

THE PENDLETON TIMES

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Thursday
October 8, 2026

A Quarter Century of Hard Work Pays Off in Ribbon Cutting



Carl Hevener, Pendleton County Commission president, cut the ribbon and officially opened the new courthouse annex. About 60 gathered to celebrate the culmination of more than a quarter century of work.

By Stephen Smoot

For longer than a good number of Pendleton County residents have even lived on this earth, the county has labored to plan and construct an annex to the courthouse.

The West Virginia State Supreme Court of Appeals urged that a ribbon cutting event be held to commemorate the completion. More

than 60 people representing local, state, federal, and municipal government, local business and family of those who worked for the day came forth for a presentation followed by a reception in the county commission chambers.

In a manner of speaking, the day also evolved into recognition of Karen Pitsenbarger, county administrator. She held the reins of the project into completion, coordinating with a number of



County elected officials and other employees posed together last week during the ribbon cutting for the courthouse annex.

different offices and businesses to complete the project while also following the precise regulations concerning West Virginia courthouse construction and recognized historical structures.

The sun shone brilliantly on a warmer-than expected morning as all gathered at 11 o'clock to start. Roger Dahmer, commissioner, offered the invocation and then Carl Hevener, commission president, led the crowd in the Pledge

of Allegiance.

"This has been a long time coming," stated Hevener, who added, "A lot of commissioners, not just me, Roger, and Jimmy (Bennett)" played a role in bringing the project to fruition. Gene McConnell, former Pendleton County Commission president, was on hand, along with the families of others who had served in

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State Introduces Program to Help with Home Energy Efficiency Upgrades



Guests observe an Eastern Action instructor talk about weatherization and how homes can be more energy efficient. They are the regional agency tapped by the state to help with the program.

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey touted the establishment of a new program geared to help homeowners upgrade their residences to lower their bills. From the United States Department of Energy came \$88 million of \$8.8 billion distributed to states nationally to support two programs for West Virginia residents.

The Mountain State rolled out their version of the programs before any other state.

"Affordability is one of the biggest challenges facing West Virginia families, and lowering monthly energy bills is one way we can help families keep more of their hard-earned money," said Governor Morrisey. "We want to hold down energy costs, create good-paying jobs, and make sure West Virginians have every opportunity to get ahead."

The two programs at the State level in West Virginia are called the Home Owner Managing Energy Savings program, or HOMES, and the Home Efficiency Appliance Rebates, or HEAR. Currently, the programs are operating on a pilot basis as applications start to come in. Execution of the programs will take place after the pilot stage is complete.

The HOMES program, according to the West Virginia Office of Energy, includes "upgrading insulation, replacing outdated equipment, or installing a heat pump." Regulations state that equipment "may only

be upgraded when switching to an energy efficient model or equivalent. For example, a gas appliance may be replaced with a more efficient gas model, while an electric appliance may be replaced with a more efficient electric model."

Additionally, "rebates are available to households of all income levels, and the more energy your project saves, the more this program will cover."

The HEAR program has a slightly different focus. It "aims to help West Virginia residents lower the cost of purchasing and installing energy-saving appliances and upgrades."

The HOMES program has a four-step process. First, residents apply for household qualification. Applications go to the West Virginia Office of Energy, but Regional Implementation Partners are available to provide assistance "every step of the way." In Pendleton County, that agency is Eastern Action.

Next, "certified energy auditors visit the homes to assess opportunities for energy savings." After the energy audit, residents will receive a "customized plan" suggesting energy efficient measures to adopt moving forward.

Finally, certified contractors come to install the upgrades.

Examples of eligible upgrades include heat pump installations, gas equipment upgrades, and weatherization improvements.

The rebate amount received is calculated via a formula that adds household income to projected energy savings.

For HEAR, the first step is the same, but the second step brings certified energy auditors to analyze household appliances and their energy use. The third and last step comes when certified contractors complete the work required.

The West Virginia Office of Energy's website explaining the programs has additional information for potential applicants, contractors, and others.



Germany Valley is one of three Pendleton County scenic landmarks nominated to WV Living's "Best in State" list.

County Sees Nominations in 19 Categories For WV Living's 'Best' in State Awards

By Stephen Smoot

When it comes to sharing ideas about which food, drinks, people, scenic views and much more are "Best in West Virginia," it seems that Pendleton County has come to mind quite often — to the tune of 19 different nominations across a broad variety of categories.

