

THE PENDLETON TIMES

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Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia 26807

Thursday
August 6, 2026

Tri-County Fair Barn Party Remains ‘An Investment’ in Local Agriculture



Hundreds came to celebrate all the hard work leading up to and including fair week.

By Stephen Smoot

“The pizzas are here, which is a good thing!” announced Dave Workman, who has worked for decades with Potomac Highlands youth in agriculture in different capacities. He served as the master of ceremonies for the 35th edition of the barn party at the Tri-County Fair in Petersburg.

One of the core missions of the fair lies in preparing the next generation of agriculture in the Potomac Highlands. Kids from both 4-H and Future Farmers of America labor for months to

prepare their cattle, sheep, and goats for show, submitting both the animals and their own skillsets for judging.

All that work certainly deserves a party!

On Friday of fair week, attendees filed into the barn for the midday festivities. Normally even with a legion of industrial fans blowing, the typical midsummer heat makes that time of day quite warm.

Not this day. Brilliant blue skies with lots of bright sunshine came in with fairly mild low 80s temperatures, making the event almost as comfortable as if it had been air conditioned.



Competitors and supporters line up for the barn party buffet of freshly fried chicken, pizza, prizes, and more.

Inside the show arena, kids, parents, and supporters came in to take their seats, with all the youth participants asked to sit on the west side of the venue for a preparty group photo.

After they took their seats, Workman shared that “I’ve been very fortunate to be able to help out here as an announcer . . . I’m thankful for that. Some of you are my third generation.” He explained, “Your grandparents, your parents, and you... I’ve had all of you at the Tri-County Fair.”

That also illustrated the family ties that continue to bind competitors as they follow in their older family’s footsteps, raising some of the best quality livestock in the Eastern United States.

All that said, Workman reminded the youth that “it’s all about you today.”

With the pizza in place and the freshly cooked

chicken still to come, Workman inquired who all had come for their first competition. Several raised their hands. “You have taken the first step of a wonderful journey,” he assured them.

When he asked which individuals were in their last competition before aging out, only a few raised their hands, which he noted as encouraging.

“This doesn’t just happen on its own,” added Workman, who then lauded the leadership and help of Mary Alice Ours during the decades. She played a huge part in making sure the barn party remains a great way to celebrate the work of the young farmers.

He then shared the words of a livestock judge that “there is nothing like being in the greatest industry in the world and the greatest nation

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Ugly Mountain’s Explosive Hidden History Explained

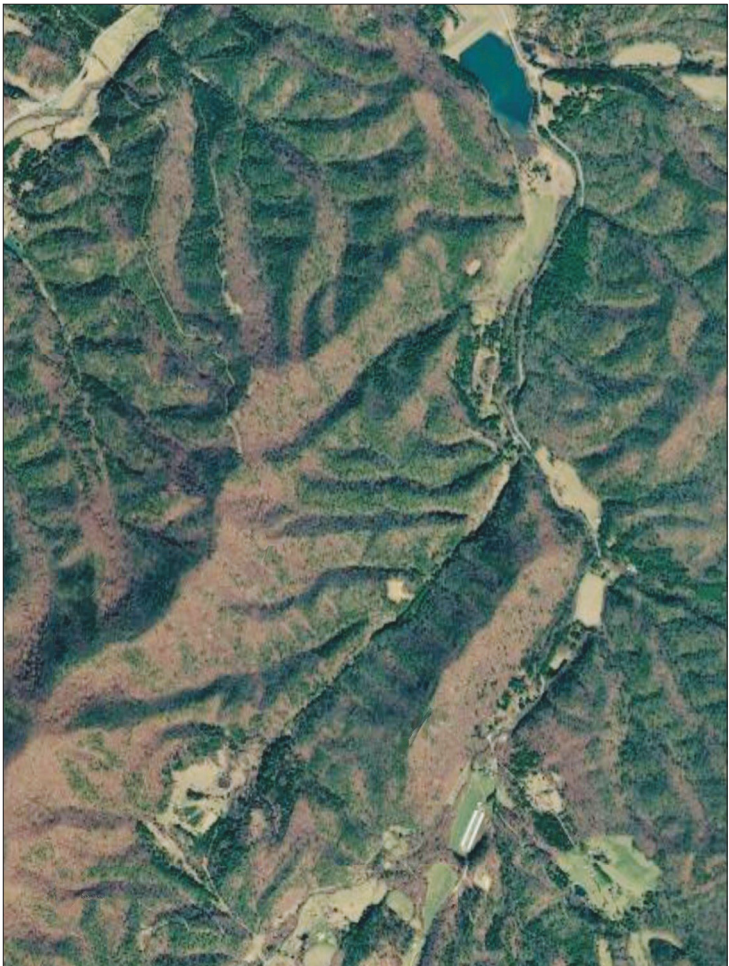
By Stephen Smoot

Today, Ugly Mountain has an unremarkable appearance when seen from a distance. Its near 2,600 feet in elevation put it well beneath more spectacular peaks. When seen from above, the landform that rests between Sugar Grove and Palo Alto, Virginia, has the shape of a deflated football.

Like all of Pendleton County’s mountains and valleys, Ugly Mountain emerged from a geologically violent past. That said, its specific history sets it apart from nearly any other similar peak in the Appalachians.

Ugly Mountain, like Mole Hill near Harrisonburg, Virginia, or Trimble Knob outside of Monterey, Virginia, started life as a type of volcano less than 45 million years ago. Interestingly, volcanic activity took place well after the mountains themselves formed and reformed over and over again throughout hundreds of millions of years.

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A Google Earth image of Ugly Mountain ranges from the middle to the bottom of the photo. Brushy Fork Lake is near the top of the picture.

Pendleton County Schools Forced To Rescind Principal Posting

By Stephen Smoot

An administrative error on the part of Frostburg State University has forced Pendleton County Schools to reopen the search for a principal for Pendleton County

Middle/High School.

Last week, Sonny O’Neil led the Pendleton County Board of Education meeting and opened with an invocation. He prayed, “Lord, we thank you for this opportunity to represent the children

and citizens of Pendleton County.”

One of the first items of business of the abbreviated meeting lay in rescinding the principal position offer to Janice Heavner, but also promptly reinstating her into her previous teaching position. The board approved both measures without opposition.

Heavner, a long-time teacher who also advises multiple competitive student organizations, had been hired earlier this summer after Derek Lambert, former principal, assumed the superintendent role for Randolph County Schools.

Kristy Tritapoe, associate superintendent, explained later, Heavner’s offer had to be rescinded because Frostburg State University committed an error in how they handled her courseload in earning an educational leadership certification. The error by the university resulted in her missing two courses required for the certification. State regulations are unyielding in requiring that specific certification for school principals.

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‘Dog Days’ Last All Year Long with Wagoners’ Long Mountain Long Dogs



Lacey Mullens helps to train one of the dachshunds for competition.



Lacey Mullens helps the Wagoner family as a volunteer, learning the ins and outs of breeding and competition.

By Stephen Smoot

From about the time of Independence Day through the days of mid August, old timers will still talk about the “dog days of summer.” This phrase dates to ancient times when the bright shining Sirius, called the “dog star” because it forms the nose of the constellation Canis Major, appears to “align” with the Sun as it rises and sets. Ancients thought that the combined energy from Sirius and the Sun led to the hottest days of the year.

On one family farm on Long Mountain, however, the Wagoner family proves that those days can go all year long. Keith and Corrie Wagoner during the years transformed the search for a pet to adopt into not only a thriving business, but an entire family life built around the compassionate breeding and boarding of canines.

“We love dogs,” said Corrie Wagoner. “This is his family’s farm. We have a beautiful great place.” She added that they decided, “We should do something with it.”

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Secretary of State Submits Citizen Voting Amendment

By Stephen Smoot

In the November general election in West Virginia, voters will have the opportunity to reaffirm that voting rights belong only to United States citizens.

West Virginia Secretary of State Kris Warner announced that this year’s ballot will feature proposed Amendment One, whose summary of purpose reads that “this amendment provides that in all elections held in West Virginia, only citizens of the United States who are citizens of this state are qualified to vote.” The amendment lists specifically who may or may not vote beyond the question of citizenship.

