in Franklin.

All are welcome to attend.

Food Handler's Classes Planned

Pendleton County Health Department will be holding food handler's classes.

A class will be held at 5 p.m. on June 10 at the Clinton Hedrick Community Building in Riverton.

The classes will be held at 10 a.m. on June 16 and 4 p.m. on June 23 at the Pendleton Community Building in Franklin.

A Zoom class will be held at 6 p.m. on June 17.

To schedule a class, call 304-358-7565.

NF Apostolic To Celebrate 90 Years

North Fork Apostolic Church will celebrate its 90th anniversary at 7 p.m. Friday. Rev. Daniel Garlitz will be the speaker. The church is located at 82 Lighthouse Lane, beside the highway department, in Riverton.

Discover Nature Day Scheduled

Monongahela National Forest invites kids and families to Discover Nature Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center, 13 Roy Gap Road in Seneca Rocks.

Attendees will have an opportunity to meet Smokey Bear and/or Woodsy Owl.

Discover Nature Day is an interactive nature based educational event that celebrates the natural world and encourages visitors of all ages to get outside and explore.

Donations Needed For Food Pantry

Christian Aid Network is in dire need of donations. CAN serves 300 people on a regular basis providing much need food assistance. These are difficult times for so many families, and CAN wants to continue this important service. In order to provide help at the current level, support from the community is absolutely essentail. Donations can be sent to PO Box 503, Franklin, WV 26807 or food donations can be left at the CAN building, located next to the high school.

Mon Forest Towns Holding Workshop June 10 for Peters Mountain Trail

By Stephen Smoot

Mon Forest Towns has scheduled a trail development workshop in conjunction with the United States Forest Service in anticipation of coming work on the Peters Mountain Trail off US Route 33 west of Franklin.

According to "Potomac Area Trails System Improvement Project," a document from the United States Department of Agriculture that oversees the USFS, the roots of the program date back to 2006 with the approval of the "Revised Monongahela National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan." According to the United States Department of Agriculture, "the purpose of this effort is to implement (the plan) and move the forest toward the desired future conditions in the forest plan." It adds that proposals will be developed in the service of meeting those.

The Mon Forest Towns partnership formed to act as a catalyst for these kinds of actions, as well as helping to boost the economic and cultural environments of member towns. The organization does this by building connections between the towns and the forest to promote both with the understanding that "proposed actions are all located within a 15-minute drive of a Mon Forest Town."

Specific goals include "economic growth, increased consumer spending, improved access to recreation and education opportunities." Part of that initiative comes from the "Reimagine Recreation" concept established by the USFS. As the USDA states, it serves as "a strategic planning effort charting the path for the future of recreation on lands managed by the USDA Forest Service."

It will work by "harnessing the knowledge, perspectives, creativity, and ingenuity" of those on the ground, including everyone from USFS staff to "partners and other stakeholders."

The USFS uses the term Management Prescription 8.1 to refer to the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area and, as the USFS states "emphasizes management of the Congressionally designated National Recreation Area." The Seneca Rocks component of this includes a "proclamation boundary" section that extends to within approximately five miles of Franklin on US 33.

One of the proposed actions underway this summer is the Peters Mountain loop trail. As the USDA document states, "the hiking and biking trail proposal will improve recreational opportunities for residents and visitors."

The planned workshop, which will take place from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on June 10, serves as the first order of business in terms of starting the development of that trail. The plan states that those leading the effort will "engage with volunteers and partners for increasing trail sustainability across the forest."

The workshop will take place at the Pendleton General Services Building (old Franklin Elementary School) at 81 Evick Drive in Franklin.

Mon Forest Towns and the USFS hopes to bring a committed cadre of volunteers with an interest in helping to establish and maintain the proposed trail to federal standards. The workshop will help attendees "learn about sustainable trail construction, upcoming recreation projects, and help to shape the future of Pendleton County for generations to come."

Training will include lessons on how attendees' volunteer labor can help to keep the trail up to forest service standards and ensure as much as reasonably possible the safety of those using it.

Those interested should "bring a day pack, water, and snacks." Organizers will provide lunch. Attendees are urged to "dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes or boots."

Obituaries

Pauline Lillian Sponaugle

Pauline Lillian Sponaugle, 86, of Hunting Ground passed away peacefully on May 30, 2026, at the Pendleton Manor in Franklin.

She was born on July 17, 1939, on Back Ridge, near Hunting Ground in Circleville, the daughter of the late Arlie and Iva (Sponaugle) Warner.

Mrs. Sponaugle attended Back Ridge School and was a member of the North Fork Baptist Church.

She had worked at Victor Tube Corporation in Harrisonburg, Virginia, as well as Hanover Shoe, showcasing her dedication and strong work ethic.

She lived a life marked by kindness and a loving spirit, leaving a lasting impact on all who knew her. Throughout her life, she was known for her deep love of family, especially cherishing her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who brought her immense joy and pride. Her warmth and generosity were widely recognized and treasured. Her life was a testament to the enduring power of love for her family, and her kindness.

A lover of country music, she found great comfort and happiness in the tunes of legendary artists, such as Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, Conway Twitty, and Alan Jackson. She enjoyed playing the guitar, a passion that reflected her joyful and creative spirit.

She was married to the late Gilbert Sponaugle.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory a son, Eber Dale Sponaugle of Circleville; two sisters, Wanda Nelson and companion, Michael of Fishersville, Virginia, and Sandy Cooper of Job; a half-sister, Jerlene Warner; a brother, Jearl Thompson of Hamlet, Indiana; a half-brother, Jackie Warner; three grandchildren, Stefanie Huffman, Isiac Sponaugle, and Cassie Marple; and five great-grandchildren, Dakota, Alayna, Hannah, Haleigh, and Colsen.

She was also preceded in death by a grandson, Jason; a great-granddaughter, Emily Hope; and a brother, Lee Warner.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday in the funeral home chapel with Pastor Mike Lambert officiating. Interment will be at the Sponaugle Family Cemetery (Eber Dale's house) on Hunting Ground in Circleville.

Memorials may be made to Mountain View Church or the Circleville Presbyterian Church.

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

Clark Nolan Wimer

Clark Nolan Wimer, 88, of Buford, Georgia, passed away peacefully on May 16, 2026.

He was born in Franklin to the late Thomas and Golda Wimer.

Mr. Wimer graduated from Franklin High School and proudly served his country in the United States Air Force after completing two years at West Virginia University.

His talents as an electronic technician flourished during his military service and became the foundation of a successful 40-year career with Tektronix and LXE, where he eventually managed regional service divisions. Throughout those years, he and his wife, Jerrie, built a life together in Colorado, Washington, and Virginia before settling in Tucker, Georgia, to raise their family. Later, they retired to Buford, Georgia, where they spent another 25 cherished years together.

A gifted woodworker and devoted outdoorsman, he loved working in his yard and took pride in handling his own car and home repairs and improvements. His happiest moments were spent in the mountains, enjoying his true passions: hunting and fishing.

He was a loving husband and father, a loyal friend, and a devoted papa to his grandchildren. He treasured lifelong friendships and created countless memories traveling with friends after retirement. He was also known for his unmatched knowledge of western books and movies.

In his final chapter, he became a favorite among neighbors and caregivers alike, remembered for his kindness, selflessness, steady humor, and ability to brighten the room with a joke or warm smile. He leaves behind a legacy of hard work, devotion to family, quiet strength, and love that will continue to live on through all who knew him.

He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered always.

He is now reunited with his beloved wife, Jerrie, with whom he shared 62 wonderful years of marriage.

Surviving are children, Dawn Wimer and Clark Wimer, Jr.; grandchildren, Taylor Wolters and Josh Hafif; Clark's wife, Mary; and a brother, Thomas Wimer.

A celebration of life service will be held June 20 at Flanigan Funeral Home in Buford, Georgia.

Mary Kathleen "Kate" (Hartman) Mitchell

Mary Kathleen "Kate" (Hartman) Mitchell, 92, of Franklin passed away on May 26, 2026, at Sentara RMH in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

She was born on May 27, 1933, in Cave, the daughter of the late Melvin Earl and Mary Ellen (Lambert) Hartman.

Mrs. Mitchell attended school at Zigler on Smith Creek and Franklin High School.

She was a member of the Franklin Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints.

Throughout her working years, she made significant contributions at Dunham-Bush and later retiring from AMP, where she distinguished herself with a strong work ethic and a sincere dedication to her roles.

She found her greatest joy in her home, where she acted as the cornerstone of her family, a role she embraced with deep passion and unwavering care for her family and friends.

On Aug. 31, 1950, she married Roy Abraham Mitchell, who preceded her in death.

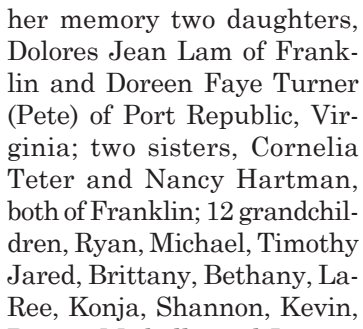
She leaves behind to cherish her memory two daughters, Dolores Jean Lam of Franklin and Doreen Faye Turner (Pete) of Port Republic, Virginia; two sisters, Cornelia Teter and Nancy Hartman, both of Franklin; 12 grandchildren, Ryan, Michael, Timothy Jared, Brittany, Bethany, LaRee, Konja, Shannon, Kevin, Danny, Michelle, and Jessica; 11 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

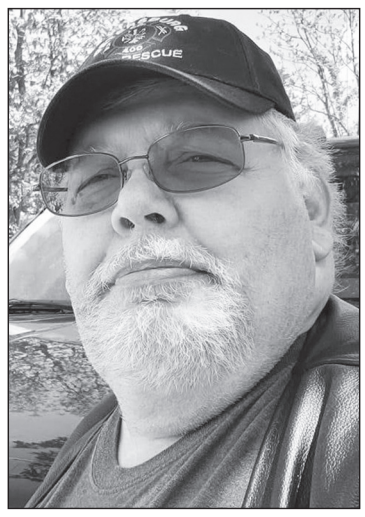
She was also preceded in death by two sons, George "Kevin" Mitchell and Roy "Steven" Mitchell; four brothers, John, Otis, Weldon and Loy Hartman; and a sister, Lucy Jean Propst.

Funeral services were held Sunday at the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin with Bishop Jed Hartman officiating. Interment was at the Samuel Propst Cemetery on Smith Creek Road in Franklin.

Memorials may be made to any Pendleton County Rescue Squad or to PAWS.

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





Gregory Lantz

Gregory Lantz, 62, of Coolville, Ohio, and formerly of Circleville passed away May 31, 2026, at Warren Health and Rehab Center in Warren, Ohio.

He was born July 26, 1963, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and was the son of Mary Ruth (Thompson) Raines of Circleville.

Mr. Lantz was a 1981 graduate of Circleville High School and a truck driver.

He enjoyed spending time with his son and hunting, especially bear hunting with his dogs.

His wife, Cassandra (Murphy) Lantz of Coolville, Ohio, survives.

Also surviving are a son, Dillon Lantz of Petersburg; a sister, Elizabeth Ashby (Todd) of Churchville, Virginia; a brother, Michael Lantz (Tori) of Circleville; two stepbrothers, Bobbie Raines (Chris) and Billy Raines (Luci) of Circleville; two stepsisters, Missy Simmons (J.M.) of Doe Hill, Virginia, and Wanda Lambert (Mike) of Circleville; a number of nieces and nephews; and his best friend, his dog, Molly.

He was preceded in death by his stepdad, Bobbie Raines.

The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday at Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin, where a funeral service will follow in the funeral home chapel with Pastor Randy Mongold officiating. Interment will be in the North Fork Memorial Cemetery at Riverton.

Memorials may be made toward his final expenses, c/o Mary Ruth Raines, 5883 Snowy Mountain Road, Circleville, WV 26804.

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

Nethanel M. Judy

It is with great sadness the family announces the passing of Nethanel M. Judy, 46, who passed peacefully on May 29, 2026, at his home of Maysville after a battle of ALS.

Born on Feb. 28, 1980, in Cumberland, Maryland, he was the son of John H. and Rita R (Vance) Judy.

Mr. Judy was a member of Laborers Local 379 and employed with ALL Construction for the past 10 years.

Friends knew him as "Nate." He was a jack of all trades with a passion for building vehicles, spending time at the lake, kayaking, fishing, hunting, vacationing in Florida and always challenging people to a game of Putt Putt.

He will be missed by many but there is peace in knowing he is finally pain free.

His wife of 24 years, Lori (Shoemaker) Judy, survives.

Also surviving are three sons Trevor, Tanner and wife, Vanessa, and Achilles Judy; two special grandchildren, Ezekiel and Emeryn; siblings, Jonathan and wife, Holly Judy, Elisha Judy, Joshua Judy and Isaiah Judy; and several nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, John Matthew Judy; and a special niece, Felicity Jenkins.

A funeral service will be conducted at noon today at the Smith Funeral Home, Keyser Chapel, with Pastor John D. Leatherman and Pastor Mark Leatherman officiating. An hour visitation will take place before the service.