Every summer, West Virginia Living invites all Mountain State residents to show their support for the best that the state has to offer. Voters go online and select from a broad variety of fields that cover tourism, community service, local culture, attractions, and places to consume both potables and vict-

uals. Nominees are then named and are up for a vote for "Best in State" that concludes on Oct. 12.

Annie Humes, Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau executive director, said, "This year Pendleton County businesses, organizations, locations, and activities have been nominated for a whopping total of 19 Best of West Virginia awards."

That list actually includes the Pendleton County CVB as one of the best in its field of organizations statewide.

Humes noted that promotional efforts by the CVB in partnership with other county and regional organizations have come to fruition.

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Farm Safety Day Helps Kids Stay Safe at Work and at Play



Bob Grimm and Dave Ellis teach firearm and hunting safety, explaining the power and proper use of weapons.

By Stephen Smoot

For a number of years, Steve Conrad and others from the Pendleton County Farm Bureau, along with the Pendleton County West Virginia University Extension Service, has worked to bring together Farm Safety Day to instruct area young people about how to



The most vital of the seven stations was the final one where students wrote thank you messages to participants.

avoid injury or illness whether working on the farm, or enjoying outdoor recreation. Volunteers and staff gathered at Pendleton County Middle/High School on last Thursday to help attendees come away with information to help them stay safe.

This year, seventh and eighth graders enjoyed instruction at PCM/HS instead of the

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Community CALENDAR County Democrats To Meet Today

Pendleton County Democrats will meet at 6 p.m. today in the basement of the Pendleton County Library. All are welcome.

Post 30 To Meet

American Legion Pendleton Post 30 will meet at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 14 at the Moose Lodge in Franklin. If attending, contact Steve Conrad at 304-249-5694 by Monday.

Eastern Schedules Two Free Events

Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College in Moorefield has scheduled two free and open events for the community to attend.

The art club will gather from 4 - 6 p.m. Oct. 14. The month's project is cheese-cloth ghosts and/or fall leaves bowl. Materials, food, and beverages will be provided for free. For questions, contact trent.montgomery@easternwv.edu or edward.cole@easternwv.edu.

A career services workshop with resume and interviewing tips from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 15 by Zoom. Dixie Heavener, career counselor, will present how to create a resume that will land a person an interview and tips on how to get the job offer after facing the interview. Attending four workshops will earn participants the career services - career-ready micro-credential. For questions, contact Heavener at dixie.heavener@easternwv.edu.



Richard Cleat
“Rick” Phares Jr.

Richard Cleat “Rick” Phares Jr., 72, of Riverton passed away on Sept. 30, 2026, at Winchester Regional Medical Center in Winchester, Virginia. Born Dec. 25, 1953, in Canton, Ohio, he was the son of the late Richard Phares and Ruth Sites Phares. Mr. Phares graduated in 1971 from Circleville High School where he played basketball, football and baseball. He was a star basketball player, averaging 30 points a game his senior year, which was the highest average in the tri-state area. He received a scholarship to play basketball at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buchannon. He was a member of the KA

Fraternity and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. He lived in Moorefield and Staunton, Virginia, where he was in the laundromat business for several years and ultimately moved back to West Virginia where he worked on the farms and in the masonry business. He leaves behind to cherish his memory two sons, Richard Cleat Phares III (Katie Sullivan) of Riverton and Pete Layne of Morgantown; three sisters Dr. Pamela P Kulback and husband, Steven of Birmingham, Alabama, Kimberly L. Godwin and husband, John of Morgantown and Sonnee D. Shomo and husband, Chad of Swoope, Virginia; a brother, Jerry Phares and wife, Kitty of Petersburg; and a grandchild “on the way,” Blaine. A funeral service was held Saturday in the chapel of the Basagic Funeral Home in Franklin with Pastor James Phares officiating. Interment was at the North Fork Memorial Cemetery in Riverton. Memorials may be made to North Fork Fire Department or Seneca Rocks Fire Department. Memories and words of comfort may be left at www.basagic.com or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home.



Donnie Fray
Vandevander, Sr.