On July 17, President Donald Trump released declassified information concerning foreign government and intelligence service attempts to manipulate “serious vulnerabilities in U.S. election infrastructure.”

This includes new information about Communist China gaining access to 220 million American voter files and a Department of Homeland Security investigation that “identified 278,000 noncitizens who are registered to vote in federal elections.”

Also, not long after the release of information from the White House, New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill shared that “I learned that a serious software error in New Jersey’s

motor vehicle system led to the registration of roughly 6,600 people who indicated they were not U.S. citizens.”

The United States Department of Justice used that announcement to reaffirm its efforts to obtain unredacted voter rolls from that state. Officials from the DOJ were recently blocked from getting the same information from West Virginia.

Earlier in July, a federal court sided with West Virginia Secretary of State Kris Warner, saying that the justice department offered no evidence “that West Virginia is suspected to be non compliant with the list maintenance requirements . . . nor does it point to any anomalies in West Virginia’s voter registration data.”

New Jersey’s “error” may prevent its case from being disposed of similarly.

Warner noted that “today’s decision . . . is an important victory for the rule of law, voter primacy, and the dedicated election officials across West Virginia who work every day to ensure the accuracy of our state’s voter registration system.”

Dating back to Betty Ireland and including predecessor Mac Warner, the West Virginia Secretary of State’s office has worked closely with county clerks to keep voting records current and purged of names that should not be there.

Community CALENDAR

Post 9666 To Meet

VFW Post 9666 will meet at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 13 at the Richard Homan Memorial Park in Sugar Grove.

LEPC To Meet

The Pendleton County Local Emergency Planning Committee will meet at noon on Aug. 13 at the AGK in Franklin.

County Democrats

To Gather Today

Pendleton County Democrats will meet at 6 p.m. today in the basement of the Pendleton County Library. Rachel Fetty, West Virginia candidate for US Senate, will attend to meet community members, listen to concerns and answer questions. All are welcome.

Post 30 To Meet

American Legion Pendleton Post 30 will meet at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 12 at the Moose Lodge in Franklin.

Quilters To Gather

The Sew and Sews Quilt Guild will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at Faith Lutheran Church in Franklin. Anyone interested in quilting is welcome to attend.

Worship in the Park Planned for Sunday

Summer Worship Nights in the Park will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday at Ruddle Park, Upper Tract. Music will be by Mountain View Church Praise Team with Pastor Mike Lambert as guest speaker. Starting at 5:30 p.m., free ice cream and drinks will be available. Come for an evening of faith, fun and fellowship. Bring a lawn chair and a friend.



Ruthalene E. Judy

Ruthalene E. Judy, 87, of Franklin left her earthly home on July 31, 2026, at the Pendleton Manor in Franklin.

She was born on April 23, 1939, in Friends Run, the daughter of the late Roy E. and Virginia (Bible) Bowers.

Mrs. Judy attended Friends Run Elementary School and Franklin High School.

She was a woman of strong faith, loved the Lord, and was a member of the Friends Run Church of the Brethren.

She had previously worked at Thompson's Motel and Restaurant and Dahmer's Restaurant, before retiring after 51 years of service as a dedicated dental assistant for Dr. Byrd Teter.

Her commitment and dedication to helping others led her to serve as a volunteer emergency medical technician for Franklin Rescue Squad.

Better known as Grammy to most, she blessed her family with limitless banana bread, brownies, super sweet lemonade, and party potatoes for every occasion. Her motto when it came to food was more is always better and one can never have too much sugar.

She loved her family and friends fiercely and always had a hug and smile for anyone she met. She never let her grandchildren leave without hug and a kiss with a "bushel and a peck and a hug around the neck." She will also be remembered by the comforters she made for her children, grandchildren, and many loved ones. Her servant heart showed in everything she did.

The impact she had on others extended well beyond her immediate circle. To know her was to know genuine compassion, a heartfelt presence that brought comfort, joy, and understanding wherever she went. She embraced life's moments, both great and small, with a gentle spirit, and inspired those around her with her unfailing grace. Her legacy is one of kindness, devotion, resilience, and compassion. Her smile was nurturing as it radiated warmth and comfort.

On Sept. 24, 1955, she married the love of her life and her husband of 70 years, Jack Paul Judy, who survives.

In addition to her husband, she leaves behind to cherish her memory a daughter, Jacqueline "Jackie" Smith (Greg) of Franklin; four sisters, Mary Griffin of Scottsdale, Arizona, Linda Rowe of Lanham, Maryland, Diane Pinson (Weyman) of Albany, Georgia, and Jerrie Lou Ruppert (Chuck) of Damascus, Maryland; two grandchildren, Kellie Knorr and Eric Smith (Krystal); and four great-grandchildren, Izzy, Maddox, Hunter, and Braxton.

She was also preceded in death by three brothers, Martin Leroy "Marty" Bowers, William Eugene "Buck" Bowers and James Earl Bowers; and two sisters, Ruby Elaine Skiles, and Sue Ann Dunn.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday in the funeral home chapel with Pastor Stephen Teter officiating. Inurnment will be at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Franklin.

Memorials may be made to any Pendleton County Rescue Squad.

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



Etha Mae Bowers

Etha Mae Bowers, of Franklin passed away peacefully on July 31, 2026, at the Life Care Center of New Market, Virginia.

She was born on March 5, 1930, in Franklin, the daughter of the late Robert and Flossie (Hartman) Hedrick.

Mrs. Bowers was a 1949 graduate of Franklin High School and a member of the Franklin Assembly of God Church.

She had previously worked at the Franklin Garment Company and was a mother and homemaker.

Her passion was gardening, and her skill and green thumb provided the most beautiful flowers and produce that she enjoyed sharing with her family and friends.

She took pride in her family, and she instilled in them the values of hard work, kindness, and a deep appreciation for family and the community. She leaves behind a legacy that is defined by love and hard work.

Her devotion to her family radiated in simple, daily acts of care, her selflessness never seeking the spotlight but always making others feel cherished.

She was the matriarch of her family and will forever be remembered for her patience and guidance.

One of her favorite memories was making apple butter with her family. She treasured those times spent together, sharing stories, laughter, and traditions that brought generations closer. Those moments reflected the love she poured into her family and the lasting memories she created with them.

On June 19, 1948, she married Ivan B. Bowers, who preceded her in death on Sept. 2, 2012.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory three daughters, Sue C. Bowers of Lindside, Peggy Wheeler of Bridgewater, Virginia, and Connie Bowers (Christopher Baker) of Franklin; three sons, Nathan Bowers (Debra), David Bowers (Teena) and Stephen Bowers, all of Franklin; eight grandchildren, Billy (Angela) Wheeler, Jason Bowers (Robin), Carla (Ashley) Shina-berry, Justin (Mallory) Bowers, Jennifer Willis, Janel (Tyler) Pancione, Ruth (Timothy) Sims and Matthew (Lacey) Bowers; 19 great-grandchildren, Blake (Abby) Wheeler, Brooke (Justin) Tilson, Cam (Rachel), Sadie and Jay Bowers, Brandy, Bradey, Breena and Bristol Bowers, Jaxson (Makayla) Bowers, Jagger, Javin, and Jemma Wil-lis, Ivana, Idalynn, Ilizah and Iversen Pancione and Isabella and Abigail Sims; four great-great-grandchildren, Hunter, Weston and Gwyneth Wheeler, and Magnolia Mae Bowers; and nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Katherine Starcher (Cecil); and three sons-in-law, Bill Wheeler, Burdette Clausen and Albert Wayne Huffman.

The family wishes to thank the dedicated employees of Life Care Center of New Market and Blue Ridge Hospice for the loving care that was given to her while she was there.

Funeral services were held Tuesday in the chapel of the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor Sam Sponaugle officiating. Interment was at the Hedrick Family Cemetery on Halls Hill Road in Franklin.

Memorials may be made to any Pendleton County Rescue Squad.