The family requests that memorial contributions be directed to the Smith Funeral Home, 85 S. Main Street, Keyser, WV 26726 to assist in defraying funeral expenses.

Verlin "Jim" D. Warner

Verlin "Jim" D. Warner, 87, passed away on May 25, 2026, in Franklin.

Born on Dec. 28, 1938, in Cave, he was the son of the late Verlin and Lona Mae (Simmons) Warner.

Mr. Warner attended Pendleton County Schools, where he laid the foundation for a life defined by steadfast work and devotion.

His career spanned several vocations including farming, construction, and employment with Wampler Foods.

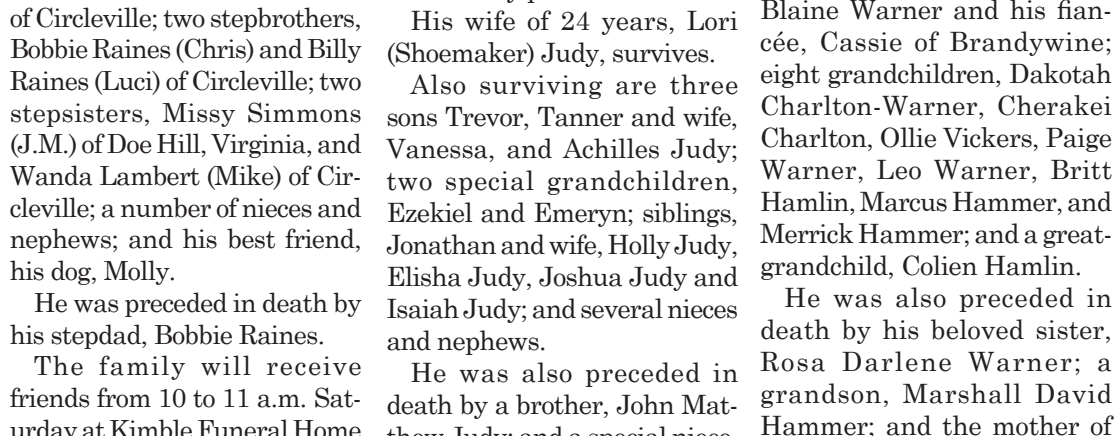
He is survived by his loving family, who continues to carry forward his legacy. He leaves behind to cherish his memory two daughters, Marchia Bowers and Melinda Warner, both of Franklin; a son, Jimmy Blaine Warner and his fiancée, Cassie of Brandywine; eight grandchildren, Dakotah Charlton-Warner, Cherakei Charlton, Ollie Vickers, Paige Warner, Leo Warner, Britt Hamlin, Marcus Hammer, and Merrick Hammer; and a great-grandchild, Colien Hamlin.

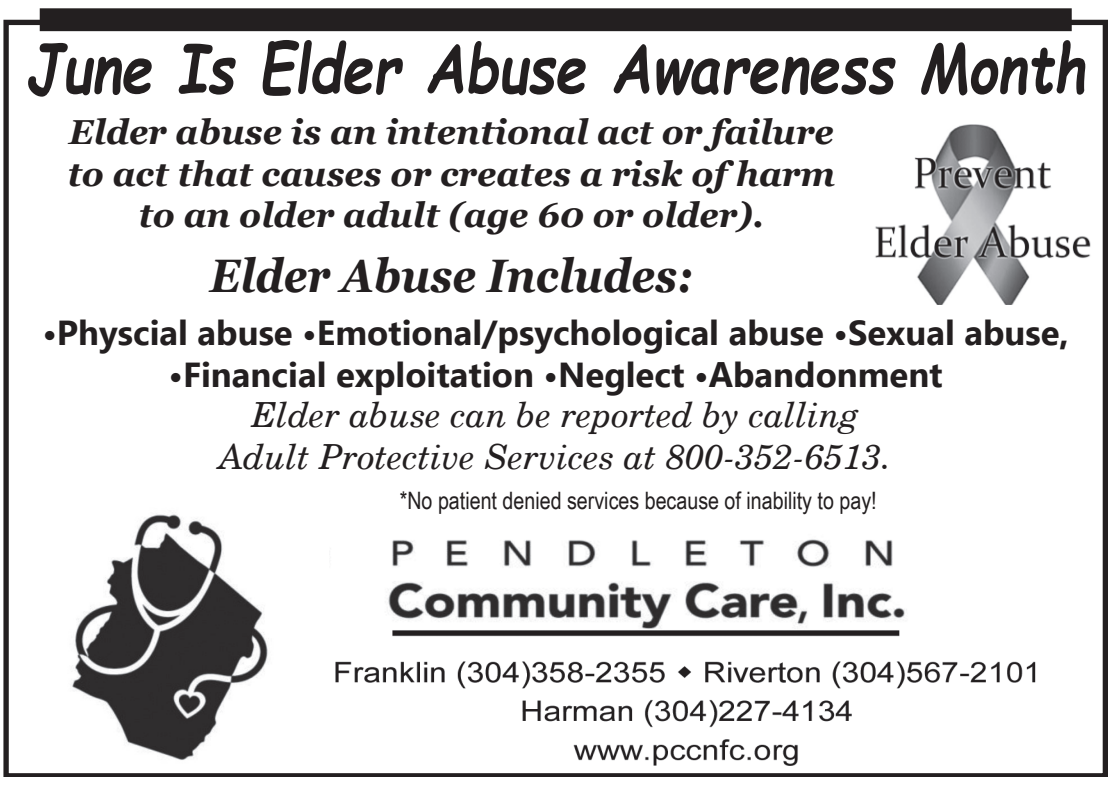
He was also preceded in death by his beloved sister, Rosa Darlene Warner; a grandson, Marshall David Hammer; and the mother of his children, Marie (Cunningham) Pitsenbarger.

Funeral services were held Saturday at the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor Lance Porter officiating. Interment was at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Franklin.

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

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





Obituaries Cont.

Allen Wayne Reel

Allen Wayne Reel, 79, of Upper Tract passed away Friday, May 29, 2026, at Pendleton Manor in Franklin.

He was born July 31, 1946, at Upper Tract, and was the son of the late Nora Reel.

Mr. Reel was a logger and timberman and retired in 2007 from the Allegheny Wood sawmill in Riverton.

He enjoyed being outdoors, hunting and was Christian by faith.

Surviving are three sons, Gerald Reel of Upper Tract, Anthony Reel of Riverton and Ricky Reel of Petersburg; a sister, Linda Borror of Franklin; a brother, Reel of Petersburg; and three grandsons, Jarrod Reel and Jayden Reel.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Ron Reel; and the mother of his children, Patsy Raines Reel.

A funeral service was held Tuesday in the chapel of the Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor Trevor Whetzel officiating. Interment was in Cherry Hill Cemetery at Upper Tract.

Memorials may be made to Pendleton County Rescue Squad, PO Box 727, Franklin, WV 26807.

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

Dorothy Hottinger Sharples, 83

Dorothy "Dottie" Hottinger Sharples passed away on May 24, 2026, in Chester, Connecticut.

She was born on May 8, 1943, at home in Ft. Seybert to the late Ruth (Ritchie) and William Eldon Hottinger.

Mrs. Sharples enjoyed her 4-H club and Methodist church activities.

She graduated as the valedictorian of the 1961 class of Franklin High School. The first in her family to complete college, she graduated in 1965 from West Virginia Wesleyan College.

She began a career of teaching high school English first in Buckhannon, then continued after relocating to Connecticut. For 35 years, she taught English at Jonathan Law High School in Milford, Connecticut, and was the sponsor of the high school newspaper.

She spent her spare time antiquing in rural Connecticut, working in her garden, and helping in afterschool care for grandchildren, Turner and Hayden, when they were in grammar school. She was a fan of the New York Yankees, and loved watching basketball and golf.

She and her husband Howard Sharples (deceased 2024) traveled domestically and frequented Atlantic City casinos and Mohegan Sun. During their lifetimes, they coddled their beloved Shih Tzus, first Michael and then Jordan.

Surviving are a son, Jeffery Davis II of Westbrook, Connecticut; grandchildren, Turner and Hayden of Westbrook, Connecticut; and a sister, Loretta Hottinger (Ronald) of White Plains, New York.

Milnes, Storyteller and National Heritage Fellow

Continued From Page 1

only reawakened interest in traditions, it helps to define an area often misunderstood by outsiders.

For his lifetime so far of work, and more years yet to come, Milnes was named this year a National Heritage Fellow. This represents, as the National Endowment for the Arts describes, "the nation's highest honor in folk and traditional arts" recognizing "recipients' artistic excellence, lifetime achievement, and contributions to our nation's arts heritage."

As Eric Waggoner told West Virginia Public Broadcasting, "Without Gerry's dedicated work, many of West Virginia's songs and stories might otherwise have been lost."

These mountains do not simply tell the stories of those generations, but also how the unimaginably ancient landscape welcomed, then cradled, then provided a full context to how life is, and should be, lived. This is at least as far as those whose families have lived on and worked the land for centuries feel.

Through songs, stories, and other methods, the families here passed the chronicles of their lives. And through those media, Milnes has in a way brought them back to life as well.

Milnes' career, interestingly, followed the pattern of eastern Appalachian settlement. He shared that "I was born in Pennsylvania to a musical family, played guitar by age nine, banjo at 12, and fiddle at 19." His family and home put him near "a place where there was and old-time fiddlers gathering in Chester County, Pennsylvania."

There he started "recording old Pennsylvania Dutch fiddlers." At the time, Milnes may not have even realized that the culture he was recording, he was also saving. By the mid-1980s, suburban Philadelphia poured into Chester County like a slowly rising lake, submerging what was there before in houses, shopping centers and highways.

In the 1720s and 30s, Germans seeking escape from the endless turmoil gripping the Holy Roman Empire made their way to America. They settled west of Philadelphia, hearing Benjamin Franklin's lament that they refused to learn English and assimilate. Sons from each generation moved west to the Great Valley, then up the Shenandoah. Some families slowly expanded southwest into future North Carolina and Tennessee.

Others found homes crossing through the gaps and finding the hidden treasures of the different branches of the South Branch River. People with names like Hawse, Sites, McCoy, Conrad, Pitsenbarger, Hinkle, Hedrick, and the many variants of Heavner/Hevener, appeared in the region and stayed on.

They brought their German cultures and ways, picked up more from English, lowland Scots, and American Indians, took on the unforgiving landscape, and created something new and beautiful, in the occasionally dark, dangerous, and often deadly mountains.

Milnes during the 1970s followed his first love, traditional fiddle music, along the same directions as those settlers centuries earlier. "About 1970, I started making trips to West Virginia." Like those doughty families and men of that earlier time, "this led to me eventually moving to the state in 1975."

There, his passion for traditional music led him to seek out what lay behind the lyrics and melodies, including "other aspects of folklore and art."

Milnes related that one of the first sites that attracted his attention was the Historic Annanias Pitsenbarger Farm near Dahmer, currently owned by Jeff and Theresa Munn who work diligently to maintain not only the site, but also the culture of what was once called "Loafer's Glory."

What made the site such a glory for the loafing inclined also brought Milnes to the site. In the early 1800s, the farm hosted raucous parties that featured lively music. He noted that there he also studied the "old esoteric German belief that went on there," as well as the traditional building ways reflected in the study structures that still stand.

"This, with a lot of research in other areas led to my book 'Signs, Cures, and Witchery: German Appalachian Folklore," he said. His interest in the architecture of the site also spurred his interest in that field, culminating in his latest work, "The American Log Cabin: Folk Architecture and Lore on the Old Frontier of West Virginia."

Just as Philadelphia largely submerged Chester County's authentic German traditions, the national popular culture that dominated the 20th century held sway in the more connected and populated parts of West Virginia. In Pendleton, parts of Randolph, Pocahontas, and other counties, the mountains served as a fortress, jealously protecting traditional practices, including belsnicking, and traditional music, such as "The Battle of Droop Mountain."

"The last time I visited an old fiddler before he died," said Milnes, "he remembered the old Civil War tune 'The Battle of Droop Mountain.'" He added that the fiddler "had a grandfather fighting on both sides. One had a horse shot out from under him." Like Homer's lyrical poems, the Odyssey and the Illiad, people recorded their histories to music.

"To me, "said Milnes, "not recording and documenting that tune and story would have been a sad loss." In his mind and those of many others, "hundreds of tunes and similar oral history accounts, taken together and if not documented, would be like a library of one-of-a kind books burning down."

"Traditionally, tunes were commonly made to commemorate events," shared Milnes. Those tunes were often shared and creatively adapted by different artists to fit their or their audiences' tastes. Beckley's "Blind" Alfred Reed, for example, recorded songs about a major train accident and also the "Explosion at the Fairmount Mines (sic)." In that song, he grafted an older song about a young girl with supernatural powers to see the future onto the real life mine disaster at Monongah.

Jennifer Taylor-Ide, a Pendleton County native, who is actively with friends preserving culture and music through The Pendleton County Hot Mess, said, "I first met Gerry in the late 70s at the Augusta Heritage Arts summer program in Elkins."

"Gerry was ever present with his fiddle," remembered Taylor-Ide. While she admitted "I was not pursuing the fiddle," when involved in "an Old Time environment, it is central to everything, singing, dancing, and playing music together." She also noted that "his wife, Mary, called square dances and taught calling. I studied with her."