Donnie Fray Vandevander, Sr., 84, of Riverton passed away on Sept. 30, 2026, at his home. He was born on June 27, 1942, in Simoda, the son of the late Arlie Clifton “Pete” and Mary Evelyn (Harper) Vandevander. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Ivan and Irma Harper, who raised him. Mr. Vandevander lived a life marked by steady work, community ties, and the simple pleasures he enjoyed most. He attended Circleville High School and focused his career on farming and mining. He had worked for 19 years with Buffalo Coal at Mt. Storm, retiring from the union in 2006.

He was a veteran of the United States Army. Outside of work, he found happiness in the quiet comforts of home. He enjoyed sitting on his porch with his cats, watching the traffic go by. He was also a member of Operating Engineers Local #132 for 53 years and the Pendleton County Farm Bureau for more than 50 years, connections that reflected both his working life and his ties to the community around him. He leaves behind to treasure his memory a son, D.J. Vandevander (Liane) of Riverton; a sister, Patricia Liller of Riverton; and two grandsons, Lucas (Macee Ours) and Layton. He was also preceded in death by his companion of many years, Cynthia “Cindy” Jordan (September 2026); and his nephew, Tim Wimer. In honoring his wishes, his body has been cremated. A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions can be made to the Osiris Shriners in Wheeling or the North Fork Rescue Squad. Memories and words of comfort may be left at www.basagic.com or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home.



Janet Sue Nelson

Janet Sue Nelson, 84, of Riverton died Oct. 2, 2026, in Thomas. She was born Nov. 22, 1941, in Riverton and was the daughter of the late Frank Landes and Irene Ruddle Landes. Mrs. Nelson attended Dixie School and was a 1960 graduate of Circleville High School. She worked at Aileen Garment Factory, Hanover Shoe Company and was an Avon representative. She attended Riverton United Methodist Church and Circleville Presbyterian Church. She enjoyed sewing, quilting and taking care of her dogs.

On April 6, 1962, she married Bardon Warner Nelson. He and their son, John Lee Nelson, preceded her in death Feb. 25, 1972. Surviving are two sons, Jeffrey Nelson (Linda Curry) of Riverton and B.J. Nelson (Julie) of Augusta; two sisters, Bonnie O’Brien of Maryland and Mary Monn (Greg) of Petersburg; a brother, Morris Landes of Petersburg; two grandchildren, Bardon Lee Nelson (Haley) of Kingwood and Renee Conneway of Morgantown; five great-grandchildren, Adalyn Grace Nelson, Brooklyn Braham, Colson Conneway, Cooper Conneway and Cohen Conneway; a number of nieces and nephews; and her four-legged canine companion, Dewey. A funeral service was held Tuesday in the Kimble Funeral Home chapel in Franklin with David Hartman officiating. Interment was at North Fork Memorial Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Burlington Home, 539 New Creek Highway, Keyser, WV 26726. Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.kimblefuneralhome.com.

Hands and Harvest Festival Set for this Weekend

Highland County’s annual Hands & Harvest Festival returns with county-wide fall fun during the holiday weekend of Oct. 9 – 11, where everyone is invited to celebrate the traditions, harvest, and crafts found in this rural mountain community. From farms to a fire tower, visitors can experience the sights and tastes of the season while viewing the beautiful countryside of fall foliage. There will be more than 20 free attractions and destinations to enjoy. On the self-guided Harvest Trail, the public is encouraged to take part in traditional fall staples like cider pressing or making apple butter at local farms and maple sugar camps, or they can try something different like taking a tour of a mini equine sanctuary or viewing the process of creating colorful barn quilts. Highland County is home to Virginia’s first Barn Quilt Trail that includes 80 barn quilts on its popular brochure to discover while traveling. Community activities include an exciting 5K Fall Color Run, Valley AeroSpace Team Rocket Launches, the Sounding Knob Fire Tower, historic Monterey, Virginia, walking tours starting from the Highland Inn, a festive Oktoberfest celebration at the Barn at Monterey Inn, Charles Pinckney Jones House Museum, and much more. Virginia’s newest State Park, Hayfields, is set to be open for 4+ miles of hiking trails, fishing access along the Bullpasture River, and a Friday Star Party under some of the darkest skies in the region. Musical entertainment is available for the entire family. The Highland County Arts Council presents the Elk