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



James Gar Harper

James Gar Harper, 96, of Seneca Rocks passed away on July 31, 2026, at Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center in Petersburg.

Born on April 2, 1930, in Onego, he was the son of the late George E. Harper and Beula (Ketterman) Harper.

Mr. Harper was an Army veteran of the Korean War.

He was employed by Martin Marietta in Middle River, Maryland, and Delphi Packard in Warren, Ohio, as a heat treatment specialist.

After retirement he moved back to West Virginia and enjoyed gardening and helped build many churches.

He was an active member of the North Fork Baptist Church in Riverton, and he loved his church family.

He was the last surviving member of his immediate family.

He and his late wife, Gail, are survived by three daughters, Cindy Kares and husband, Al of Fairfax, Virginia, Dottie Johnson of Greene, Ohio, and Karen Hood and husband, Jerry of Winder, Georgia; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

His wife, Wilma R. (Aldridge) Harper, survives.

Also surviving are a step-daughter, Nicole Cassidy of Warren, Ohio; a stepson, Tom Pappas and wife, Denise of Warren, Ohio; four step-grandchildren; five step-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Gail C. (Smith) Harper in 2000; two grandchildren, an infant grandson and Krista Ronai; five brothers; and seven sisters.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. today at the North Fork Baptist Church with Jerry Swain officiating. Burial will be at the North Fork Memorial Cemetery in Riverton with military honors by the United States Army Honor Guard and Grant County Veterans Honor Guard.

Memorial contributions may be made to the North Fork Baptist Church or charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Schaefer Funeral Home in Petersburg.



Bernard Jacob Sasscer, Jr.

Bernard Jacob Sasscer, Jr., 69, of Franklin passed away on August 2, 2026 from complications relating to an infection.

He was born on Feb. 4, 1957, in Jacksonville, North Carolina, the only son of the late Bernard J. Sasscer, Sr., a career Marine veteran, and the late Margaret (Ross) Sasscer.

Mr. Sasscer avidly participated in men's and co-rec softball teams for many years. He loved the West Virginia mountains and enjoyed hunting, fishing, RV camping, and golf.

He was a carpenter and owned his own home improvement company for many years.

In his retirement, he enjoyed having his federal firearms license which authorized him to manufacture and sell ammunition. He held a private pilot's license for 40 years, something he immensely enjoyed.

He and his wife attended Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Deer Run.

He was the beloved husband to "Peaches," Margaret (Schulz) Sasscer, whom he married Oct. 13, 1990, and survives.

Also surviving are two sisters, Bridgette Popoli and Lisa Sasscer, both of Baltimore, Maryland; and a daughter, Cara Ann Sasscer of Baltimore, Maryland.

He was also preceded in death by a sister, Kimarle (Sasscer) Traeger.

In honoring his wishes, he was cremated.

Cards of condolences can be mailed to 2829 Wimer Road, Franklin, WV 26807.

Memorials can be made to his favorite charity, Tunnel to Towers at t2t.org. At this time, please respect "no food or visitors" request.

"Bern, you were the greatest gift God ever gave me. I adored you. You gave me enormous joy and I loved being your wife. I'll see you soon, Peach. Love Maggie."



Donnie Gale Leggett, Jr.

Donnie Gale Leggett, Jr., 39, of Rainelle passed away on July 16, 2026, at his home.

He was born on May 2, 1987, the son of Janet Lynn (Jones) and Jerry Sutherland (stepfather) of Franklin.

Mr. Leggett attended Doddridge County Schools and was a member of Redeeming Grace Outreach Church.

On April 7, 2019, he married Rebecca Dawn (Lee) Leggett, who survives in Cheraw, South Carolina.

In addition to his parents and wife, he leaves behind to cherish his memory two sisters, Brittany Fornash of Clarksburg and Amber Carder of Charleston; his grandmother, Linda Ryan of Franklin; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins, including his special buddy, Eric Watson.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Mathew Scott Leggett.

In honoring his wishes, his body has been cremated.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Aug. 15 at the Franklin Ruritan Building in Franklin with Pastor Jason Boggs officiating.

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

Ramona Judy Crowe, 97

Ramona Judy Crowe, 97, of Keezletown, Virginia, passed away Aug. 1, 2026, in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

She was born June 6, 1929, in Franklin and was the daughter of the late Joseph W. and Elizabeth Sponaugle Judy.

Mrs. Crowe was a member of the Keezletown United Methodist Church and was a salesperson at Finks Jewelry. She had served on the Rockingham County Electoral Board for many years and was very active in many community organizations.

She was a devoted wife and homemaker and an amazing mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who will be missed by all those who loved her.

On Sept. 10, 1955, she married Ralph Warren Crowe, who preceded her in death.

She is survived by a daughter, Susan Threewitts and husband, Bob; grandchildren, Kathryn Pusey and husband, Ryan; Christopher Threewitts and wife, Lauren; and Alisha Threewitts and husband, William Stickley, II; great-grandchildren, Carson and Mason Pusey; and a number of extended family members.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 14 at the Kyger Funeral Home Chapel in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

A celebration of life will be held at 4 p.m. Aug. 15 at the Keezletown United Methodist Church with Rev. Joel Robinette officiating. Burial will be private at Keezletown Cemetery.

Memorial gifts can be made to the Keezletown Cemetery, 3562 Keezletown Road, Keezletown, VA 22832 or the Dayton Cemetery, PO Box 383, Dayton, VA 22821.

Condolences may be shared at kygers.com.

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Sunday, August 9 • Noon - 3 p.m.

Sunday Buffet

Sunday Breakfast for Dinner

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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)

HUGE GUN, AMMO COLLECTOR KNIVES & COIN AUCTION

**Saturday, August 8
2 p.m.**

132 N Main St., Moorefield
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This auction will consist of a fine lineup of firearms, including a rare John Wayne Winchester/Colt Commemorative Set.

125 Guns in the auction, as well as a large collection of vintage knives, such as CaseXX, Ammo and Coins. Accepting consignments for our Sept. Gun Auction, if interested contact Rachael at 304-530-6403. Low Commission Rates & Great Prices Hammered Across the Board. Online bidding and previewing available at oaksummit.hibid.com.

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Appalachian Traditional Culinary Fellowship Accepting Applications

By Stephen Smoot

In his masterful epic work of history, David Hackett Fischer wrote of the cultural “ways” that settlers from the north English and lowland Scottish borderlands brought to the Appalachian frontier. There, traditional ways of cooking and eating blended with Native American traditions. Settlers also found the frontier provided in some cases a bounty, and others a paucity, of foods traditionally enjoyed.

Mid Atlantic Arts, founded in 1979, provides direct grant support to projects throughout the region. Its Central Appalachian Living Traditions program offers an Appalachian Foodways Practitioner Fellowship.

Two of the fellowship recipients for this year include Siara Benoit and Takia Gaylord of Mathias. Benoit, according to the website, is an “auto-didact whose civic engagement and independent study have shaped her more deeply than traditional education.” She “turned to ancestral knowledge systems” and “embraces land stewardship and ancestral culinary practices as pathways to personal and collective healing.

Gaylord has a PhD in biomedical sciences from Tufts University who “designs and maintains Kinfolk Heritage Farm’s growing spaces.”

According to its website, “the fellowship started in 2022 during the Appalachian Food Summit. The fellowship was launched because organizers recognized that there are few opportunities for monetary support and recognition of community-based foodways practitioners.”

It also notes that the “foodways practitioner”

has never received as much attention as other cultural fields. It offers as an example the fact that the “National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship, our nation’s highest honor in the folk and traditional arts, has never been awarded to a foodways practitioner.”

Fellowships can go to “home cooks and bakers, seed savers, farmers, community elders, keepers of recipes and traditional foodways knowledge, hunters, and foragers, who have made significant and long-term contributions to sustaining and supporting the foodways heritage of their respective communities.”

That said, the list is not definitive. The fellowship is open to any type of practice related to the core mission of promoting and exploring traditional Appalachian food ways.