Taylor-Ide shared that Milnes gained a great deal of cultural information "from our own local historian, Johnny Arvin Dahmer." She also stated "I kept running into him at odd places," here giving a presentation, there introducing a student to a local fiddle-maker.

While the "local color" movement that exploited elements of traditional culture will always carry an odious connotation, highlighting true local culture along with its context can help illustrate a place and educate those who come to visit.

"Many tourists are seeking out authentic and true, yet also unfamiliar experiences," said Annie Humes, director of the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau. "People who do the work that Gerry does," she explained, "are making sure there are good places for visitors to go when they want to understand the culture."

"Our CVB is definitely not alone in having a lot of interest in our own community's culture," she added. Then She said, "Culture and arts information is definitely part of what we want to be sharing with the public."

As a National Heritage Fellow, Milnes will continue as a leader in the field of researching, discovering, analyzing, and sharing traditional culture. Taylor-Ide said, "He so deserves this recognition that he has earned by quietly and thoroughly pursuing his fascination with the practical culture of the area."

Milnes said, "I am extremely humbled by being named a National Heritage Fellow," but adds that "I see myself as a conduit for this award that should rightfully go to the artists I have met, documented, learned from, and been impressed by."

"I'll never get to the bottom of things that interest me." he said. "At almost 80 years old, my notebooks still contain subject matter to explore."

Thank You For Reading
The Pendleton Times

Congratulations
to the
2026 Graduating 4-H Seniors
Vivian Pownell
Emily Schell
We're Proud of You!
The Pendleton County
4-H Leaders
Association

All children in the community, age 4 -14, are invited to join us for
Vacation Bible School
Sunday, June 14 - Thursday, June 18
6 - 8:30 p.m.
Franklin United Methodist Church
162 North Main Street, Franklin
Registration online at franklinwvumc.org or call or message Barb at 304-668-3300

Lawn Party
North Fork Church of the Brethren
Snowy Mountain Road•Cherry Grove
Saturday, June 6
5 p.m. til ?
Hamburgers~Hot Dogs
Pulled Pork~French Fries
Nachos and Cheese
Desserts and Drinks
Music by
Luther Arbaugh and Friends
Come Out and Enjoy An Evening of Fun and Fellowship
Everyone Welcome!!!

SEALED BID
VEHICLE FOR SALE
The Pendleton County Commission
will offer for sale the following surplus vehicle.
1997 Ford Ambulance, 4 x 4, diesel engine, 74,744 miles, running condition
Make perfect tool rig for contractors. **Sold AS-IS.**
See photos on Pendleton County WV Office of Emergency Management/911 Facebook page.
- Bids will be accepted until 4:00 pm on June 15, 2026.
- Bids will be opened on June 16 at 8:45 am.
- Highest bidder will be notified.
- Mark Envelopes "VAN BID ENCLOSED."
- Mail to Pendleton County Commission, PO Box 187, Franklin, WV 26807.
- Or, drop-off at the County Administrator's Office at the Courthouse.

Pendleton County not responsible for lost/late mail or delivery of any kind.
Questions, call (304) 902-9008

Asbury's
FAMILY RESTAURANT
Germany Valley Limestone Rd., Riverton
Seafood Buffet
Friday, June 5 • 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Crab Legs, Steamed Shrimp, Fried Calamari, Shrimp Creole, Scampi Style Scallops, Fried Clams, Fried Oysters, Roast Beef w/Gravy, Herb Baked Chicken Breast, Hush Puppies, Steamed Rice, Corn, Buttered Potatoes, Cheddar Bay Biscuits, Assorted Desserts $40.00
Sunday Buffet
Sunday, June 7 • Noon - 3 p.m.
Caesar Salad, Carved Flank Steak, Chicken w/Mushroom Sauce, Shrimp Creole, Steamed Rice, Roasted Red Potatoes, Steamed Green Beans, 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)

Annual
Eye Family Reunion
Sunday, July 5
Thorn Spring Park Pavilion
Franklin
Program begins at 10:30 a.m.
Potluck Lunch To Follow

Hedrick Family Reunion
Saturday, June 13
Noon - ?
Old Propst Pavilion
Bring Your Favorite Dish
Come Join Us!

Times Past

10 Years Ago
Week of June 2, 2016

Phares Strikes a Chord with Guitar Business

Chuck Phares is making the world a more beautiful place, at least to those who have an ear for quality musical instruments.

A talented woodworker, he decided to build his first guitar in the early 1990s and has spent the last 25 years perfecting his trade. Phares was influenced by his father, Robert Phares of Circleville, also a talented woodworker.

Phares is completely self-taught when it comes to his trade, although he does admit that You Tube is an "awesome teacher." From start to finish, he performs every part of the process, from selecting the piece of wood that will be used for the body of the guitar to installing the hardware that will produce the sound.

20 Years Ago
Week of June 1, 2006

TV Personalities Open New Business

If one believes that angels walk the face of the earth and are here to help mankind—or if one doesn't believe in the earthy presence of angels—Sandy Young, a new resident and business owner in Seneca Rocks, is the person to talk to.

If one finds the hieroglyphs—are those formations resembling animal and human outlines ancient, totemic carvings or are they naturally occurring?—on Seneca Rocks, Nelson Rocks and Champe Rocks a source of wonder, mystery and myth-laden resonance, then her husband, Jim Young, an ordained minister, is the person to talk to.

If one wants advice on holistic approaches to health or wants to know about the possible spiritual sources of aches and pains and all types of physical ailments, then both of the Youngs, a charming, accomplished and articulate couple, are people to be sought out.

In March, the Youngs purchased Skate World adjacent to the Macksville Mart from Carrol and Eleanor Warner and moved to Seneca Rocks from Gaithersburg, MD, not far from the nation's capital.

They now operate what was known as "Skate World" as the Honey Bear Restaurant & Conference Center.

There is a cozy restaurant, and there is an arcade gaming section for kids.

But there is also about 9,000 square feet of space in the building, and the Youngs have a variety of ideas for how to make it a "center for the community" and a tourist draw for the area.

These plans are not idle ones because Jim and Sandy Young have a following through the cable television show they produce twice a month.

Jim Young grew up in Paw Paw and has been coming to the Seneca Rocks area all of his life. He worked as a representative of individuals, businesses and organizations having legal troubles with the Internal Revenue Service.

A native of Schellsburg, PA, Sandy Young was educated in Maryland and worked professionally as an engineer.

Now they are Pendletonians, who love the Seneca Rocks area for the way it resonates with them as an ancient place full of history, myth and profound spirituality.

But, as proponents of living healthy lifestyles, they were also drawn to the county by its clean air, clean water, beautiful mountains and good people.

They invite those good local folks to stop in and get to know their new neighbors anytime at the Honey Bear.

Kimble Donates Bugle To Veterans Honor Guard

Keith Kimble, owner of Kimble Funeral Home in Franklin, donated a ceremonial bugle to members of the Pendleton County Veterans Honor Guard to be used by them at funeral services for all veterans in the county.

The military veterans organizations of the county have formed the PCVHG to pay final tribute to military veterans who, in times of war and peace, have dedicated their loyal service to the United States of America. The PCVHG performs at funerals of military veterans when requested by the deceased veteran's family.

The PCVHG consists of volunteer members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9666 of Sugar Grove, Post 2370 of Franklin and Post 6862 of Seneca Rocks, as well as American Legion Post 30 of Franklin and Post 183 of Riverton.

40 Years Ago
Week of June 5, 1986

Catholic Church Here To Hold Open House

The community of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church on Hall's Hill south of Franklin will hold open house Sunday, June 22, from 1 to 5 p.m. in observance of ten years of local service and to provide an opportunity for area residents to visit the newly constructed church.

The original community of about eight members and their families began to gather in 1975 at the home of the late Robert Gonshor where various liturgical services and organizational meetings were held. In November 1975, thanks to the generosity and cooperation of the Lutheran community, the first mass was celebrated at Faith Lutheran Church, Franklin. In the summer of 1976, under the leadership of Bishop Joseph Hodges, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston purchased the present property on Hall's Hill in Franklin.

In 1978, Fr. "Bud" Raney was assigned to St. Elizabeth's as the first full time pastor, and the two houses adjacent to the property on which the new building now sits were purchased—one to serve as a residence (parsonage); the other to serve as a chapel/classroom/activities building.

In the spring of 1984, with the support of the Bishop Hodges, the building committee met for the first time to discuss plans for the new building. The committee worked in conjunction with the Diocesan building advisor.

For budgeting purposes, the building is designed to be a multi-purpose room, with most rooms serving more than one function. The main room, for example, serves primarily as a worship space, but is also used as a dining room and for large meetings.

The building, which covers approximately 3,550 square feet, has only one floor and so is easily accessible to the handicapped. The architect was Alpha Corporation of Morgantown, and the contractor was Michael Blankenship of Franklin with Hott and Miller of Brandywine.

The new building is a welcome addition. Because the congregation consists of between 110-120 members—representing all parts of Pendleton County and parts of Highland County, Virginia, especially Monterey—space was a premium in the small white house. The small chapel had become over-crowded and even squeezing in elbow-to-elbow could not give enough room for everyone.

50 Years Ago
Week of June 3, 1976

67 Franklin High School Seniors to Receive Diplomas Sunday Night

West Virginia Attorney General Chauncey Browning, Jr., will deliver the commencement address to the graduates of Franklin High School Sunday night.

Sixty-seven seniors will receive their high school diplomas during the commencement exercises which will be conducted in the high school auditorium beginning at 8 p.m.

Kindergarten Class Makes Quilt

Mrs. Holly Hubbs and her kindergarten class at Franklin Elementary School crafted a Bicentennial quilt as part of their class work.

Each child in the class printed and then embroidered his name and birth date on a white square, and the squares were stitched together with red and blue borders by Mrs. Hubbs and Mrs. Jean Landis, teacher assistant. The children helped to knot the quilt.

The quilt will be displayed at the Treasure Mountain Festival and at their high school graduation.

60 Years Ago
Week of June 2, 1966

Bluebirds Becoming More Numerous In Pendleton

By Hughlynn Wilson

The first reports from the Bluebird Conservation Project in Pendleton County indicated that the bluebird is returning to the area. More and more bluebirds are being seen along the roads, in fields, and around houses placed for them. Also, the reports show that more than fifty percent of the bluebird houses are being used in some areas.

The Brandywine 4-H club placed 31 bluebird houses on Route 33 and the South Fork Road to Fort Seybert. On May 20 sixteen of the houses were being used by bluebirds. Some of the nests were just being built, while others contained from three to six eggs. Some had young birds only a few hours old and others contained young birds old enough to leave the nest. The sixteen nests are more families of bluebirds than were counted by the Brooks Bird Club in the spring of 1963 after a week of observation in the whole county.

The Sugar Grove 4-H club also reports that about half of the bluebird houses are being used. The Fort Seybert club reports that about one third of theirs are being used with hope that they can reach fifty percent. Besides the large number of birds using the houses, more than ten families of bluebirds have been observed using other boxes or holes in fence posts and trees.

A detailed study of the bluebirds along Route 33 from the Methodist parsonage in Brandywine to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Simmons near Fort Seybert revealed nine families of birds. Four of these nests were in 4-H houses and five were in fence posts and holes in trees. If this ratio is a true picture of the South Fork, there will be between 80 and 100 bluebird nests on the South Fork this summer.

The Potomac Valley Garden Club which is helping sponsor the project visited 12 nest between Brandywine and Fort Seybert on May 7.

Colored slides were taken of the nests and birds.

The first reports indicate that the conservation project is going to be a real success and that the bluebird is on its way back to Pendleton County.

EDITORIALS

Beauty Reflects Character---

Beauty is one of Pendleton County's greatest assets. The county is blessed with much natural beauty and it also has considerable man-made attractiveness. Property owners here historically have taken pride in their holdings and maintained them appropriately. As a result our farm lands and countrysides abound in pastoral scenes that rival the artist's canvas and our communities are neat and clean.

This pleasing appearance is not a result of mere chance. Rather it is the result of persistent effort on the part of many. It is a result of long hours of work mowing lawns, painting buildings, trimming fence rows and mending outbuildings. But it is worth it, and the result is enjoyed not only by the passerby but also by those whose sweat accomplished it.

We are proud of our county and our citizens who have helped make it so beautiful. We join with our mercantile friends whose messages say let's spruce up our property and keep our county beautiful, not just to win a trophy nor to entice the tourist, but because our property is a part of us and it must be neat and clean to accurately reflect the character of our citizenry.

70 Years Ago
Week of May 31, 1956

Back Street Gets Surface Treatment

Workmen were busy Saturday applying a blacktop surface on a portion of Eastern Back Street. The portion of the street getting the surface treatment extends from the rear of the Pendleton Motor Sales garage building north to the street between Mrs. Mae Byrd's property and the Brooke Boggs property. Another coat of the black top treatment was applied Tuesday.

B. J. Aulde said Monday that there are a lot of rumors going around that the work on Eastern Back Street is costing the town a lot of money. "This rumor is entirely false," Mr. Aulde said, "because I am paying for most of it myself."