River Ramblers at The Highland Center in Monterey at 3 p.m. on Saturday. This dynamic string trio presents original arrangements and compositions of Appalachian old-time, bluegrass, Celtic, klezmer, jazz, and classic rock. Additional entertainment on Saturday includes bluegrass music at Southernmost Maple at noon, dreamy Appalachian folk from Woodbine at Big Fish Cider, Co. from 4 – 7 p.m., and old-time/folk from the Short Hill Mountains Boys at the Barn at Monterey Inn from 5 - 7 .pm. Follow all that up from 1 – 3 p.m. on Sunday with a free square dance on Spruce Street in Monterey with experienced local callers Ellen and Eugene Ratcliffe alongside performances from one of Virginia’s oldest clogging groups, the Little Switzerland Cloggers. Don’t be shy and get out there for some interactive fun. Bring one’s appetite, because there will be abundant food options available around the county with seasonal offerings. Many adventures await with a visit. The full schedule, details, and addresses of all the festival happenings can be found at www.highlandcounty.org/hands-harvest-festival. Maps with daily schedules will be available at the Highland County Courthouse Lawn and the Highland County Visitor Center, both in Monterey, Virginia, and local stores throughout the county during the event. The Hands and Harvest Festival is brought to one by the Highland County Chamber of Commerce.



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Treasure Mountain Festival Association wishes to thank the volunteers and communtiy for their commitment and support in making this year’s festival a success...It takes everyone to make it happen!

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Carl Hevener
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Your Vote Matters
Register by: Oct. 13
Early Voting: October 21 - 31
Vote in Person: November 3

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- **Vince George** (US House, to replace Miller)
- **Kevin Carpenter** (WV Senate)
- **Mandy Weirich** (WV Delegate, District 67)
- **Betsy Orndoff-Sayers** (WV Delegate, District 86)

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Promises Made
“Starting on day one, we will end inflation and make America affordable again.”
(Trump, Waunakee, Wisconsin - 10/1/24)
“We’re going to get your energy prices down by 50%.”
(Trump, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania - 8/17/24)
“We’re getting gasoline below \$2.00 a gallon.”
(Trump, Club of New York, New York - 9/5/24)
Promises Broken
We are all paying
Paid for by the Pendleton County Democratic Executive Committee

Farm Safety Day

Continued From Page 1

community building. With WVU Extension moving to the General Services Center, it was decided to hold it at the school rather than ask the students to climb the steps to the new office.

Brooke Alt, one of Pendleton County's WVU Extension agents, said, "It's exciting to be here." She thanked Zachary Tennant, the new PCM/HS agriculture instructor, saying, "He generously opened up his shop for us. That was really helpful."

Because of the brilliant blue skies and seasonably warm sun, most of the seven stations were placed outside.

The first station seen by those entering the agriculture education area between the school and the greenhouses was a fishing and outdoor safety station. Small groups of students moved through each station to get the benefit of learning from all.

Jessica Streets came from the Tucker County WVU Extension office. She carefully questioned the kids about potential problems in the outdoors and what their safety solutions might be, asking at one point, "What do you need if you trip and fall and hurt yourself, maybe you're bleeding a lot?" Students answered "first aid kit!" They also discussed both sun and wind burn, along with how to prevent each. "I live in Tucker County," Streets told them. "It's windy up there all the time. My kids always carry ChapStick."

Bob Grimm and Dave Ellis, both veterans of Pendleton County Emergency Rescue, came in the roles of instructors with the West Virginia Hunter Education Institute. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources offers 12 hour hunter safety courses that one must complete to obtain an initial hunting license. Traditional face-to-face hunter safety classes are free.

Part of the instruction focused on the real power of firearms, particularly rifles. Grimm picked up an instructional rifle clad in blaze orange. He then pointed to the top of the ridge rising to the east of town and said, "This .22 would reach the top of that ridge up there." He added, "You need to know how far it would go. A bullet from one of those high-powered rifles can travel as far as Long Mountain General Store." Some students brought up the effect of gravity over distance. Grimm acknowledged it, but said, "You still need to know what's past the target."

The two also covered step-by-step how to both fire and care for a gun once the day of shooting is concluded.

Jessica Hoover, also an agent with the Pendleton County WVU Extension Service, was joined by Greg Mitchell and Trey Kiser from Farm Credit. They explained how to avoid injury when using tractors or other heavy farm equipment. Some of the most effective points during the presentation came when they showed what could happen in one second or less. They used stuffed trash bags to stand in for bodies and balloons with smiley faces drawn on for heads. One of the young men at the presentation shared some safety tips his father taught his family.