The application period opened last week, but closes on Aug. 17. Those who earn the \$5,000 fellowship commence work on Nov. 1, 2026 and close by Dec. 1, 2027. They must submit a final report on their work by Jan. 31, 2028.

Applications are made online. Those submitting should be prepared to “upload three work samples of the highest quality available, with both recent and past examples to demonstrate the quality and longevity of the applicant’s contributions. Samples may include Youtube links, audio clips, photos, website url, etc.”

All fellows must attend the 2026 Appalachian Studies Association to accept their award. A hand crafted item by an Appalachian artists will be given as part of the award. They must also “participate in a one-hour session to share about their foodways work.”

Photos Sought for Roadsides in Bloom Calendar

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection is seeking submissions for the 24th Annual “Roadsides in Bloom” calendar contest.

This free calendar features photos of wildflowers growing naturally along West Virginia roadways. The deadline for entries is Sept. 11.

Submissions must meet the following qualifications:

Photographs must be taken in West Virginia. Photos must be submitted in landscape orientation. To meet print quality standards, photos must have a resolution of 300 pixels per inch or higher. Low-resolution images may be inadequate and not considered.

Wildflowers must be growing along a road, and

the road must be prominently visible in the frame.

Entries must be in electronic format and submitted to dep.aah@wv.gov.

Please provide one’s name, address, phone number, e-mail address and a short description of the most prominent flower depicted. Include the location and county of where the photo was taken. Photos submitted will become property of the WVDEP.

A person may submit up to three photos. However, only one winning photo will be selected from a photographer’s entry.

Twelve winners will be selected to represent each month in 2027. A grand-prize winner will be chosen to appear on the calendar cover.



Pendleton 4-H members taking part in youth day activities at the West Virginia Poultry Festival were, from left, front row, Kallie Keyser, Gracie Hedrick, Katie Keyser, Tori Heavner, and Bella Hoover; and back row, Branson Smith, Breymann Keesecker and Ross Pownell. Jonah Seymour is not pictured.

County Youth Compete at Poultry Festival

Pendleton County 4-H members traveled July 15 to Moorefield Middle School to participate in youth day at the West Virginia Poultry Festival.

Kallie Keyser competed as a junior individual in the poultry judging contest and earned the first-place junior individual award.

Placing fourth in the junior division was Pendleton’s team consisting of Tori Heavner, Bella Hoover and Ross Pownell.

Pownell earned first-place junior individual in reasons and fourth junior individual.

Second place in junior reasons went to Heavner. She also competed in the BBQ Cookoff contest.

Another junior team, composed of Gracie Hedrick, Breymann Keesecker and Jonah Seymour, placed seventh in the junior division.

Katie Keyser and Branson Smith competed as senior individuals.

Taking a tour of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Moorefield were Hoover, Keesecker and Pownell.

Four-H Horticulture Team Earns First Place



Pendleton County’s junior horticulture team placed first at the West Virginia State 4-H Horticulture contest held June 22 in Morgantown. Members of the team were, from left, Hannah Heavner, Ross Pownell and Marion Williams. Pownell received the first place overall individual award and was first in the judging and identification categories. Heavner was the second place individual in the quiz category.

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10 Years Ago
 Week of August 4, 2016

Tumbling Camp
 Held at PCHS

The first Pendleton County High School tumbling camp was held July 25-29. The camp was directed by Krystal Raymond. Raymond taught participants basic tumbling and gymnastic skills as well as ways to improve flexibility and strength. Classes were open to boys and girls in grades fourth through twelfth.

20 Years Ago
 Week of August 10, 2006

New Bridge
 Improves Traffic Flow
 On Route 220

The old steel arch bridge in Upper Tract on Rt. 220 spanning the South Branch River dates from 1923. It was 17 feet wide and 204 feet long. Route 220 north of the county seat to Upper Tract and on to Petersburg is obviously a main corridor through Pendleton County, and the width of the old bridge sustained only one lane of traffic. Now a bridge exists alongside it, a 28-foot-wide two-laner that includes approaches which measure 817 feet in length.

Nevertheless, the proud old bridge still stands, as a monument to history, to the fine craftsmanship of the early 20th century steelworks and the preservation of the past.

Indeed it was the West Virginia Division of Culture and History that wanted the 83-year-old structure preserved, when, some years ago, the state highways department approved the construction of a new bridge in Upper Tract, which was long overdue given the obvious need and daily traffic load.

The old bridge is open to foot traffic.

The new bridge was built by MEC Construction for \$3.04 million. Work began last July and concluded two weeks ago.

A new entrance into Smoke Hole also was constructed.

SUGAR GROVE

‘Everything Hurts, and
 What Doesn’t Hurt,
 Doesn’t Work’

The last fling of summer has rolled around. Students know that it is the last month of freedom before the grind of school begins. August is slowly drifting in the hills with an easy gait. With all the chores that tag along the fruitful, mature days, one is able to tell if one is getting older by looking at the following suggestions. For example, one might be over the hill if:

- One gets winded playing a board game.
- One looks forward to a dull evening.
- One’s knees buckle but one’s belt won’t.
- One burns the midnight

oil until 9:30 p.m.

•Everything hurts and what doesn’t hurt doesn’t work.

•One’s favorite part of the newspaper is “25 years ago today.”

•One feels like the morning after, and one hasn’t been anywhere.

•One turns out the lights for economy reasons, not romantic reasons.

•One’s idea of a “nooner” is a nap.

•One can’t operate the television without the remote control.

•One regularly uses the word “new-fangled.”

•One is offended by the things that are said on the radio these days.

•One doesn’t like it when someone sits in one’s chair.

Pet Permits Will
 No Longer Be Issued for
 Raccoon, Fox, Skunk

Based upon the serious public health and wildlife disease concerns associated with the raccoon rabies virus, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has determined it will no longer issue new Wildlife Pet Permits for raccoon, fox and skunk. WVDNR has not issued Wildlife Importation Permits for these same species since 2001.

30 Years Ago
 Week of August 1, 1996

Two County Schools
 Hook on To Internet,
 More to Follow

Increasingly, success in school and the workplace requires information—the ability to access it, manipulate it and use it to produce an end product. The Information Superhighway, more commonly known as the Internet, is a great way to access the latest information. Internet access levels the playing field for students in rural areas providing the same access to information and resources available to students in urban areas.

Two of Pendleton County’s schools recently entered the information age by hooking up to the Internet. Franklin Elementary School and Franklin High School each had computers hooked up, compliments of Bell Atlantic-West Virginia’s World School Initiative, on July 16. A third school, Brandywine Elementary, will follow shortly.

Pendleton County
 To Represent
 West Virginia
 In Tournament

Pendleton County will send 13 All Stars and three coaches to represent the state of West Virginia in the 1996 Ohio Valley Regional Babe Ruth Tournament. Pendleton won the right to represent West Virginia by winning a state championship last weekend in Elkins.

The 14-year-old members of the team are Cory Koliscak, Brandon Reel, Chuck Hiett,

Matt Vance and Travis Johnson. Fifteen-year-old members include Eric Smith, Jeremy Harper Josh Harper, Jeremy Adams, Elijah Byers, Dan McGrath, Billy Beachler and Derek Vandevander. The coaches are Lannie Harper and Wilson Reel with Tim Johnson acting as manager.

Week of August 8, 1996

Child Care Center
 Takes Field Trip

Children attending the Franklin Child Care Center, Inc., recently went to Harrisonburg, VA, on a field trip. They stopped at Burger King for lunch. Then they went to the mall to see the new Disney movie, “The Hunchback of Notre Dame.”

To be able to rent a Potomac Valley Transit bus they had a bake sale during May Days.

DAHMER

Kids Wore
 Asafoetida Bags
 To Ward Off Disease

The title A.B.C. days often is referred to that period of time when young children wore the asafoetida bag made of muslin-like material and measured about two inches square. The string tied around one corner was long enough to reach around the neck and drop below the undershirt, thereby making the sack unnoticeable to the eye—but certainly not to the nose. This was believed to ward off contagious disease.