Mr. Aulde went on to explain that a six-inch water main had been laid from near the Potomac Valley Creamery building up the street to Dr. Sites' medical building and that a two-inch water line had been extended from there over to the Brooke Boggs corner. Also 1200 feet of 12-inch sewer has been installed which runs from the Byrd corner to the river. "In addition to this," Mr. Aulde said, "a retaining wall was built along the eastern side of the street and the street has been graded and filled in."

"The only expense this street project has been to the town was the cost of the pipe. The town furnished the pipe and I paid for laying it, and I have also paid for all the rest of the work done there including grading and filling in the street and applying the black top surface. This can be verified by the town records," Mr. Aulde added.

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Smith Creek/ Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

Good-bye May, hello June. The month of May gave the area some weather to deal with. The area got hit with a late frost that hurt the fruit trees. Then there were eight days of rain, 4.31 inches, which was needed.

The burning law has been lifted. Now one can burn 24/7. Make sure to follow the safety guidelines.

Smith Creek and Friends Run Churches of the Brethren: shut-ins — Bucky Moyers, Pam Riner, Anna Tesi, Larry Moyers, Sandy Washburn, Mary Alice Simmons, Anna Lee Mitchell and Carol Propst; prayer list — Richard Campbell, Joshua Shirk, Ava George, Kenny Williams, Ruth Bauer, Rick Waggy, Gloria Moats, Jim Fawley, Ruthalene Judy, Jessie Simmons, Minny Rhoads, David Berg, Troy Bennett, Danny Nelson, Tom and Judy Borror, David M. Parkinson, Cleo Simmons, Jimmie Bennett, Tom Butterworth, Sherry Hedrick, Bobby Parsons, Robert Bennett, Rick Phares, Virgil "Bub" Yokum, Hannah Hedrick, John Moyers, Norma 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, Brenda A. Sponaugle, Donna Bennett, Peggy Pitsenbarger, Amy VanMeter, Lynwood Pennington and the family of Kate Mitchell.

Prayer thought: "Dear Father, please help me to rest in Your strength to carry me through life's critical moments. God knows your weakness."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for May 25 through May 31, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: May 25 - 76°, 59°, .42" (72°, 38°), May 26 - 73°, 60°, .08" (66°, 49°, .04"), May 27 - 74°, 61°, .3" (53°, 49°, 1.45"), May 28 - 75°, 55° (60°, 48°, .69"), May 29 - 78°, 47° (77°, 55°), May 30 - 75°, 51° (71°, 57°, .18") and May 31 - 76°, 42° (65°, 51°, .04").

Total rainfall for May was 5.07", compared to 7.86" in May of 2025.

Year-to-date rainfall is 11.97", compared to 16.72" for the same time period last year.

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Exploring the Nature of God

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

Circleville Presbyterian Church
June 22 - 26
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Ages 4 to 18
NO Cost. Lunch will be provided daily.
Van pickup at 9 a.m. at the following locations:
Base of Big Mountain • Brethren Church
Big Run Chapel • Riverton Store
(Van drop off will be at the same locations at 12:45 p.m.)
Parents may also drop children off at 9 a.m. and pick them up at 12:30 p.m. at Circleville Presbyterian Church
Questions, call Miss Nancy at 724-977-1610.

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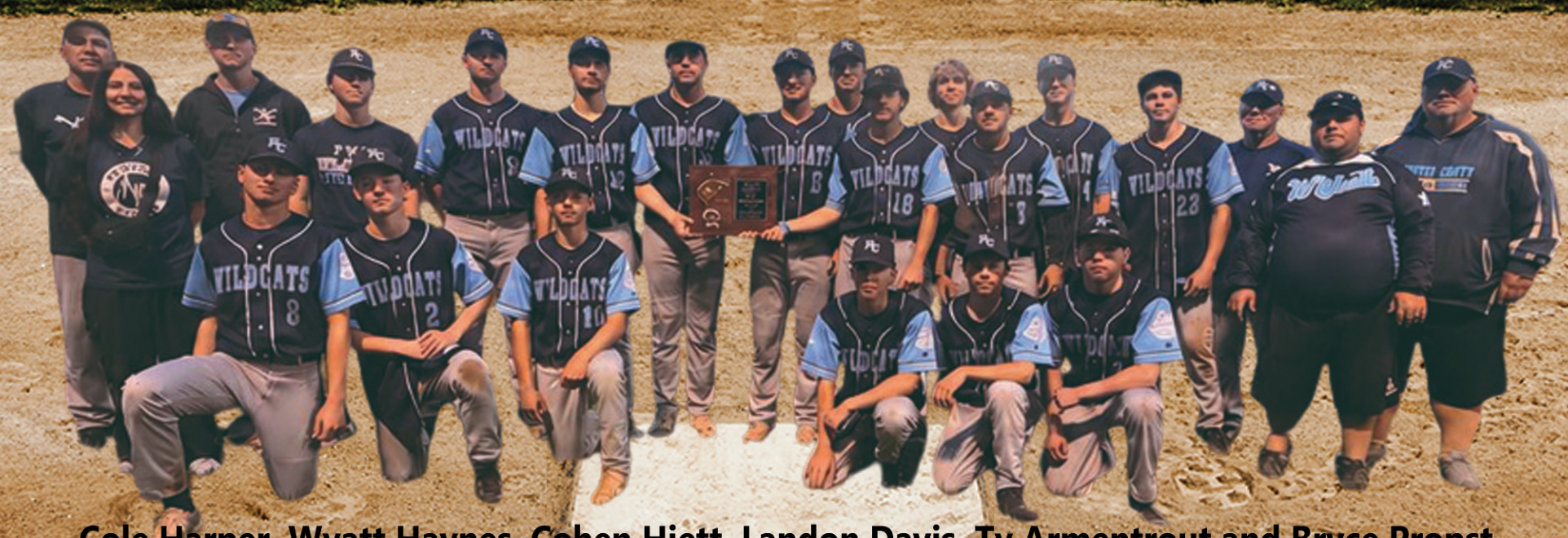

Cole Harper, Wyatt Haynes, Cohen Hiett, Landon Davis, Ty Armentrout and Bryce Propst
Sam Yokum (coach), Claire Adkins (statistician), Clayton Kisamore (assistant), Cooper Smith, Mason Harper,
Caydon Boone, Cashton Kisamore, Chase Owens, Mason Miller, Barret Cook, Jaxon Simon, Noah Lockard,
Travis Owens, Connor Hartman, Rick Wagoner (assistant), Sheldon Evick (manager) and Gary Smith (assistant)

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Lawn Care Has Fared Well Depending on the Trends

Sugar Grove

By Paula Mitchell

There is nothing quite like a freshly manicured lawn. Folks in this community were busy Friday and Saturday doing just that, and the result was quite amazingly eye-catching. Flowers are enhancing the landscaping and nature is taking its course. The rains earlier in the week have given a lush touch to the already lovely countryside.

Farmers are beginning to do their annual chore of making hay. The days have been very conducive to that chore.

Before the invention of the push mower, keeping a neat lawn was an expensive, labor-intensive luxury reserved for the wealthy. There were several ways that most folks used, depending on where they lived.

Using livestock like sheep and goats to graze the area was very cost-effective. The animals grazed the grass to a low level and provided natural fertilizer.

Estate workers used large, curved blades called scythes for open fields. Smaller handheld knives known as sickles and shears for precision trimming were used in the yard area. This required immense skill to ensure an even height. Often, skilled scythe handlers left swirls or sear marks on the grass, because the scythe was swung in a half circle, and the blade was often serrated. Can you imagine using a scythe and muscles to address the mowing aspect of life?

Everyday citizens didn't maintain manicured turf; they left their yards natural or tilled the land for farming and survival.

For larger properties, families used draft horses to pull a team of rotating blade cylinders or "gang mowers." Sometimes, older modifications involved pulling a motorized or gear-driven snipping tool with a horse.

The first lawn mower was invented in 1830 by Edwin Beard Budding. And ever since, life has been much easier when it comes to mowing the lawn.

Instructions to help others include the following:

1. Volunteering is one of the most amazing things to do. Call a charity to volunteer.

2. Donate something one doesn't use.

3. Stop and ask if help is needed when one sees someone pulled over with a flat tire.

4. Do a chore like cleaning or washing the car, doing the dishes or cutting the lawn.

5. Call a school and offer to volunteer one's tutoring services.

Quotes for the week are as follows:

"Life is like an ice cream cone; you have to lick it one day at a time." — Charles M. Schulz

"What a luxury, to do something you love to do." — Amy Tan

"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." — Will Rogers

"Out of limitations comes creativity." — Debbie Allen

"You can observe a lot just by watching." — Yogi Berra

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

Saturday afternoon was when family and friends of Bob Puffenbarger gathered at the VFW pavilion to celebrate his life and share memories. The VFW Honor Guard was present for the celebration.

The Brandywine Elementary sixth graders are officially now seventh graders as of last Wednesday evening's graduation ceremonies. They have had a great start from the excellent staff and should be able to continue doing well. Best wishes to them all!

Eric Tichenor of Harrisonburg, Virginia, spent Sunday evening with Phil Downs.

Calvary Lutheran Church held a Vesper Service at the Old Propst Church pavilion at 3 p.m. Sunday. Music was provided by Jake and Melinda Lohr, with Ray Lambert as backup. Light refreshments followed.

The state road department workers have been busy now that the weather is conducive to freshen up the roads. Ditches are being cleaned, fixing up the patched roadways is ongoing, lines are being painted, and the roadways mowed. All is good for the motorists either on their way to work, or for tourists enjoying the beauty of the landscape.

The year is fleeting with June here. That means that 2026 will soon be halfway through.

Over the weekend, Wesley, Becky, Ben, Emma and Nathan Puffenbarger visited Droop Mountain Battle Field and Bear Town State Park. This family always enjoys exploring their "whereabouts."

Judy Costello of Verona, Virginia, spent Saturday night with her mother, Evelyn Varner.

This week's clickety-clacks for the chin waggers are as follows:

- The world's most populated city is Tokyo, Japan.
- Hawaii grows coffee beans.
- Add salt to water to make things float easier.
- The earth spins roughly 1,000 mph.
- In 1989, the Berlin Wall fell.

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

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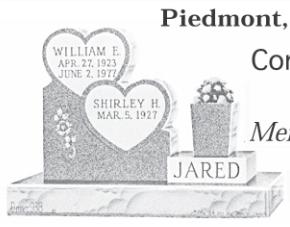

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80th Birthday Card Shower

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June 5
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Approximately 8 to 10 hours per week
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Ms. Kristy Tritapoe, Assistant Superintendent
Pendleton County Board of Education
128 North Main Street
P.O. Box 888
Franklin, WV 26807
Telephone: 304-358-2207
Email: kristy.tritapoe@k12.wv.us

NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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Please apply by July 1 to
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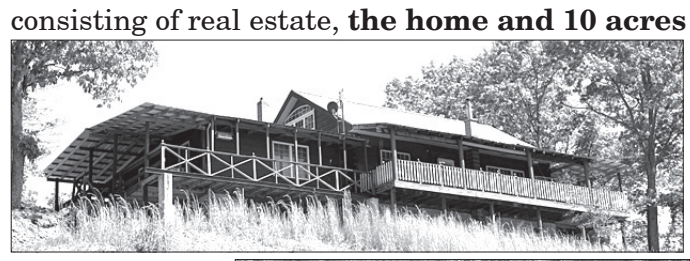
Huge Onsite Estate Auction Including Real Estate
Saturday, June 6•9 a.m.
954 Rusty Lane, Mathias
This auction will be on onsite auction consisting of real estate, **the home and 10 acres**

2024 Kubota M7060 Tractor (like new condition) w/front loader attachments for Kubota tractor

Tractors, equipment, older model Kubota L3710 Grand L Series tractor (garage kept, excellent condition, starts and runs like new!), 1953 Ford Customline Coupe car, Polaris Sportsman 500 AWD ATV 4-wheeler (excellent condition), Polaris Sportsman 90 Youth ATV 4-wheeler (like new!), Woodland Mills HM126 Saw Mill Wood Miser (like new!), tools, ATVs, household items, Ford pickup, 1953 Ford Classic Coupe car, Komatsu D21A dozer, saw mill, wood miser, hauling trailers, lumber, stone rake and tractor attachments, antiques, collectibles and much more!
House and Property Will Sell at Noon
All day auction.
Food and refreshments available on site.
Questions, call Michael at 304-530-6403 or 304-257-6403
Michael Thomas License #2151 Jimmy See License #1101

ALL Night PRAYER
Praying For Our Country & Community
Friday, June 26, 2026
7PM to 7AM
Pendleton Community Center
200-299 Confederate Rd.
Franklin, WV 26807
Join us anytime, for 15 minutes or all night
Lamentations 2:19
"Arise, cry aloud in the night
At the beginning of the night watches;
Pour out your heart like water
Before the presence of the Lord;
Lift up your hands to Him
For the life of your little ones
Who are faint because of hunger
At the head of every street."
All are invited

Perez Wins Farm Bureau Poster Contest

The "Picture Agriculture in West Virginia" poster contest for fourth-grade students in the state is sponsored by the West Virginia Farm Bureau's Women's Committee. The purpose of the contest is to promote the importance of agriculture in the Mountain State.