Mitchell also urged that "if you have to go up a hill, do it up and down if you can, not sideways." He also warned that everyone needs to pay close attention to equipment at all times because "farming is the most dangerous work."

Alt explained that Farm Safety Day works to address all kids, not just those who live or work on a farm. She said of the students that "if they don't live on a farm, they know someone who does. It's such a rural county, a lot of these kids have already driven tractors."

Stations also included information on diseases transmitted by wildlife, such as ticks and rabies-carrying animals and chainsaw safety from personnel hailing from the West Virginia Division of Forestry.

The seventh station involved more character and gratitude, although instruction in such qualities is always helpful. Students got to write and sign thank you cards for the volunteers and organizations who helped to make it all happen.

Ribbon Cutting

Continued From Page 1

the office over time. They were specifically invited to take part. Hevener thanked Pitsenbarger and Scott McConnell, as well.

He shared his appreciation for the help of former United States Senator Joe Manchin, whose support "got the project rolling" or "I wouldn't be standing here today."

Jay Rogers then came forward, representing Omni, the architectural firm. "It's nice to be here. I'm excited to see people at the project," he noted. He added that the firm takes pride in participating in "projects that enrich the lives of people who use this building and work here every day."

Steve Collins from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development office shared his observations on the beauty of the region, then Neil Hazlett from Pendleton Community Bank spoke. He stated, "I only replaced Bill Loving as CEO a few months ago. Bill was a long time supporter and advocate of this project."

Chris Weaver from Lantz Construction touched on the unusual complexity of the project, referring to the various agencies and government jurisdictions that converged on it. "There's a lot of different layers of folks involved," he added.

Keith Hoover, administrative director of the West Virginia State Supreme Court of Appeals, rose next. His role lies in assisting the judges of the court in operating the state court system in West Virginia.

"This project was very well run," he explained, going on to state that both Pitsenbarger and the county commission earned praise for their diligence and work. "It's impressive to me," Hoover said, "how old and new blended together." He then shared that the courthouse completed a century ago cost the taxpayers \$70,000. On a more philosophical note, he said, "It's not just a building. It's a place where justice happens" and "the building is nothing without the people who work here."

Jeff Bowers, chairman of the Pendleton County Building Commission, shared an anecdote on the origin of the effort, a circuit judge threatening to jail a 1990s era Pendleton County Commission unless it started the process to construct the annex.

He said the community should "thank and thank and thank the supreme court" for its part in the project, as well.

"It's been a very long process," he finished.

After the ribbon cutting came group photographs of the county workers, then a reception in the commission chambers.

'Best' in State

Continued From Page 1

tion. "We're thrilled to see three nominees from Pendleton in two categories, scenic views and maple syrup, that are near and dear to our hearts." Each category received seven nominations. Three maple syrup producers hail from Pendleton — Cool Hollow in Sugar Grove, Mountain Cajun Getaways in Riverton, and M&S Maple in Upper Tract. Mountain Cajun Getaways also earned nomination for "Best Charity of Non Profit" for their work with veterans returning from deployment and their families.

Three "Best Scenic View" nominations also came the county's way. Most would expect to see Spruce Knob and Seneca Rocks listed, but Germany Valley made the cut as well.

Humes shared her competitive side a bit by noting that among nominations for best view and maple syrup, "even if the vote is split, because who can choose between those really, the fact of the matter is that when it comes to both of these delightful categories, we dominate the field."

Closely related to the scenic view category are those foot trails. North Fork Mountain Trail earned "Best Mountain Biking" while the challenging hike to the top of Seneca Rocks received a "Best Hiking Trail" nomination. Spruce Knob — Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area earned a nomination among the best public parks and forest lands.

West Virginia ranks next to dead last, only above Utah, when it comes to alcohol consumption. That said, Pendleton County offers a variety of nominations in different spirits categories. Dry Run Spirits earned a "Best Distillery" nomination. Swilled Dog picked up both "Best Distillery and Best Cidery."

Rest and recreation also earned notice. One can enjoy a "Best Rental" at Germany Valley Overlook Cabins and play on the "Best Golf Course" at the Highlands at Fisher Mountain. One can also enjoy relaxing recreation at the same time with the "Best Tea Room" nominee, the Historic McCoy House Tea Room that is moving to another venue in Franklin.