When this region was still dominated by the German language, the dialect name for this deep smelling essence was deivels-dreck or devil’s filth. The English name derived from the Latin foetidus or fetid—having an offensive odor—is quite appropriate, as many one-room school teachers can well remember. A class full of pupils wearing such preventatives, certainly add little to the charm of the school room.

The large herbaceous plant stands up to nine feet tall and was native to India. The material used for medical purpose is obtained from the roots and is a gum resin. It appears as a yellowish brown opaque in small lumps. Certainly, the popularity of the asafoetida bag stemmed from the faith placed on it. The writer has a little asafoetida in a small round wooden box.

40 Years Ago
 Week of August 7, 1986

Gas Line Rupture Spouts
 Flames
 500 Feet into Sky

The Monongahela National Forest took on the appearance of the Yellowstone National Park Monday afternoon when a geyser spouted 500 feet in the sky.

But it wasn’t water that was reaching for the stars. It was gas.

A rupture in a 26-inch gas line between Seneca

Rocks and Onego about 4 p.m. created a blow torch that shot flames 500 to 600 feet high.

“It made a terrible roar, like a jet plane coming right down on us,” said Joe Harper of Seneca Rocks. Harper and his son, Matt, were on their way to Onego to pick up some sheep to take to the Tri-County Fair at Petersburg when the gas line ruptured just several hundred yards from the road.

“The noise got louder and louder,” Harper said, “and I asked Matt what it was. He looked out the back window and saw the fire shooting into the air. When it was at its peak, it was spewing fire 500 to 600 feet high and several hundred feet in diameter.”

Seven area fire companies were called by Columbia Gas Company, owner of the line, to control possible forest fires. Fire companies reported to the scene from Circleville, Bartow, Durbin, Harman, Petersburg, Maysville and Franklin. They had all fires out by 6:30 p.m.

Peach Harvest

West Virginia’s peach harvest for 1986 may be the best in the last five years, according to projections by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Mountain State growers are expected to harvest 21 million pounds of peaches this year. The state’s 1985 peach crop was wiped out by a January freeze. Yields totals for other recent years are the following: 1980, 22 million; 1982, 17 million; 1983, 19 million; and 1984, 17 million.

50 Years Ago
 Week of August 5, 1976

Flower Arranging
 Of Colonial Days
 To Be Festival Feature

At this year’s Treasure Mountain Festival the Potomac Valley Garden Club is going back to the 18th century (not really). That was the time flower arranging was first expressed in America. The early colonist attempted simple flower arrangements using common household vessels.

When gardening was established as a proper occupation, interest in flower arranging developed. Native wild flowers and grasses were used as well as garden flowers. The custom of gathering material during the summer months to be dried and used in winter decorations probably evolved during this period. Corn cobs, cattails, sea lavender and straw flowers were popular for use in dry arrangements, and still are today, particularly for the table center piece for the feast at Thanksgiving.

Doing What He
 Loves Best

J. Samuel Simmons of Franklin, who is in his 92nd year, still loves to work in his garden. And quite a garden it is — rows of corn, tomatoes, beans, potatoes, and not a

weed to be seen. “We have had corn, tomatoes and lots of beans,” Mr. Simmons said last week as he paused for a brief rest from digging potatoes. “Our potatoes aren’t quite as good this year,” he said. “They seem to have some sort of blight.” But there were several in each hill and many of them were twice as big as a man’s fist. Judging from the way he was rolling out the potatoes last week, Mr. Simmons will be planting straight rows and digging weeds many seasons after his 92nd year.

60 Years Ago
 Week of August 4, 1966

July Month
 Accident-Ridden Month
 In History of
 Pendleton County

A rash of five automobile accidents on Pendleton County highways last week sent three persons to hospitals, caused several thousand dollars worth of property damage, and brought the total number of accidents occurring on county highways for the month to 16.

Circleville Leads
 Softball League

Circleville, Brandywine and Monterey won double headers Sunday in the Pendleton County softball league permitting Circleville to remain in first place and Blue Grass in the cellar.

Next Sunday Monterey will play at Circleville, Upper Tract at Franklin, Entry Mountain at Brandywine, and Blue Grass will enjoy a much needed rest.

70 Years Ago
 Week of August 9, 1956

Pendleton is Among
 Top Poultry Counties
 In United States

Pendleton County is among the top 100 counties in the whole United States in the production of turkeys, chickens and poultry products, according to the 1954 Census of Agriculture figures just released by the Bureau of Census, U. S. Department of Commerce.

Among all the counties in the United States, Pendleton ranks 12th in the number of turkeys raised, 40th in the number of chickens sold, 33rd in income from the sale of chickens, and 58th in the value of poultry products sold.

Among the top 100 counties in number of turkeys raise, four were in West Virginia. Hardy County was 12th, Pendleton was 18th, Grant was 25th and Hampshire was 43rd.

States placing the most counties in the top 100 were California with 15, Pennsylvania with 9, 8 in New Jersey, 7 in Georgia and 6 in Massachusetts.

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Smith Creek/
 Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

Another month is starting and good-bye July.

The area received some good rain in July, but it dried up real fast. With the rain, it made the grass green, instead of brown, and helped the hay fields grow.

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, Kenny Williams, Ruth Bauer, Rick Waggy, Gloria Moats, Jim Fawley, Jessie Simmons, Minny Rhoads, David Berg, Troy Bennett, Danny Nelson, Sherry Hedrick, Tom and Judy Borror, David M. Parkinson, Cleo Simmons, Jimmie Bennett, Tom Butterworth, Bobby Parsons, Robert Bennett, Rick Phares, Virgil “Bub” Yokum, Hannah Hedrick, John Moyers, Norma Auville, Shana Johnson, Bruce Lambert, Sherry Chambers, Donald Burns, Glenn Sites, Shirley Bland, Wayne Simmons, Jennifer Scott, Brian Calhoun, Bobby Bodkin, Chris Phares, Robin Gerry, Nancy George, Grace and Albert Hammer, Holly Beachler, Cameron Beachler, Keith Kimble, Lisa Dingess, Kitty Waggy, Mary Lou Wagoner, Lucy Westfall, Donna Bennett, Peggy Pitsenbarger, Amy VanMeter, Lynwood Pennington, Alvy Humphreys, Amy Berg, Ronnie Pitsenbarger, Connie Hartman, Bob Hoops, Wyatt Hott, Wanda Townsend, Kaylee Bennett, Mickie Huffman, Woody Hoover, Rhonda Stump, Shirley Propst, Pollyanna Johnson, Brenda Allen, Kaon Johnson, Ryan Dingass, the family of Janis Propst, the family of Ann Wimer, the family of Betty Lambert Mongold, the family of Ruthalene Judy and the family of Etha Mae Bowers.

Prayer thought: “Sovereign God, please help me surrender every part of my life to You so I can stand firm against the enemy’s schemes.”

High and low temperatures and precipitation for July 27 through Aug. 2, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: July 27 - 83°, 59° (85°, 68°, .46”), July 28 - 74°, 63°, .34” (89°, 67°), July 29 - 75°, 60° (86°, 66°, .58”), July 30 - 78°, 56° (88°, 67°, .07”), July 31 - 83°, 53° (87°, 64°, .02”), Aug. 1 - 78°, 58° (67°, 61°, .06”) and Aug. 2 - 80°, 67°, .32” (73°, 58°).

Total rainfall for July was 8.28”, compared to 6.35” in August of 2025.

Year-to-date rainfall is \$23.26”, compared to 34.44” for the same time period last year.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pendleton County Middle/High School will be destroying student files on students who graduated in 2020. Records will continue to be kept on all students who are now in school.

Federal and state laws require that we provide public notification of our intent to destroy these records and that we provide the opportunity for students and their parents or guardians to review these records prior to their destruction. We will begin this process on July 16, 2026. Records will be available to review or receive until August 15, 2026.

If you have any questions or wish to review or receive records, please contact Janice Heavner or Stephanie Latif at 304-358-2573 or by email at janice.heavner@k12.wv.us or stephanie.latif@k12.wv.us.