For the past 35 years, Pendleton County Farm Bureau has supported the contest for all fourth-grade students in the county.

Nakiyah Perez won the county poster contest. Her poster was entered in the state competition. Second place went to Madison Borror with Carsson Mitchell earning third place. Honorable mention was awarded to Mia Dudley and Lucas Hanna.

For her winning poster on the county level, Perez received $15. Borror earned $10, and Mitchell received $5. Dudley and Hanna each received $2, a Sacagawea dollar and a presidential dollar.

Perez, Mitchell and Hanna are students in Christine Lambert's class at Brandywine Elementary School. Borror and Dudley attend Franklin Elementary School and are students in Breanna Griffin's class.

The other students participating in the contest were awarded a presidential dollar. All participants received a certificate, signed by Steve Conrad, president of PCFB, and Paula Mitchell, the PCFB women's committee chairperson.

The winning poster in Pendleton County's Farm Bureau's "Picture Agriculture in West Virginia" contest was designed by Nakiyah Perez, center. Pictured with her are Paula Mitchell, PCFB's women's committee chairperson who presented the awards to the county's fourth-grade students, left, and Christine Lambert, fourth-grade teacher at Brandywine Elementary School.

Sixty-five posters were drawn by the county's fourth-grade students.

The following students also participated in the contest:

BES – Hunter Bowers, Faith Hough-Lachica, Jayson Jameson, Fletcher Puffenbarger, Vencen Rawson,

Wyatt Reel, Jack Edward Roberts, Chloe Simmons, Harper Spivey, Bethany Teagarden and Brody Whitlock;

FES (Griffin) – Brinleigh Bishop, Abbigail Cayton, Hailey Ferris, Karson Fox, Chase George, Dani Hoover, Paisley Jackson, Jaycee Lynn Jameson, Madison Mongold, Mason Mowery, Baylee Ours, Adara Plaugher, Kylie Raymond, Nathanael Vincell, Kieley Wheeler, Leah Wheeler and Colton Whetzel;

FES (Shanna Eye) – Mattox Ayala, Josiah Botkin, Lola Brooks, Tori Christan, Sloane Donnelly, Madalyn Griffin, Dylan Harper, Finley Harper, Hunter Hedrick, Urban Jones, Kaci Keller, Ariel Martin, Chandler Mauzy, Alexis Michael, Maddie Nesselrodt, Rosalyn Nesselrodt, Karsyn Ruddle, Emmett Sisson and Ryan Thompson; and

NFES (Rebecca Heavner) – Karlee Arbaugh, Oliver Cook, Leland Dove, Briar Hedrick, Kaden Kimble, Isaiah Marlow, Jace Nelson, Jace Ours, Vera Selmon, Kinsley Shane, Hannah Sponaugle, Braylon Warner and Layla Warner.

FFA Members Celebrate Achievements at Annual Banquet

Pendleton County FFA members celebrated another year of accomplishments at the chapter's banquet held May 17 at Pendleton County Middle/High School.

After Katie Keyser led the invocation, FFA members and guests enjoyed a meal provided by Dean's Gap Farm.

The opening ceremony was presided over by Pendleton County FFA officers, Cole Harper, president, Ty Heavner, vice president, Jessica Parker, secretary, Sam Eason, treasurer, Katie Heavner, reporter, and Keyser, sentinel, and Ron Hudson, FFA advisor.

After a video presentation of the year's highlights, special awards and presentations were made.

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

William Waddy of Petersburg, state FFA president, stated that it was a privilege to be close to Pendleton County FFA members for the past five years. He first met Hudson at the ham, bacon and egg show and shared that he had mixed emotions about Hudson, but came to the conclusion that he was "blunt." He congratulated Hudson on his retirement and the chapter on its many accomplishments. He told the members they were very lucky to have Mr. [Zach] Tennant as their new advisor and that he was excited to see what the future holds for the chapter.

FFA Greenhand Degrees were awarded to Ava Bowers, Kayla Harper, Tia Heavner, Elijah Ruddle, Jaxon Simon, McKenzie Vandevander and Landyn Warner. To earn a Greenhand Degree, FFA members must enroll in an agricultural education program and have plans for a Supervised Agricultural Experience, learn and explain the FFA creed, mission and motto and salute, describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors, demonstrate an understanding of the FFA Code of Ethics, the proper use of the FFA jacket, the history of the organization, chapter constitution and bylaws and the chapter's program of activities, have access to the official FFA manual and student handbook and submit a written application for the degree.

Tia Heavner was awarded the FFA Star Greenhand Award. She participated in chapter meetings, FFA breakfast and sold fruit. Her SAEs include working for Brushy Mountain Tree Farm, showing goats and sheep at various fairs and shows, and raising and selling sheep. She is the daughter of Travis and Teresa Heavner of Franklin.

Recipients of the Chapter FFA Degree were Ty Armentrout, Jax Bennett, Lucas DiFalco, Callie Dunn, Sam Eason, Lani Fertig, Mason Harper, Katie Heavner, Tanner Hedrick, Aubriana Holloway, Katie Keyser, Phoebe Pownell, Kaylee Teter and Layton Vandevander.

Chapter degrees are awarded to FFA members who have completed 180 hours (or the equivalent) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education, have an approved SAE, enrolled in an agriculture course, participated in the planning and implementation of at least three FFA activities, earned and productively invested at least $150 or have worked at least 45 hours outside of class time, or a combination of the two, through their SAE, lead a group discussion for 15 minutes, demonstrated five parliamentary law procedures, show progress toward achievement in FFA award programs, have satisfactory academic record, completed a minimum of 10 hours of community service and submitted a written application for the degree.

Awarded to an FFA member who excels in the field of agriculture, the FFA Star Chapter Farmer Award went to Katie Keyser. She owns 16 breeding sheep and produces market lambs for sale and personal use. She has traveled the country showing her market lambs. She is very active in the chapter participating in poultry judging, conduct of chapter meetings, parliamentary procedure and land judging. She is the daughter of Kami and Trey Kesyer of Upper Tract.

The FFA Star Chapter Agribusiness Placement Award, which is given to an individual who excels in the field of agricultural business, was presented to DiFalco. He works at T&K Markets and has gained more than 700 hours of experience by working in the produce department and stocking shelves. He is the son of Brian DiFalco and Jamie Difalco.

FFA members eligible to receive their State FFA degrees are Alex Adams, Cole Harper, Ty Heavner and Emily Schell. In order to earn a State FFA Degree, members must have received a chapter degree, been an active member for at least two years, earned and productively invested at least $1,000 or have worked 300 hours outside of the classroom through an SAE, demonstrated leadership ability by performing 10 parliamentary law procedures, given a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or FFA, served as an FFA officer or committee chairperson or committee member, maintain a satisfactory academic record, helped plan the chapter's program of activities, participated in at least five different FFA activities above the chapter level and completed at least 25 hours of community service in a minimum of two different activities.

The Farm Credit Award, which is presented to an FFA member who excels in recording keeping and management, was earned by Adams. The award was presented by Trey Keyser.

JD Heavner presented the annual Brandon Waggy Memorial Scholarship to Schell.

Fifteen FFA members participated in the annual South Branch Ham, Bacon and Egg Show and Sale. Members receiving checks from the sale were Adams, Armentrout, Dunn, Cole Harper, Mason Harper, Katie Heavner, Ty Heavner, Holloway, Jameigh Miller, Phoebe Pownell, Vivian Pownell, Emily Schell, Hannah Schell, Lexie Tingler and Layton Vandevander.

The Smith Golden Orange Award was presented to Adams who sold more than 160 units of fruit.

McKenzie Vandevander placed first place in the FFA Creed Speaking Career Development Event and will represent the eastern region at the state convention in July at Cedar Lakes. She delivered the creed from memory and responded to three questions.

Placing third in the regional prepared public speaking leadership development event was Adams. He wrote and delivered a six-to-eight-minute speech about a current agriculture-related topic.

Ty Heavner placed first in the regional extemporaneous public speaking leadership development event and will represent the eastern regional at the state convention. Participants are given 30 minutes to deliver a speech on one of three assigned agricultural topics. Students must learn to think on their feet and develop an argument quickly and persuasively.

The parliamentary procedure team consisting of Bennett, Dunn, Eason, Fertig, Katie Keyser and Teter, placed first in the regional competition. The team will be representing the eastern region at the state convention.

Members of the land judging team were Adams, Katie Heavner, Ty Heavner and Katie Keyser. Land judging is a program that teaches basic principles of soil science and helps FFA members understand practices that can protect and conserve land, water and the environment.

The poultry judging team consisting of Armentrout, Cole Harper, Katie Keyser and Miller placed second in the state FFA career development event. Individually, Cole Harper placed third in the state. Team members test their skills in the production, processing and marketing of chickens, turkeys, processed poultry products and eggs.

Six members participated in the tractor driving contest where they took a written test, did a parts identification and drove either a large or zero-turn tractor through a course. Placing first on a large tractor was Ty Heavner with Wyatt Hinkle placing first on the zero-turn tractor. Also participating were Adams and Hedrick.

American FFA Degrees will be awarded to Caleb Armentrout, Lydia Heavner and McKenna Hedrick in October at the National FFA Convention.

Chapter leadership awards were present to Aiden Shirk, Gary Smith and McKenzie Vandevander, ninth grade; Dunn, Katie Heavner and Katie Keyser, 10th grade; Adams, Cole Harper and Ty Heavner, 11th grade; and Madison Arbaugh, Miller and Emily Schell, 12th grade.

Community service awards were presented to Adams (31.5 hours) Katie Keyser (25 hours) and Emily Schell (20 hours).

During FFA Week, members traveled to the county elementary schools talking about the importance of agriculture and FFA. Students in grades preschool to third were given coloring contest sheets. Winners of the coloring contest were awarded a medal at the banquet. Receiving this honor were pre-kindergarten –Maggie Waters, North Fork Elementary School, Lucas Raines, Brandywine Elementary School and Tyler Clifton, Franklin Elementary School; kindergarten – Lynleigh Glover, NFES, Will Marsh, BES, and Jeremiah Botkin, FES; first grade – Brody Nelson, NFES, Alyssa Deavers, BES, and Oliver Mowery, FES; second grade – Gracie Thompson, NFES, Dylan Hensley, BES, and Violet Vanmeter, FES; and third grade – Oakley Dahmer, NFES, Jacob Wheeler, BES, and Jase Mitters, FES.

To conclude the presentations, Hudson thanked administrators and stated that he always tried to do his best every time. In times of sorrow, he was thankful for his wife, Jamie, and his girls. He said that he was thankful for the 30 years at the school and appreciated it.

Wildcats Gear Up for States

Continued From Page 1

average, respectively. Connor Hartman has established himself as a strong defensive player, reliable in tough situations.

Among the freshmen, Jaxson Simon has emerged as a reliable catcher, able to gun down base stealers while hitting .275 and sending in 22 runs batted in. Landon Davis stepped in for injured players as the season wound down and hit for a .360 average. Wyatt Haynes and Bryce Propst have also performed well when called upon.

Where they have made even more significant contributions has come with providing valuable pitching innings. Valuable in that they get more acclimated to varsity play, but also give plenty of respite to more experienced starters and relievers. Mason Miller pitched 30 and one third for a three and four record and a very respectable 5.31 earned run average. Cohen Hiett has almost 10 innings and a 0.75 ERA.

The team qualified for states with a 14 and 15 record, but as Yokum emphasizes, only 15 of those games came against Class A competition. An "old school" believer in the fact that tough schedules build tough teams, Yokum scheduled competitive games against Class AA, AAA, and also AAAA competition, competing well in some games against Jefferson, Hampshire, and Musselman.

"We've played up. We've taken some lumps, but we talked about that from the get go," said Yokum.

As he spoke, the crack of bats and the popping of baseballs into leather gloves produced "boys of summer" music under the brilliant blue skies whose hues match those of Wildcat team colors.

Though practice that Friday was light, with some traveling to cheer on the softball team in the state tournament, "I'd never tell them they can't go and support the softball team," noted Yokum. This week, games against Class AAAA qualifier Jefferson and Class AA qualifier Lincoln were scheduled.

Jefferson won the contest on Monday nine to two, but the game played out as more of an exhibition with both squads eyeing state competition in Huntington.

Yokum discussed the importance of taking a team loaded with youth, saying, "It gives them an opportunity to get the feel of the next level . . . playing in those conditions." Games will take place on Marshall University's field in downtown Huntington.

"I'm excited to hear that the high school baseball playoffs are going to Huntington," said the head coach. He described plans to allow players to keep their "walk up" music and also have their head shots displayed prominently on the scoreboard. "They're going to want to keep this for a long time." Yokum added "they've got batting cages where we're allowed to take batting practice," noting that those were not present in years' past.

As of press time, the WVSSAC had not yet released the seedings or the schedule. Yokum shared, "it will be interesting," but expressed a desire to play in the first round on Saturday a team the Wildcats had not yet faced.