Pendleton Community Bank also earned a hat trick of nominations for "Best Bank, Best Place to Work, and Best Corporate Citizen."

Archery and Crossbow Season Is Open

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has announced that archery and crossbow seasons for white-tailed deer, black bear and wild boar opened on Sept. 26.

"Archery and crossbow seasons are a great opportunity to introduce new hunters to the sport. As early big game seasons, they are highly anticipated and a great opportunity to reconnect with other hunters and enjoy the outdoors," said Brett McMillion, WVDNR director.

To help hunters prepare, WVDNR reminds the public of several important matters pertaining to these seasons:

- Electronic Checking: All big game must be field tagged and electronically checked at WVhunt.com. Completing the check promptly after harvest ensures accurate reporting and helps the WVDNR monitor wildlife populations.

- Deer Carcass and Baiting Restrictions: Carcass transportation restrictions are now in effect in Grant County, while baiting and feeding restrictions apply in Pendleton County.

- Wounded Game Recovery: An unmanned aerial vehicle can be used to track and locate mortally wounded deer,

bear and wild boar. Only one leashed dog can be used for this purpose.

- Deer Bowhunter Survey: Hunters who participated in last year's deer archery and crossbow season are invited to participate in the WVDNR's annual bowhunter survey, which provides valuable data that supports wildlife management and helps improve future hunting opportunities.

To learn more about season dates, bag limits and county-specific regulations, check the West Virginia Hunting Regulations Summary, available to download at WVdnr.gov/hunting-regulations.

All hunters 15 and older are required to have a valid West Virginia hunting license, unless hunting under resident landowner privileges. Hunters also must carry a valid form of identification.

Correction to Cunningham Place Article

In the Sept. 17 issue, it was incorrectly reported that Cunningham Place donated flowers for Franklin's hanging baskets. This is not the case. Businesses sponsor the cost of the

baskets assembled by Cunningham Place as part of the annual beautification project. Each participating business generously donated hundreds towards the cost of each basket.



Warm the Children

Providing New Winter Clothing
For Needy Children

Contact information: Kelly or Annie Pendleton County Family Support Center/ Eastern Action
304-538-7711 or kilmower@easternaction.org addotson@easternaction.org

**Donations are due by
October 30th, 2026**

The need is great! Pendleton County children without winter clothing will be cold without your help.

What is Warm the Children Program?
It's neighbors helping neighbors. Pendleton County Times readers are asked to donate to the fund, with all proceeds being used to buy new winter clothing for Pendleton County children in need. None of the donations will be used for administrative costs. All money donated is used to purchase new warm winter clothing and footwear.

How will children be identified?
Applications will be available at the Pendleton County Family Support Center October 1, 2026 thru October 30, 2026. Children from Birth through age 18 (if in School or Home Schooled) are eligible. Applications can be completed by visiting the Family Support Center located at 30 Maple Ave Franklin.

How will the clothing be purchased?
Family Support Center staff will coordinate families and volunteers to shop online for their winter clothing and footwear.

How can I help?
By donating time, money or both! Contact the Family Support Center at 304 538-7711 or simply complete the coupon and mail it to:

Eastern Action, c/o Pendleton County Family Support Center
Warm the Children
101 Alt Ave., Petersburg, WV 26847

Thank you
for helping keep
our children
warm!

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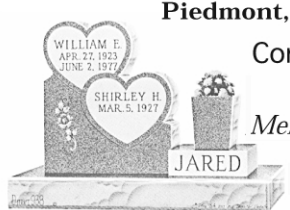
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MENU

Pendleton Senior & Family Services

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9
Pork w/Gravy
Sweet Potato
Sauerkraut
Fruit Cocktail

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12
CLOSED 

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13
Brunch @10AM
Scrambled Egg Casserole
Potatoes
Cinnamon Roll
Yogurt w/Fruit & Granola
Juice

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14
Chicken Tenders
Mac N Cheese
Peas & Carrots
Peach Cobbler

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15
Pork BBQ Sandwich
Baked Beans
Cole Slaw, Banana



Meal times are from 11:45 to 12:45. All meals served with 2% milk & a bread.
Reserve your meals.
Reservations served first.
Menus are subject to change.
304-358-2421

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Nine to 10 percent of all cases of breast cancer in the United States are reported in women younger than 45 years of age. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the United States.