**13th Annual Sugar Grove
Antique Tractor Parade**

Saturday, Aug. 8

**Tractors ONLY!
No Floats Allowed!**

Parade starts at 4:00 p.m. Registration begins 3 p.m. Registration/Line-up at Pigley Wigleys, Sugar Grove

**Multiple trophies will be awarded.
Cash prize for the Crowd Favorite**
 Questions, call 304-902-0123

SOUTH FORK RESCUE SQUAD

Lawn Party

Following Antique Tractor Parade

South Fork Rescue Squad Building
 Sugar Grove

• Food • Fun • Games

Rain or Shine



By Paula Mitchell

The community received some rain showers Sunday. At the writer's home, .25 inches was gained. The weather is calling for rains the next few days. At least the high temperatures have



Thelma Mitchell celebrated her 92nd birthday.

Clickety-clacks for the chin waggers are as follows:

In 1903, Marie Curie was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize.

School enrichment displays were also added to the exhibit room this year, including more than 200 exhibits from Franklin Elementary, North Fork Elementary, and Brandywine Elementary. Students at each school completed 4-H projects through a monthly classroom visit from Brook Alt, 4-H extension agent, that covered the following topics: STEM Exploration, Cloverbud 4-H, This Is 4-H, Know Your State, Ag in the Classroom, and Seeing Yourself in the

People's Choice Award, which is voted on by the visitors to the exhibits, was awarded to Connor Raines from the Upper Tract Producers 4-H Club for a self-determined project.

Concerns are for Roger and Joan Ashley, Mercedes Aumann, Dave Basagic, "Bo" Boggs, Jeff Craig, Stanley Dahmer, Isaac Eye, Carl Gant, Sue Hall, Clyde Hamilton, Armanda Heavner, Starr Hedrick, Keith Hoover, Mickey Huffman,

Cynthia Hurry, Gary Jamison, Mike and Lisa Jamison, the family and friends of Ruthalene Judy, Tara Kelley, Stanley Kile, Keith Kimble, Lori Ann Lambert, Melissa Lambert, Skip and Roger Mallow, Yvonne Marsh, Dottie Mitchell, Helen Nash, Willa Nelson, Ronald Pitsenbarger, Alda Propst, the family and friends of Janis Propst, Sheldon Propst, Jimmy Rexrode, the family and friends of Bernie Sasscer, Margaret Sasscer, Robbie Sites, the family and friends of Ann Wimer and Edwin Wimer.

By Stephen Smoot

Finally, the HOPE Scholarship has made strides in supporting a number of alternative methods of education. While it has expanded opportunities for a diverse population of students, traditional public schools have seen

The campaign also urges families who support the public schools to share their experiences and student success stories. It also directs anyone towards online resources showing the progress of each school system in West Virginia.

“More than just buildings,” the WVASA stated in a release, “public schools are centers of opportunity, connection, support, and community pride.”

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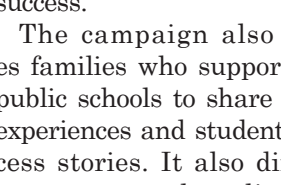
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Ugly Mountain

Continued From Page 1

All that said, Ugly Mountain has different types of volcanic rocks that indicate potentially more than one different period of magma intrusion.

Four times in the history of Earth, a mountain range rose where the Appalachians dominate the landscape now as the North American continent on one hand and Africa and Europe on the other, and played “bumper cars” repeatedly for approximately one billion years.

Eastern West Virginia has one of the seven “provinces” of the Appalachian Mountains. The valley and ridge section formed during the last mountain forming period, called the Alleghenian by geologists. The lengthy ridges and valleys create a landscape that differentiates the region from much of the rest of the Appalachians.

The landscape prior to that final period of uplift contained sedimentary rocks, layers of stone that formed gradually over time as sediments deposited to the floor of a shallow sea. These include sandstone, shale and limestone deposits that formed between 540 million and 300 million years ago. Groundwater percolating through limestone eroded away massive cave systems and also provides the distinctive water used in traditional Bourbon whiskey.

One billion years ago, 500 million years ago, 375 million years ago, and, finally, between 325 and 260 million years ago, continent-bearing plates collided. Each time, the collisions of continents folded and buckled layers of rocks, in some cases pushing chunks of continents into angles and even standing on end. North America separated once again from its on again, off again neighbors 200 million years ago and the Atlantic Ocean has continued to widen ever since.

This created the dramatic formations seen in natural and man-made cuts through the mountains and also the dynamic

Long Mountain

Continued From Page 1

“We were looking to adopt a small dog about 20 couple years ago in Virginia,” Corrie Wagoner remembered. “We did an online search,” she shared.

That search led to their first adopted rescue animal. “We stumbled upon this dachshund,” she said. Her husband shared that “it was love at first sight.”

The American Kennel Club describes this breed as “spunky, curious, friendly.” Typical breeds grow to only eight or nine inches in height with miniatures only a half-foot tall. Although adorable as pets for humans, the AKC notes that the bred is “a clever hunter whose size belies its ferocity.

The breed did not “take form” until the 1600s. Its purpose lay in following badger burrows underground and savagely tracking them through tunnels and battling them to the death, sometimes for as long as hours. Dachshunds, according to the AKC, “needed to be independent, bold, and not a little bit combative,” being “courageous to the point of rashness.”

Many pet owners love the “cheeky” personalities of these diminutive dogs as well. Both the last Hapsburg and Hohenzollern emperors had dachshunds as their favorite pets. Corrie Wagoner explained that after the first adoption “the dachshund addiction began.” After a second adoption, “we went down the tubes for them.”

The Wagoners lived in a small cabin on one of the summits of Keith Wagoner's father's family farm. From the home, the view southeast takes in ridges superimposed on ridges leading off to the horizon. In one direction, a person could see almost to Monterey, Virginia. Look toward the northeast in just the right spot, a person can just make out the wind farm and power plant plume in distant Mount Storm, Grant County.

Surrounded by the forests and mountains, the family started to divine a new purpose around their beloved dogs. At first, the family started adopting senior dogs and others whose homes could no longer care for them. “We had 11 at one point,” noted Corrie Wagoner. Two of the old-timers, now 14 and 15 years old, live out their days lounging in climate-controlled comfort.

“At a certain point,” she said, “we wanted to be immersed.”

That love of immersion into a world of loving dogs, ethically cared for, led to building a business when the family obtained a dachshund with documented bloodlines. They decided to dip their toes into the pool of dog breeding and had their first litter for sale in 2024.

She shared that the family has one litter per year and said progress has been “a little slower than it should have been” but also along “ethical and thorough” lines.

That means conducting research, attending informational conferences, and learning details about genetics, especially what genes should and should not be combined. Also, “We do all of the testing that the Dachshund Club of America recommends,” she said.

That includes testing for patella luxation, a common problem in smaller dogs where the kneecap can slip out of its normal area. The organization also recommends special eye and heart testing as well.

Additionally, the Wagoners work with the Canine Health Information Center to ensure that their dogs have the best chance, health-wise. For 60 years, this organization has collected, tabu-

lated, and researched canine genetic data to reduce the incidence of congenital diseases and conditions in dogs. “You don’t want to match genetic markers,” she stated, with dogs that have markers for conditions such as progressive retinal atrophy.

Another important genetic match to avoid lies in combining “dapples.” The Dachshund Breed Council describes “dapple” as like “a slashing or swirling of paint over all normal dachshund colors. Some dappling is very bright and very noticeable.”

While dapple dachshunds prove popular in sales, combining the genes can bring tragic results. Dogs at birth may have micro-sized or missing eyes, blindness, deafness, or a number of other potentially fatal conditions. Unethical breeders will take the risk to produce brilliant colored coats or give the dog blue eyes and the council urges all to not buy dachshunds advertised as “double dapple.”

Conversely, the Wagoners conduct full genetic panels before combining dogs. Dapple gene markers can be found even in dachshunds that have no outward sign of it.

“We don’t have employees per se,” but the Wagoners do have a faithful volunteer, Lacey Mullens, who is a family friend. “I like working with them,” Mullens smiled and shared, adding, “it’s like a mini therapy session.”