A familiar foe in defending state champion East Hardy will also traverse the state to play, but "We want to see someone different, catch them in an off game," said Yokum, who then added "we talk about this a lot. We'll play anyone, anywhere for the opportunity to compete for a state championship."

Correction to 'Our Five Boys' Article

The description of the ceremony of transferring military effects contained mistakes.

Missy Harrison brought military possessions of Eston Propst to her niece, Katelyn Propst Frank. The article erroneously stated that it was her daughter.

Eston Propst joined the service in 1966, not 1956. He passed in 2022, not 2020. Propst returned from service as an E6 sergeant.

Loving Announces Retirement from PCB

During the annual shareholders meeting of Allegheny Bancshares, Inc., William A. "Bill" Loving, Jr. announced that he would be retiring from the position of chief executive officer of ABI and Pendleton Community Bank effective July 13, concluding a distinguished career spanning 54 years in community banking, including more than 25 years leading PCB.

Loving, a life-long community banker, began his career in Beckley and accepted the position of CEO of Pendleton County Bank, as it was known then, on Oct. 16, 2000. During his tenure at PCB, the organization significantly expanded its footprint from two to 15 financial centers with the sixteenth scheduled to open in late 2026. Early in this growth journey, ABI was established, and the bank was rebranded as Pendleton Community Bank or simply PCB to more clearly align with its geographic expansion. These changes supported new product and service offerings and modern banking delivery channels introduced during the the years, while maintaining an ever-constant focus on the importance of local, personalized customer service.

As of the most recent quarter-end, PCB has total assets of $825 million representing growth of $701 million (565 percent) and annual revenue growth of 481 percent during the last 25 years.

During Loving's career, he invested heavily into the industry he grew to love. This service includes trade associations at the state and national levels, with the Independent Community Bankers of America where he served on numerous committees, national chairman (2013-2014), and ICBA Services Network's chairman during the years of 2016-2019. During his time with ICBA, he testified on community banking issues before Congress, the Securities and Exchange Commission's advisory committee on smaller public companies and spoke at the 24th seminar on international finance in Tokyo, Japan. Currently, Loving is secretary and member of TCM Bank's board of directors and a former Class A director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Virginia.

Active in many professional and civic organizations, he serves as a board member of the Pendleton County Economic and Community Development Authority, and council member of the Region 8 Planning and Development Council. A charter board member of the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau, he served as chairman of both organizations and was awarded the chamber's Businessperson of the Year award on two occasions. He is also a former trustee of the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University, past instructor of the West Virginia School of Banking, and was awarded the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh's highest individual award, the Council's Award, in 2013.

Chad Branson, chairman of the board of directors of ABI and PCB stated, "For more than 25 years, Bill has established a lasting legacy and strong foundation for our bank. His vision and steady leadership have guided a period of tremendous growth and transformation, ensuring we are well positioned for the future. He will be greatly missed as CEO; however, I look forward to Bill's continued service on both the ABI and PCB Bank board and as a strategic advisor to ABI."

Also, during the meeting, it was announced that Neil Hayslett, who currently serves as president and chief operating officer of PCB, would be appointed to the chief executive officer position effective July 13.

Loving stated, "It has been my honor and privilege to lead PCB over the last 25 years. I truly enjoyed the unique opportunity to work with such talented individuals throughout my career that helped transition the bank into the organization that we are today. To end my career after celebrating our 100th anniversary, reporting record profits and strong financial position, I am confident that the bank will continue to thrive under our next CEO, Neil." He went on to say, "Without the help of so many and the trust of our customers and shareholders, we would not be who we are today. To each of you – thank you!"

William A. "Bill" Loving, Jr.

PCB
Your Bank for Generations®

everyone is welcome

CUSTOMER
Appreciation Day

Join us for food, refreshments, giveaways and more as we say thank you! Please, stop by to visit with Bill Loving and wish him well on his upcoming retirement.

JUNE 12, 2026
11:00AM - 2:00PM

128 N. Main Street, Franklin

Grand Prize Drawing:
Blackstone Grill with Accessory Set, Grill Cover, and Cleaning Kit
Yeti Tundra Cooler
GCI Outdoor Chairs
Corn Hole Board Set and More!!

yourbank.bank

WVUMedicine / GRANT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Second Annual GMH
Family Health & Fun Fair

Saturday, June 6
7am-1pm
at Grant Memorial Hospital

- Bounce House
- Obstacle Course
- Glitter Tattoos
- Face Painting
- Door Prizes
- Games & Giveaways

Over 40 vendors registered to share information on local and regional resources!

Food, Drinks & Sweets available from Highway 304 and The Grove Cafe & Bakery

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ANSWERS, NOT PRESSURE

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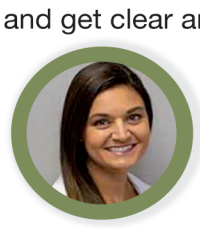

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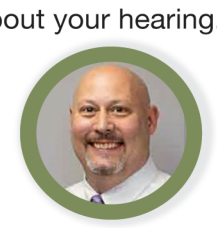
Doctor of Audiology



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The Tucker Community Foundation's 36th Annual Uncle Sam's Birthday Party
Friday, July 3rd
At the Bear Paw Lodge of Canaan Valley State Park
Doors opening at 5:15PM
Dinner will start at 6:00PM.
Tickets Available Now!

Tickets $150.00 each and entitle the purchaser to dinner for two and entry into the elimination drawing with a chance to win $5,000!

This annual event includes an elimination raffle, plated dinner, door prizes and additional raffle prizes.

Dinner will be a petit fillet and shrimp, a vegetarian option will be available.

There will be a cash bar at the event as well. The money prizes have been increased this year since it is the 250th anniversary of the United States, the prize amounts went up. Normally, every 25th ticket drawn during the elimination receives $150, this year those people will get to do a punch board to reveal what they have won. The punch board holes will have different dollar amounts ranging from $150 all the way up to $500! The additional raffle with additional ticket purchase includes the popular Greenbrier Resort weekend package, which has been upgraded this year to include a weekend round of golf for two, if the winner does not golf it can be switched for credit at the Greenbrier's other amenities, except the casino.

The annual Total Tucker package of local gift certificates to skiing, golfing, food venues, and other activities, pieces of artwork, and other locally themed items, has been divided into two packages because of the generous donations from local businesses.

The last package this year, for the 250th Anniversary of the United Sates will be a weekend trip to historic Williamsburg. "Since the raffle packages have been upgraded this year for the 250th Raffle for a red, white and blue patriotic quilt made by Bobbie Cippel, all people attending are encouraged to bring extra money this year to buy those raffle tickets!

The Tucker Community Foundation uses the proceeds from the event to help fund their scholarship and grant programs. These programs issue over $1,300,000 in grants and over 50 different scholarships to students in our region.

For tickets please ask any Foundation board member or contact the Foundation's office at (304) 478-2930. Additional information can be found on the Foundation's new website: WWW.TUCKERFOUNDATIONWV.ORG.

Wildcats Stunned by Maroon Knights in Opening State Tournament Game

By Stephen Smoot

Susan Vincell dominated competition on the mound and with her bat. Photo courtesy of WVSSAC.

The game was going swimmingly for Pendleton County, almost an apt term considering the heavy rains that drenched the state last week. Then Wheeling Central Catholic put on a storm of their own to hand Pendleton County a setback in its opening game of the West Virginia State Softball Tournament.

The weather had a bit of everything that one could expect in the Kanawha Valley in late May. Intense thunderstorms interspersed with periods of light and also soaking rains. In between, brief interludes of intense summer sun baked rainwater into humidity. For some teams, the weather served as an even bigger adversary than the competition.

Both teams pitched to a scoreless draw in the first inning, but the Wildcats opened scoring in the top of the second. Jess Parker got down quickly on no balls and two strikes, but then fouled the next pitch directly back. This generally indicates that the batter has the pitcher timed. Parker clubbed the next pitch into centerfield for a single.

A few batters later and with two outs against Pendleton County recorded, Lexi Tingler came up to bat. She also quickly found herself down no balls and two strikes, but the baserunner swiped third during the at bat. Tingler poked the ball into centerfield, but got herself caught in a rundown for the third out. Alertly, the baserunner came home and put Pendleton County up 1-0.

Susan Vincell pitched the entire game for Pendleton County. Remarkably, neither she nor her Wheeling Central Catholic counterpart walked a batter all day. The first batter of the bottom of the second barely beat a great throw from Chesnee Colaw to get to first safely, then made it to scoring position on second base on a sacrifice. Vincell struck out the next two hitters to preserve the slender lead.

Rain plagued Pendleton County batters in the top of the third, including a brief delay. The Maroon Knights set them down in order.

Molly Rowe led off in the top of the fourth. Down in the count, she tapped a slow dribbler down the first base side and legged out the throw to reach safely. Colaw followed by grounding toward second. It was fielded, but misplayed when she tried to get the lead runner at second. The resulting error put runners at second and third for Parker.

The power hitting Parker did exactly what was needed, lofting a ball high and moderately deep into left field. When caught, the lead runner tagged and scored to put the advantage at 2-0. Two batters later, Laney Bowers swung and missed at the first pitch, but reached out and smacked the second into right center, driving a third run home.

In the bottom of the fourth, Vincell fielded a hit from the first batter and dispatched the batter quickly. The second batter for Wheeling Central Catholic on the first pitch popped the ball up about 10 feet in the air and 10 feet out from the plate. It landed squarely in fair territory, then the English on the ball spun it towards foul ground. Vincell later struck that batter out.

Pendleton County settled in. The bottom of the fifth saw Vincell mow down the batters in order. The third out came on a very slow ground ball towards second that was fielded cleanly, thrown quickly, and secured the third out by seconds.

Then came the bottom of the sixth. The Wildcats secured the first two outs, then came a base hit to put one on. An error put a second on and another single brought in the first run for the Maroon Knights, who then scored three more to take a 4-3 advantage. Vincell struck out the last batter of the inning.

The Maroon Knights held on in the top of the inning to take an improbable win on a day full of similar results.

But, however, Pendleton County was about to kick off an improbable run down the long road of the losers' bracket, working to get back to another state championship game appearance.

Wildcats Rebound in Big Way, Eliminate Rival Cougars

By Stephen Smoot

Chesnee Colaw makes a play from third base in the dominating victory over East Hardy. Photo courtesy of WVSSAC.

Pendleton County got stunned by Wheeling Catholic Central in game one, but returned with their claws armed and ready for game two. Awaiting them was regional rival East Hardy who had given the White Falcons of Wahama all they wanted in the first game, losing only 2-0 to the powerhouse program from Mason County.

The first Cougar runner got aboard on a miscue and made her way to scoring position at second base. A sacrifice bunt advanced her to third. The next batter slapped a soft grounder to third, putting the East Hardy run across.

Susan Vincell ended the inning with a strikeout and her squad took over at the plate.

With one out and no one on, Callie Judy laid a bunt down, rolling it slowly in front of the plate. East Hardy pounced on the ball, but Judy reached safely on an error. Next up came Jessica Parker, to whom the first pitch came over for a strike, but the fleet footed Judy swiped second. Parker ended up earning a walk in the at bat.

Two batters later, Kinsley Price fired a line drive to right field. Wildcat base runners took an aggressive posture all day. That helped two runners come in to give Pendleton County the lead, 2-1.

Vincell set the Cougars down in order in the second, striking out two in the half inning and East Hardy dispatched the Wildcats in their half of the inning.

In the top of the third, East Hardy posted three runs to take the lead. But that would not last long.

Pendleton County started off the bottom of the third with a Judy base on balls. Parker stepped to the plate next. After evening the count at one ball and one strike, she drove a line shot into centerfield, but a Cougar's leaping catch deferred the third Pendleton County run, at least for a bit.

Vincell put in the work at the plate to help her cause on the mound. With one out, she sent the ball into right field where it caromed off the glove of the fielder. One run scored, Vincell reached third, and once again the game was tied, this time at three.

With Madison Arbaugh running for Vincell on third, Price laid down a bunt and outlegged the throw to put runners at the corners. In another example of softball as a "game of inches" at times, Chesnee Colaw drove a pitch off the glove of the left fielder, sending in two runs and putting her squad back on top to stay.

The sixth run of the game and fourth run of the inning came across during a wild pitch.

Neither team gained advantage on the other until the Pendleton half of the fifth inning.

Lexi Tingler patiently outworked the East Hardy pitcher, gaining a base on balls on six pitches. Colaw followed with a walk of her own.

Next came Abby Judy, one of the freshmen with great potential that head coach Hillary Fox mentioned prior to the season. She came through in her at bat, coolly laying a bunt down the third base line, then accelerating to first and beating the throw. Her bunt also earned her a run batted in as the score moved to 7-4.

Next up came Laney Bowers. On her fourth pitch, the ball escaped the glove of the catcher, giving Colaw an opportunity to sprint in and score the eighth run. Bowers' at bat concluded with a sacrifice when she angled a ground ball to third. Though out at first, she earned the RBI when the ninth run crossed the plate.

East Hardy desperately tried to stave off the mercy rule in the face of their own fatigue and the rising momentum of the Wildcats. Callie Judy earned a walk with two outs recorded. Then Parker drove a ball off of the pitcher and reached safely herself.

Vincell stepped to the plate with runners at the corners and pulled the ball with authority past third base and into left field. Her stand up double came with two RBIS and put her team one run away from closing it out against East Hardy.

Arbaugh stood in as the courtesy runner as Price entered her at bat. Four pitches in, she laced a ground ball into centerfield for the 12th run and the end of the contest with the score 12-4.

Sherman Stunned by Wildcat Late Inning Surge

By Stephen Smoot

Molly Rowe, taking a cut in the win over Sherman, had a strong tournament. Photo courtesy of Leon Estep.

Robert Frost recommends the "road less traveled" and that holds true in the West Virginia High School softball playoffs as much as in his poetry. Four teams get to traverse the winners bracket as they contend for a state title. Those unfortunate enough to falter in their initial game find the road, more like a gauntlet, much more crowded, much more difficult, and much more wearisome.

Pendleton County took their lumps in game one, but that did not derail their confidence as they cut down the East Hardy Cougars and then took on Sherman. The squad from Seth rode in with a 22 and 13 record, but that slate of wins did not include many schools in higher classifications. Conversely, Pendleton County's journey included solid wins over Class AA competition and decisive wins over Class AAAA Spring Mills and Class AAA Hampshire.

Sherman drew first blood, taking two from Pendleton County in the bottom of the first. They faced a still strong Susan Vincell on the mound, but in her third game in two days. The Tide got their first runner aboard despite an heroic effort by Kinsley Price at second base. She dove for the ball, corralled it, then from her posterior nearly gunned the first runner out, missing by a second.

The Wildcats fired back in the top of the third inning. Molly Rowe drew a one out walk and was assisted by a Callie Judy sacrifice bunt to get to scoring position. Jessica Parker followed, driving a no balls and one strike pitch off of the pitcher and well into centerfield. Rowe wasted no time, circling the bases and coming in for the first Wildcat run.

With two outs and a runner on first, Vincell drove the first pitch out to the outfield wall with Parker going home with the tying run. Price, who was the lone Wildcat on the all-tournament team, hit a frozen rope drive to left field. This scored the third run, but Price was tagged out trying to extend the play to third base.

Pendleton County hit Sherman again in the top of the fifth. Laney Bowers slapped a ground ball toward second. Her speed and hustle got her there safe just ahead of the throw. The next at bat belonged to Molly Rowe. On the fifth of six pitches a passed ball allowed Bowers to get to scoring position. When Rowe pulled the next pitch into left field, that is exactly what Bowers did, setting the score at 4-2.

Judy struck out in her at bat, but Rowe stole third on the first pitch to her. Next up, Parker got her bat under the ball and lifted it high into centerfield, deep enough for the runner to tag and score the fifth Wildcat run.

With Vincell pitching so many games in such a short time, her defense had to pick her up when she was not racking up strikeouts. The bottom of the fifth served as a perfect example.

Sherman managed to get a runner to third base with no outs. Then the next batter hit a lazy fly to shallow center. Judy got a jump on the ball that even Dale Murchy or Willie McGee would have envied. She dove to her knees, made a sliding catch with the very tip of her glove, then rolled her glove hand to cradle the ball for the important out.

Rowe could have replied with "hold my cola" as the next pitch to a Sherman batter was flared into shallow left. She sprinted back, reached up, and snagged the second out. Vincell got the third batter to pop up softly to first.

As Vincell and her fielders shut out Sherman from scoring opportunities, they slammed the door to a comeback with their hitting. Sherman's hurler, precisely painting targets on the outside of the strike zone early, now struggled to get strikes. Price earned a walk with two of the pitches tracking higher than she is tall.

Next, Lexy Tingler laid a bunt down the third base side that moved Price to scoring position. With one out and Tingler on second, Chesnee Colaw lofted a jam job pop up behind first base and in front of the right fielder, scoring Pendleton County's sixth run.

The Wildcats added more runs in the top of the seventh after Vincell and the defense retired the side in order.

Rowe led off with a single that glanced off the glove of the third baseman. Next, Callie Judy lifted a base hit into right field whose position perplexed the fielder long enough to get Rowe home for the seventh run.

Parker followed next. On a two balls and two strikes count, she swung the bat pitching wedge-style back to the pitcher, then outraced the throw to first. Vincell's at bat included a Judy steal of third, which she then rewarded with a towering fly ball to deep center that sent the lead runner home.

Up 8-3, Pendleton County sent Price to the plate. On her way to a two and two count, she fouled numerous balls straight back, an ominous sign for any pitcher, meaning that the batter has the pitches well timed. Price smacked a line drive off the glove of the left fielder, scoring the ninth run. She then scored the final run during Colaw's at bat. As Price stole third, the catcher attempted to gun her down, but the throw went errant into left field.

Sherman put up two in the seventh, but Rowe put her team in the win column, 10-5, by squeezing the last out on a pop up.

An exhausted Wildcat team did not fare well against the surging Wahama White Falcons and were eliminated by them, 11-0. That said, the team only loses two seniors with the backbone of the players coming from ninth through 11th grade. With talented rising freshmen waiting to fight for a place on the team next year, Pendleton County softball should remain dominant for the foreseeable future.

Organization of the Month, Heroes 4 Hire, Gives Veterans Opportunities for a Better Life

By Stephen Smoot

From the 1990s forward, United States servicemen and women have found themselves called to serve in ways never asked before. Multiple wars, long-term deployments into occasionally hostile areas, dealing with the wear and tear of years of conflict on equipment and morale continue to take a toll on countless veterans as they exit the service and move into civilian life.

Another aspect of war not seen as much prior lay in "no safe zones" in many conflicts. In Iraq and Afghanistan, for example, everyone from the United States Special Forces to office clerks could find themselves under fire from irregular guerilla forces and terrorists.

The sacrifices made include the time, energy, and frustration from veterans working to readjust to civilian life and seeking their path in life.

Thankfully, most Americans embrace the concept of special assistance to veterans. Myriad programs endeavor to help. One such West Virginia-based program is Heroes 4 Hire from Eastern Action, part of the West Virginia Community Action Partnership. Although Eastern Action primarily serves the counties of the Eastern Panhandle, Heroes 4 Hire is a federally grant supported program that operates in all 55 Mountain State counties.

Daniel Barr, who administers veterans' programs for Eastern Action, explained that "this is an entirely federally funded program through the United States Department of Labor." It assists with job training, education, and helping veterans find the most productive possible path into the workforce and serves "at-risk" veterans, including those exiting incarceration.

"The goal is not just to get them a job at Burger King or McDonalds," shared Barr, adding that "meaningful" jobs that can lead to better pay and advancement possibilities are the priority. Trainings, often through the West Virginia community and technical college system or with online courses that lead to national level certifications, can lead to the kinds of skills and certifications that elevate individuals above unskilled labor jobs. They also open doors to fields in demand in West Virginia, such as in the trades and health care, which helps to build local economies through expansion of the skilled workforce.

"We can help them as long as they are under the 'living wage.'" said Barr.

The program can also assist with the basics of what an employee may need on the job. For example, those going into construction or contracting might receive a set of "start up tools", protective steel-toed boots, and other gear needed when starting work. Another potential area of assistance lies in helping with child care.

The program serves as a milestone also for Eastern Action. "This is our first direct grant program where we are not a 'pass-through.'" said Barr. "This is pretty significant for us as an agency." Eastern Action has also never operated a statewide program prior to Heroes 4 Hire, either. It currently is working with about 125 veteran clients.

One challenge lies in staffing the program. Currently staff in Petersburg and Beckley cover expansive territories, but as Barr explains, "Two is not enough to cover the entire state." The program is currently recruiting an administrator to focus on the North Central counties on the Interstate 79 and 68 corridors north of and including Harrison.

"The numbers will skyrocket when we get someone hired there," noted Barr.

One success story involved an individual struggling to qualify for entry into the Merchant Marine. He needed a passport and other requirements. The program got him "everything he needed" in 10 days.

Energy Information Administration Forecasts Record Natural Gas Production, Significant Oil Price Drop by End of Year

By Stephen Smoot

Oil prices will start to drop slowly in June and the decline will pick up speed by the close of the year, according to the United States Energy Information Administration. With international pressure expected to open the Strait of Hormuz, oil production is expected to rise in the Arab states. China agreed to work with the United States to free access to the Straits during last week's summit with President Donald Trump.

With the exception of California, the United States is much less dependent on Straits of Hormuz shipping than China at this point.

The EIA states that "large inventory draws" in May and June will interfere with the natural downward pressures on the price of oil, and by extension the price of gasoline. While Brent prices will remain slightly above $100 a barrel through June, prices are expected to dip to $89 a barrel by the fourth quarter of this year and below $80 early in 2027.

The price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil is predicted to drop even faster, hitting $80 by the fourth quarter and stabilize around $70 by the end of 2027.

Gasoline prices generally rise along with the price of oil, but lag behind drops in crude oil prices. Gasoline prices are based on the expectation of future cost and demand, not current conditions.

Additionally, the conflict in Iran has created a reorientation of the global oil and shipping economy away from Iran and toward the Arab states and the United States.

The United States is the largest producer of crude oil in the world.

United States natural gas production will continue to rise through the end of the year, shared the EIA. As the EIA reports, the United States hit a record high production in energy last year with 107 quadrillion British thermal units, 3.4 percent higher than 2024.

Production of "dry" natural gas hit a record high of 39 billion cubic feet in 2025, rising more than four percent from the previous year. Appalachian production, as well as Permian and Haynesville fields, accounted for the continued rise.

Since 2011, the United States has been the top worldwide producer of natural gas.

Natural gas production nationwide rose four percent from the first quarter of 2025 to that of 2026. The EIA states that "we expect production to keep rising through 2027" as the high price of crude oil pushes higher production of that product. The Permian and Haynesville regions have seen six percent growth.

Liquefied Natural Gas export capacity expanded by 0.9 billion cubic feet per day with new port facilities coming online. The EIA states, however, that expansion of such facilities face "long lead times" that will "constrain growth in the US."

Production of natural gas plant liquids grew seven percent to a record four trillion cubic feet in 2025, accounting for nine percent of domestic energy production

The EIA shared that it expects "incremental" growth in natural gas use by industry, saying "increases in industrial activity are partially offset by efficiency gains" that "reduce the amount of natural gas needed per unit of output." The chemicals subsector, including the production of hydrogen fuel and fertilizer, is the largest industrial natural gas consumer."

Efficiencies, say the EIA, come from the adoption of "more efficient process heaters" and "heat recovering technologies" that tap into the heat of exhaust or other byproducts. "Waste heat recovery can improve energy efficiency 10 to 50 percent," says an EIA study.

Energy-intensive industries, such as those producing glass and metals, have the highest potential for efficient uses of waste heat.

These factors, say the EIA, will contribute to the "natural gas-weighted manufacturing index to increase by 1.5 percent in 2026 and 0.7 percent in 2027."

Arbaugh, Dove, Wehrle Named PCM/HS Students of the Month

Pendleton County High School April students of the month are, from left, Madison Arbaugh and Corbin Dove.

Lori Wehrle is the Pendleton County Middle School April student of the month.

Madison Arbaugh, Corbin Dove and Lori Wehrle have been named outstanding students of the month for April at Pendleton County Middle/High School.

A senior, Arbaugh, is the April Academic Student of the Month. She is a member of FFA, National Honor Society, Pep Club, and the softball team at PCHS. She is on the A-Honor Roll and received the All-Star Award for Upward Bound. She participates in beauty pageants, 4-H and likes to volunteer. Her plans are to go to Eastern Community College and receive an associate's degree in business while starting her own tattoo business. She is the daughter of Derek and Roxanne Arbaugh of Circleville.

Dove, a senior, is the April James Huffman Responsible Student of the Month. He is a member of the PCHS football team and National Honor Society. He is in the top 10 of the class of 2026 and is a Regional Math Field Day participant. He is an SP Photography ambassador and works at Fox's Pizza in Brandywine. He plans to attend West Virginia University and major in criminology and psychology. He is the son of Kevin and Shay Dove of Brandywine.

Eighth-grade student, Lori Wehrle, is the April Student of the Month for the middle school. She is the daughter of Frank and Tanya Wehrle of Franklin. She is an honor roll student and a member of the theatre at PCMHS. She volunteers for West Virginia University Energy Express during the summer. She is exploring future career options with computers and technology.

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2023 FORD F-550 CREW CAB LARIAT 4X4, 7.3 gas V-8, auto., ldd., burgundy, only 2K miles, new cond.	$69,500
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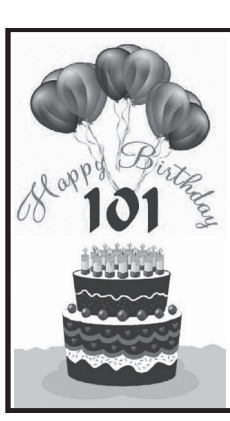

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•Insect Bites: Apply full strength vinegar to mosquito or other insect bites to relieve the itching. (Caution: Do not do this if the affected area is raw.)