As she talked about her experience, three dachshunds, tails wagging so fast as to almost be invisible, angled for her attention. Mullens said, “They’ve all grown on me. They really love me. I love it all!”

Dachshunds, with their small but mighty origins, excel at competitive sporting events. The Wagoners’ dogs do not perform in the pageantry of dog shows, but they “needed to do something in the AKC world to stay involved.” A mentor in the field invited them to a Kennel Club meet, but told Corrie Wagoner, “It’s a gateway drug, you’re going to get addicted.”

Events for competition include “coursing” where individual dogs chase an inanimate object on a course. They only run one dog at a time for safety and the best times win. Dachshunds will also spring off of diving boards and leap into water, the win going to the dog who leaps farthest out.

Keith Wagoner then hiked the short distance to a small pond used for training. He explained that he had to make sure no deer

were enjoying the pond or the mighty hunters would try to chase them down. Once there, the dogs happily showed their skills, launching themselves off a diving board into the cool mountain pond, then swimming to shore for a toy.

This year’s litter came with some added drama, arriving during the week of the supercell tornado bearing storms. A water sack came out of the mother, but the puppies did not immediately follow. A mentor suggested that the Wagoners take the mother to a special reproduction veterinarian in case complications had set in.

As the car made it to Fort Seybert, Mrs. Wagoner recalled that her husband said “I see a foot!” and the litter came out right then and there on the side of Sweedlin Valley Road. In memory of the tornado that plowed a path of destruction within view of their house, they gave each dog a storm related name, such as “windy” or “gust.”

Just another day in the life of a family of dog-lovers immersed in their passion.

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Just another day in the life of a family of dog-lovers immersed in their passion.

PC Schools

Continued From Page 1

The board approved a recommendation by Nicole Hevener, superintendent, to reopen the search for a principal at PCM/HS.

After the discussion of the position of principal, the board approved contracts with Meghan Hoover and Glenville State University. Marilyn Propst, a new board member, did not oppose the approval, but asked about the nature of each contract.

Hevener replied that Hoover works with “orientation and mobility” and assists visually-impaired students adjust to their environment.

The agreement with Glenville State allows that some of their teacher education students can perform residencies and student-teaching with Pendleton County Schools. Hevener explained the opportunity for PCS in the agreement, saying, “That’s sometimes an option that we have that allows us to fill a position because then the county and the employee have the opportunity to decide, are we going to continue with this?”

In essence, the program allows teacher education students to gain hands-on experience in schools while also determining if the system itself is a good fit.

“So, it could fill a position long term possibly, which is really very, very good,” noted Hevener.

PCS could have added opportunities to enter into similar agreements with other colleges and universities going forward.

Tritapoe later discussed the work completed by crews on facilities needs, especially the custodial staff and maintenance crews. She said that “Dolly Rexrode has been doing a lot of painting.” She added that the work done to deep clean the schools had been exemplary as well

She commented that “Travis Heavner, of course, is also a big help” in leading the efforts to get the buildings ready for the school year.

North Fork Elementary School will open the school year with brand new stage curtains, which had been a regular topic of discussion at board of education meetings. Tritapoe noted that they are still looking for sponsors or partners to help wrap the red mats in the school color, green.

Tri-County Fair

Continued From Page 1

in the world.”

After Allison Custer gave the mealtime prayer, saying, “We thank you for your guidance, o’ Lord,” 4-H and FFA kids took their places in line and started loading their plates.

Competitors put tickets to the party in a bucket to be drawn for door prizes. They also marked ballots for competition purposes.

Dozens of local businesses, organizations, and individuals supported the Barn Party with “significant” support coming from Moorefield’s South Branch Stockyards, one of the most prominent cattle trading markets in the eastern United States.

All there understood that the party and all of the events surrounding youth in livestock have greater meaning than ribbons and awards. The fair competition develops skills and brings young people into the wider farming community, ensuring that the world’s most vital field of endeavor is in good hands moving forward.

As Workman said, the effort expended, “Is not a cost. It’s an investment.”

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO A FREE, FAMILY FRIENDLY PUBLIC HISTORY PROGRAM:

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A reception with refreshments will follow the program. All are welcome! There will be photos, video clips, and historic documents. This is a great chance to learn from experts about powerful stories from West Virginia history!



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DR. CICERO M. FAIN
MARSHALL UNIVERSITY



Speaker
DR. TAMARA DENMARK-BAILEY
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A Few Snapshots from the 2026 Tri-County Fair



The 2026 Tri-County Fair was held in Petersburg from July 25 through Aug. 1. This year's fair featured Horse Shows, Horse Show Games, Art, Farm Products, Baked Goods, and Canning Exhibits, Pageants, Livestock Exhibits and Shows, 4-H and FFA Shows, a Pig Scramble, Carnival Rides, a Parade, Fireworks, Power Wheel Derby, Master Showmanship Competition, Lamb/Goat Costume Contest, Pet Show, a Demolition Derby, Monster Truck Show, and Musical Performances.



Tri-County Fair ‘Chicken Shack’ Fundraiser Served Up Help for Scholarships, Community Projects

By Stephen Smoot

Most fairs have their stock and trade in cattle, sheep, and even goats and pigs. Young people show off their hard work in competition, and animals are bought and sold. The groundwork for the future in these fields secured through the work of young people and support and guidance by adults. Farmers take strong pride in the historic quality of cattle dating back centuries in the region.

All that said, the Potomac Highlands remains one of the most vital raising and production areas for the poultry industry. The West Virginia Poultry Association and Pilgrims fresh plant's community service organization come together at each fair to dish out some choice chicken and raise funds for their causes.

Ward Malcolm, president of the West Virginia Poultry Association, promoted the shack during different events during poultry week last month. "This is a big fundraiser for the poultry association," he explained, adding that it helps to put money into annual

scholarships handed out by the WVPA.

"Pilgrims and the WVPA run the booth and split the proceeds," he explained. He added, "We're glad Pilgrims is here. They do a lot for us."

Pam Weese, who also represented Pilgrims at youth day during poultry week, donned food service gear and jumped behind the counter last Friday. That night, they came from the Pilgrims Fresh CCP team, the WVPA, Pendleton Community Bank, and Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

She shared that the tradi-

tion of the chicken shack "goes way back before my time."

Those who come to help are also prepared to work, as the pace ranges between busy and busiest. Matt Nelson, also volunteering in the kitchen, said that it picks up "especially during the evenings and before and after an event. Parade day is always a really busy day."

Pilgrims uses funds raised from this and other events to fund a number of programs. As Weese noted, these include scholarships, support for schools, senior centers, and other community service agencies and projects. One recent

Pilgrims' donation replaced banks of broken lockers in the middle school section of Pendleton County Middle/High School.

Support from Pilgrims extends across the five counties

of the Potomac Highlands region, all areas that raise large numbers of birds for the company. Weese called the support "a great way to give back."

Of course, the immediate

benefit comes in the form of delicious and freshly prepared chicken. As Nelson stated, "We want to give people an economy meal at the fair, to keep prices down for families as much as possible."