•Cut Flowers: To extend the life of flowers in a vase, add a few tablespoons of white vinegar to the water, plus a dash of sugar.

— The Old Farmer's Almanac

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"NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING"

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

Contact

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

Google Meeting information

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

5-28-2c 1c

250th Anniversary License Plate Available

July 4 marks the Semiquincentennial, the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. West Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles has released a limited-time license plate to mark the occasion.

"It's wonderful that the DMV has made available this license plate commemorating the 250th anniversary of our great nation, and to allow the citizens of West Virginia to show their patriotism," said Todd Rumbaugh, transportation secretary.

Governor Patrick Morrisey unveiled the plate May 19 at a ceremony at the West Virginia Culture Center at the State Capitol Complex to officially kick off West Virginia's celebration of the 250th anniversary.

"We're so excited to kick off all things America 250 in West Virginia, and this commemorative license plate is a great place to start," said Chelsea Ruby, West Virginia Department of Tourism secretary. "This is such an important milestone for our country that we plan to honor and celebrate accordingly."

In celebration of the United States' 250th anniversary, the license plate design features stars, stripes and fireworks in a way that is uniquely West Virginian, with the New River Gorge Bridge and mountain scenery below a night sky. Available for a limited time only, the design makes use of bright colors which provide a distinctive look even at a distance.

"From the hollows to the mountaintops, this license plate is not only a testament to our country, but a memorial to the men and women who have served and sacrificed so that America remains free," said Everett Frazier, division of motor vehicles commissioner. "This is not just a license plate. This is an opportunity to be inspired by their lives, to remember them, and to have pride in their contributions to keeping us free."

The license plate is available at DMV offices, or online at dmv.wv.gov.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 26-0508-E-42T

MONONGAHELA POWER COMPANY and THE POTOMAC EDISON COMPANY
Rule 42T tariff filing to increase rates and charges

NOTICE OF EVIDENTIARY HEARING AND PROPOSED CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATES

Notice is hereby given that Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company, public utilities, have filed with the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, tariffs containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing electric service to approximately 558,000 customers in northern, central, eastern and northwestern portions of West Virginia in all or portions of the following counties: Barbour, Berkeley, Braxton, Brooke, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Lewis, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, and Wood.

If approved by the Public Service Commission, the proposed increased rates and charges will occur in two steps, with the first step effective August 1, 2026, and the second step effective June 1, 2027. The first step will produce an approximate $37.9 million increase in revenues, or approximately 2.1%. The second step will produce an approximate $37.6 million increase in revenues, which is an incremental increase of approximately 2.1% over the first step. The aggregate of both increases is $75.6 million, or 4.25% as compared with present rates.

The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers are proposed to be changed as follows:

Average Customer Class	First Step Increase Effective August 1, 2026		Second Step Increase Effective June 1, 2027	
Residential	$4.12	3.0%	$4.11	2.9%
Commercial	$6.88	1.7%	$6.74	1.6%
Industrial	$2,545.25	1.3%	$2,508.64	1.3%
Street Liqhting	$9.60	2.0%	$9.41	1.9%

There are no resale customers of Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company.

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission.

The Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing beginning at 9:30 a.m. on July 9, 2026, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. Interested persons should monitor the Commission's web docket and website because the evidentiary hearing may be rescheduled or cancelled for good cause.

Anyone desiring to protest or comment should file a written comment prior to July 9, 2026. Anyone desiring to file protest or comments or participate on the record in public comment proceedings may do so without formally intervening. Protests and comments may be filed online through the Public Service Commission website (www.psc.state.wv.us) using the "Submit Comment" link or may be mailed or hand delivered to the Executive Secretary Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, 201 Brooks St., Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

Anyone desiring to formally intervene must file for leave to intervene on or before June 26, 2026, and comply with the Public Service Commission's rules on intervention. Petitions to intervene must include a statement of the petitioner's unique interest in the outcome of the proceeding and reason for the intervention. Formal intervention is necessary for party status and to allow participation in the evidentiary hearings. Failure to formally and timely intervene will restrict rights to participate as a party. All petitions to intervene may be mailed or hand delivered to The Executive Secretary, at the same address as above.

A complete copy of the tariff filing, as well as a representative to provide information about the filing, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the Company offices at 5001 NASA Blvd., Fairmont, WV 26554. A copy of this tariff filing is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission.

Monongahela Power Company and
The Potomac Edison Company

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

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

PENDLETON COUNTY, to wit:

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

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

GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND

Estimated revenues:

Local Sources:	
Property taxes (Net of allowances)	$ 4,062,700
Other local sources	90,000
State Sources:	
State aid to schools	7,824,110
Retirement, Insurance, Retirement Liability	3,708,500
Other unrestricted	20,000
Step 7	426,900
Local Share - Technology	284,200
Federal sources:	
Unrestricted	215,000
Total estimated revenues	16,631,410
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	57,200
Estimated beginning balance	1,767,400
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	$ 18,456,010

Estimated expenditures:

Instruction	$ 8,462,510
Supporting services:	
Students	1,190,300
Instructional staff	646,700
Central administration	499,700
School administration	1,009,700
Central services/Personnel	400,800
Operation and maintenance of facilities	1,753,200
Student transportation	1,784,400
Food services	31,200
Community services	34,800
Debt service:	
Principal retirement	200,900
Interest and fiscal charges	10,000
Total estimated expenditures	16,024,210
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	817,900
Reserve for contingencies	1,613,900
Total estimated expenditures, other financing uses, and reserves	$18,456,010

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND

Estimated revenues:

Local Sources	$ -
State Sources	
State aid to schools	-
Other	
Federal sources	-
Miscellaneous sources	
Total estimated revenues	-
Total Beginning Balance	-
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	50,000
Estimated beginning balance	
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources	$ 50,000

Estimated expenditures:

Instruction	$ -
Supporting services:	
Students	
Instructional staff	
Central administration	
School administration	
Business	
Food services	-
Community services	
Capital outlay	50,000
Total estimated expenditures	50,000
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	-
Total estimated expenditures and other financing uses	$ 50,000

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Estimated revenues:

Local Sources	$ -
State Sources:	
State aid to schools	288,000
Federal sources	1,287,700
Total estimated revenues	1,575,700
Total Beginning Balance	-
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	500,100
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	$ 2,075,800

Estimated expenditures:

Instruction	$ 828,620
Food services	1,201,700
Total estimated expenditures	2,030,320
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	45,480
Total estimated expenditures, and other financing uses	$ 2,075,800

SPECIAL REVENUE SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUND

Estimated revenues:

Local Sources	$ 17,200
State Sources:	
State aid to schools	-
Federal sources	-
Total estimated revenues	17,200
Total Beginning Balance	-
Estimated transfers in and other financing sources	36,000
Total estimated revenues, other financing sources, and beginning balance	$ 53,200

Estimated expenditures:

Instruction	$ 36,000
Food services	-
Total estimated expenditures	36,000
Total estimated transfers and other financing uses	17,200
Total estimated expenditures, and other financing uses	$ 53,200

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

PENDLETON County, to wit:

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

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

Livestock Team Engages in Cattle Competitive Event

Members of the Pendleton County Livestock Judging Team competed April 10 at the 36th annual West Virginia Beef Expo Stockman's Contest held at Jackson's Mill in Weston. They joined teams from across the state in a competitive evaluation event.

The senior team was comprised of Katie Heavner, Tori Heavner, Isabella Hoover and Branson Smith. Tori Heavner and Hoover elected to compete in the senior division this year to complete the team.

Competing against 44 senior teams, Pendleton County earned an 18th-place team finish. Individually, Katie Heavner received 13th overall senior out of 215 competitors.

The contest provided participants with an opportunity to strengthen their livestock evaluation and stockmanship skills while gaining valuable experience in agriculture and decision-making.

The team's performance reflects their hard work and dedication to the livestock judging program.

The team is coached by Jessica Hoover, Pendleton County's agriculture and natural resources extension agent.

Pendleton County 4-H members participating in the West Virginia Beef Expo Stockman's Contest were, from left, Jessica Hoover (coach), Isabella Hoover, Branson Smith, Katie Heavner and Tori Heavner.

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Kelly Roby, Sales Agent **304.257.8859**

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

SGR412A 5.69 Acres, w/1 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin, built in 2010. Loft for overflow sleeping, Septic, 1800 Gallon Cistern, Washer/Dryer, Year-round access, Outbuilding, Wood Shed. Very well maintained. Located in Dry Run area. Shared ROW. Franklin District, Pendleton Cty. **$180,000.00.**

SGR409A 0.04 Acres w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Home located on 18 Spruce St., Franklin Corp. New Hot water heater w/expansion tank, New stainless steel appliances, New guttering system, Cement driveway, Hard wired Ring cameras with motion lights. Mini-Splits and new window installation in 2021. **$175,000.00.**

SGR408A 7.88 Acres w/3 Bed, 2 Bath Log Siding Cabin, Fully & Tastefully Furnished, Large Decks, Full Finished basement, Screened in Porch, Spring Water. Higher clearance vehicle recommended. Buck Ridges Development. Some Restrictions. **$285,000.00.**

SGR407A 8.26 acre Off Grid, one room cabin on Kile Knob. Solar panels. No septic. Cistern water. Property joins 9.48 acres Kile Knob Common area. Hiking trails. Gated. **$189,000.00.**

SGR406A World Class View at 3017 ft, overlooking beautiful Germany Valley & Spruce Knob. Located in Seneca Lookout Development. 70.00 Acres w/2 Bed, 2.5 Bath 1.5 Story Log Cabin. Baseboard Elec & Wood Heat, Well, Septic, Outbuilding, Joins National Forest. **$749,000.00.**

SGR404A CABIN W/CAVE ACCESS! 5 Acres w/1 Bed, 2.5 Bath Log Siding Cabin, Loft sleeping area, Primary bdrm has access to the 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.**.

SGR401A Charming 2/3 bedroom, 1 bath, ranch style, with partial basement on 0.45 ac., paved driveway, covered carport, with ramp to back entrance, detached 1 car garage, LP heat/hot water, some appliances convey. House is being sold AS-IS. Franklin Corp. $179,000.00. SOLD

SGR400A 5 Bed, 3 Bath home located in Franklin District on 2.5 acres offers privacy in peaceful, wooded surroundings while being near schools and all town amenities. Attached 2 car garage, partially finished basement, fenced yard, Heat Pump & Central AC, 3 Fireplaces, Well, Septic and Water Filtration system. **$549,000.00.**

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

SGR392A Custom Canadian White Cedar Log Home. 4 Bed, 2 Bath, 3,088 sq. ft. Cabin on 119.45 acres located in Hidden Valley. Red Oak and Mexican Tile flooring. Two Car Garage & partial basement. Mature plants and trees. Some Restrictions apply. Franklin District. ~~**$919,000.00**~~ **REDUCED $899,000.00.**

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

SGR382A 45 Ac. w/1 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin, Solar powered, no restrictions, Cistern & Septic, Shooting Range, Excellent Hunting, Franklin District. ~~**$399,000.00**~~ **REDUCED $379,000.00.**

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

SGR380A Building Lot, 5.62 Acres, Lot #3, Dry Run Rd, Sharps Ridge, Franklin District. Electric nearby. **NEW LISTING $39,000.00.**

SGR379A 5994 Mount Freedom Drive, Cherry Grove 14.70 acres, 2 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.**

Farmers Market Opening Will Coincide With Pendleton County Farm Crawl in June

By Stephen Smoot

"We are going to be starting on June 13 this year," said Annie Humes, director of the Pendleton County Farmers Market. "This date is huge because it is also our second annual farm crawl."

She explained that on that day, the Farmers Market would serve as a "hub" connecting all of the other attractions for that day.

The market will be open from 8 a.m. to noon with the crawl starting then. More details will come as the event draws closer.

Humes stated that she is holding vendor meetings as information only and not a requirement for participation. "They can learn about the rules, ask questions," she said.

Two groups of individuals can receive vouchers with which to purchase fresh foods. The Seniors' Farmers Market Nutrition Program, operated by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, offered through WIC, both can be used to purchase fresh, unprepared, and locally grown foods, including fresh herbs. These are usable at qualified farmers markets, roadside stands, and approved farms/ farmers.

Pendleton County has a number of regular vendors, many of them from farms in the county. "We're expecting all of our old regulars back," Humes said, then added that "we encourage other people to try it out." The Pendleton County Farmers Market in recent years used grant funding to purchase a modern point of sale system that easily organizes consignment sales.

Vendors need not be present to sell. Since the beginning, Humes has emphasized that the market is always open to those small-time producers and hobbyists who may not produce large amounts for sale consistently. "We have a couple of people who are drowning in green beans who come in and sell. If you are interested, please stop in and have a chat," said Humes.

She also noted that the drought may affect some of the producers' ability to get product to market every week.

One important point to note, Humes shared that "as of this season, farmers market permits from the West Virginia Department of Agriculture are free." This removes, at least for this year, the annual fee.

The market will run through the summer until early September.

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DEER RUN - 3.13 ac residential mountain lo lot. State maintained road, electric available, beautiful v Rocky Mountain Rd., Franklin. $28,500. Under Contract

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

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

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

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