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SGR422A 1.891 Acres, w/3,637 sq. ft., 3 Bed, 3 Bath Brick home located in Franklin Corp. LP Furnace, Heat Pump & Baseboard Electric. Public water & sewer. Barn, Camper Shed and Garage. ~~\$429,000.00~~

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

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

SGR412A 5.69 Acres, w/1 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin, built in 2010. Loft for overflow sleeping. Septic, #800 Gallon Cistern, Water, and Electric. Outbuilding, Tile, Floating Wood Shed. Very well maintained. Located in Dry Run area. Shared ROW. Franklin District, Pendleton Cty. ~~\$180,000.00~~

SGR410A 1492 Dice Warner Road, Circleville, 3 Bed, 2 Bath, log siding and rock home, top of Teter Gap, gorgeous mountain views, 2 living rooms, propane heat/AC and a forced air wood furnace. House being sold "AS-IS." ~~\$249,900.00~~

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

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

SGR407A 8.26 acre Off Grid, one room cabin on Kile Knob. Solar panels, Septic, Cistern water. Property joins 9.48 acres Kile Knob Common area. Hiking trails. Gated. ~~\$189,000.00~~

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

SGR404A CABIN W/CAVE ACCESS! 5 Acres w/1 Bed, 2.5 Bath Log Siding Cabin, Loft sleeping area, primary bdrm has access to private balcony. Fully furnished. Laundry on main floor. Spring water, Septic. Sleeps 6 people. Buck Ridges Development. Some Restrictions. Preapproval required and Cave Entry Waiver must be signed prior to showing. ~~\$195,000.00~~

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 City. ~~\$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 City. ~~\$269,999.00~~ REDUCED ~~\$229,000.00~~

61 Chestnut St.,
Franklin, WV 26807

Broker George Sponaugle - 304-358-2714
Agents: Kathy Sponaugle - 304-668-3283
Gene Boggs - 304-668-2982 Angie Nelson - 304-358-2524



NEW LISTING - DRY RUN - FRANKLIN DISTRICT - 6.01 acres w/3 BR, 2 BA trailer, excellent condition, w/deck, swimming pool, washer, dryer, refrig., public water, metal roof, out bldg., new 35x36 metal shop w/wheat and air, good hunting, views, private. \$198,000.

BRANDYWINE - 3-4 BR, 2 BA brick w/central air, lift-in-garage, 20'x40' pavilion, creek, on 2.01 ac. ~~\$299,900.00~~ **Under Contract**

FRANKLIN - 2 BR, 1 BA Lindel wood siding home on 2.26 acres. ~~\$180,000~~ ~~\$170,000~~ \$160,000.

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. ~~\$649,000~~ \$749,000 or best offer.

SGR400A 5 Bed, 3 Bath home located in Franklin District on 2.5 acres offers privacy in peaceful, wooded surroundings while being near schools and all town amenities. Attached 2 car garage, partially finished basement, fenced yard, Heat Pump & Central AC, 3 Fireplaces, Well, Septic and Water Filtration system. ~~\$549,000.00~~ REDUCED ~~\$525,000.00~~

SGR393A 14.5 Acres w/2 Bed, 1 Bath Cabin with very efficient use of space. Located on Dry Run Rd. 1900 gallon Cistern. Wood & Electric Heat. ~~\$249,999.00~~ REDUCED ~~\$239,000.00~~

SGR392A Custom Canadian White Cedar Log Home. 4 Bed, 2 Bath, 3,088 sq. ft. Cabin on 119.45 acres located in Hidden Valley. Red Oak and Mexican Tile flooring. Two Car Garage & partial basement. Mature plants and trees. Some Restrictions apply. Franklin District. ~~\$949,000.00~~ ~~\$899,999.00~~ REDUCED ~~\$849,000.00~~

SGR385A 11.54 Acres w/3+ Bed, 3 Bath Cabin located in Buck Ridges Dylomt. Screened porch, Deck, Stone Patio, Private entrance, 1000 sq. ft. Cedar wood, Tile, Floating Linoleum flooring. Lots of natural light, Metal Roof, Board and Batten Exterior. 3080 assessed sq ft. Very well maintained. ~~\$325,000.00~~

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

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

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

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~~

SGR340A 327.98 Acres, with 4 Bed, 3.5 Bath Home w/2 car garage and Barn. Property adjoins lands owned by Fisher Mtn. Golf Course. Expansive view of Shenandoah Mountain and Fisher Mountain Golf Course. Year round spring-fed creek w/several other Springs and nice bldg. sites. **NEW LISTING** ~~\$2,250,000.00~~

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

SGR302A "The Hollow" Restaurant, fully furnished, at the corner of US RT 220/US RT 33W, Franklin. Property adjoins neighboring motel. ~~\$425,000.00~~ ~~\$320,000.00~~ ~~\$299,000.00~~ ~~\$229,000.00~~ REDUCED ~~\$219,000.00~~

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

SGR441 Residential lots, public water, protective covenants and restrictions. Oak Flat Estates near Brandywine on Rte 33 East of Franklin. Lots from ~~\$22,836.00~~

SGR247 Residential lots with town water, sewer & underground utilities. Protective covenants and restrictions. Franklin Airport Development. Lots from ~~\$14,630.00~~

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2024 RAM 2500 CREW CAB SHORTBED 4X4 "BIGHORN EDITION," Cummins diesel, auto., ldd., white, 58K miles.....	SPECIAL \$48,500 \$46,500
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2021 FORD F-750 CREW CAB & CHASSIS, 6.7 dsl., auto., ldd., air brakes, etc., white, 109K miles.....	\$49,500
2020 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW SHORTBED 4X4, XLT sport pkg. 2.7 V-6, auto., ldd., silver, 118K miles.....	\$24,900
2020 FORD F-150 SUPERCAB 6-1/2 FT BED 4X4, 5.0 liter V-8, auto., ldd., black, 90K miles.....	\$24,900
2019 NISSAN FRONTIER CREW CAB SHORTBED 4X4, 4.0 liter V-6, auto., ldd., charcoal, 92K miles.....	\$19,500
2018 FORD F-250 S/CAB LONGBED 4X4, 6.7 diesel, auto., air, etc., white, 275K VDOT highway miles.....	\$21,900
2015 FORD F-250 SUPERCAB LONGBED LARIAT 4X4, 6.7 diesel, auto., ldd., black, 138K miles.....	\$29,500
2015 FORD F-450 CREW ALUMINUM FLATBED 4X4, 6.7 dsl., auto., ldd., white, ex. cond.	SPECIAL \$34,900 \$32,900
2008 FORD F-550 4X4 UTILITY TRUCK, w/ mechanic's crane and auger, 6.4 dsl., auto., air, etc.	SPECIAL \$26,900 \$19,500
2006 FORD F-250 CREW CAB S/BED LARIAT 4X4, 6.0 diesel, auto., ldd., wht/tan, 223K miles.....	\$16,500
2003 FORD F-550 REG CAB 4X4 FIRE TRUCK, 6.0 diesel, auto., red, ldd w/accessories, only 45K miles.....	SPECIAL \$49,500 \$44,500 \$39,500
PASSENGER VEHICLES.....	SALE
2025 FORD BRONCO 4-DR "BADLANDS SASQUATCH PKG.," V-6, auto., ldd., blue, only 6K miles, 72K new	\$49,500
2022 KIA SORENTO AWD PREMIUM EDITION, 2.5 liter, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., light gray, 92K miles.....	\$23,500
2022 SUBARU LEGACY 4-DR SEDAN "Premium Pkg.," ldd w/options, perfect condition, charcoal, 111K miles.....	SPECIAL \$19,900 \$17,900
2021 JEEP WRANGLER 2-DR HARDTOP "80TH ANNIVERSARY PKG.," V-6, auto., ldd., orange, 64K miles	\$24,900
2021 KIA SELTOS PREMIUM PKG., AWD, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., bronze, 104K miles, ex. cond.	\$16,500
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2020 NISSAN MURANO S AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., silver, only 75K miles.....	SPECIAL \$18,900 \$16,900
2019 INFINITI QX60 LUXE AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., pearl white, 94K miles.....	SPECIAL \$19,500 \$17,900
2018 FORD EXPLORER XLT "SPORT PKG" AWD, 2.3 4-cyl., auto., ldd., dark cherry, 115K miles, very sharp.....	SPECIAL \$18,900 \$17,900
2017 FORD EXPEDITION XLT 4X4, 3.5 Ecoboost V-6, auto., ldd., pearl white, 142K highway miles.....	\$16,900
2017 JEEP WRANGLER 4-DR SPORT 4X4, V-6, auto., ldd., white, 89K miles.....	SPECIAL \$18,900 \$17,900
2017 FORD EXPLORER XLT AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., copper color, 118K miles, sharp	\$14,900
2016 FORD EXPLORER XLT AWD, V-6, auto., ldd., white, 124K miles.....	\$12,900
2014 FORD E-250 CARGO VAN, 5.4 liter V-8, auto., ldd., white, 140K miles.....	\$12,900

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