Men can get breast cancer too. In 2026, it's estimated that 2,670 men in the United States will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer.

*No patient denied services because of inability to pay!

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20 Years Ago
 Week of October 3, 1996

Legion Post Installs
 Armed Forces Plaque
 In Courthouse

Hanging in silent reverence in the entrance hall of the Pendleton County Courthouse is a Memorial Plaque of members of the Armed Forces which lists the names of World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf, who paid the supreme price in service to their country.

As we view this Memorial, nameby name, it will perhaps, have a different meaning to each of us. To me the writer, it is memories of growing up with a number of people whose names appear thereon: It is living memories of playing sports, going to school, double dating, participating in 4-H and enjoying our youth together. Recently, I visited the Vietnam Memorial in Washington and observed a reporter from the Washington Post doing a story on “Why People Visit This Memorial.” The reasons given perhaps would also apply to our plaque here in Pendleton County. Here are a few: “One was a widow with a now grown daughter, who never knew her dad; another was a prospective bride, engaged, who was denied the happiness of marriage; then the father and mother who grieved the loss of an only son, and a grandmother, who now alone remembers a grandson now a name on a wall; and finally a veteran of the Vietnam War whose three buddies were killed on patrol; he was still asking, why not me?

Whatever your reason might be, we invite you to visit this Memorial Plaque of our Pendleton County Veterans who gave their lives for their country.

The placement of this Memorial Plaque did not just happen. The American Legion Post 30, under the direction and planning of Commander Olin Hoover and with the financial support provided by Keith Kimble, made this possible. Submitted by Herbert E. Eye

DAHMER

Captain Bill,
 Probably a Leader
 During Muster Days

A number of people have asked how William Propst receive the name Captain Bill. There were several William Propsts, and it was a way to make a distinction in one respect. He was an above average Propst in book knowledge at this period of time and could write a nice hand. He probably attended the Roman School for he grew up on the South Fork, married Eliza Swadley on February 9, 1837. They had one son, Hurvey. They migrated to Joplin, Missouri, where Eliza probably died. Anyway, he returned and later married Melinda Rexrode on the South Branch. They bought the property now the late Russell and Verna Propst

farm purchased of Guy Martin. A very early owner was Michael Harold, and a nice ridge till bears the name Harold Ridge. Michael Harold is buried in the Dahmer, McQuain Cemetery. Captain Bill, probably a leader during muster days because his near neighbor, Levi Propst, could play the fife and his son, Amos, was a drummer boy. Amos was shot through the bowels at Mine Run during the Civil War. Gilbert Pitsenbarger is said to have sold Levi’s fife to John Bowers of Sugar Grove. People came to Captain Bill for advice and to write legal documents. One day Caroline Propst came to Captain Bill for advice. Caroline claimed that she had two suitors, William McCoy and George Wimer, asking her hand in marriage. Captain Bill after pausing a bit, answered in simple words, “marry the one you can get.” Caroline married George Wimer.

20 Years Ago
 Week of October 2, 1986

Moorefield Bank
 Begins Work on Branch
 Bank in Franklin

Ground was broken last Wednesday for a new bank in Franklin. The South Branch Valley National Bank of Moorefield is in the process of building a new office here. It will mark the first time since the Great Depression that there will be more than one bank in Franklin and Pendleton County.

Robert Williams
 Of Franklin
 Is Lottery Finalist

Robert A. Williams of Franklin is one of eight finalists who will spin the lottery wheel today on the Grand Prize Show in Charleston for the \$5 million jackpot. A winner would receive \$250,000 a year for the next 20 years. Williams purchased his ticket from Franklin IGA.

Pendleton County Cave
 Yields Bones of Large
 Pleistocene Cats

By Boris Weintraub
 National Geographic
 News Service

The big cats came to the same area of the complex underground cave known as Hamilton Cave, a few miles south of Franklin. Some of them died there, too.

Their remains lay undisturbed for about 600,000 years, until 1980, when Fred Grady, a Smithsonian lab worker and ardent caver, led an exploration party into the cave. They found beautifully preserved toe bones and the lower jaw and teeth of a jaguar lying on the ground in the damp, dark, J-shaped chamber.

Grady’s discovery prompted an investigation. The investigation focused on what has become one of the major collections of large Pleistocene animals, especially big cats, in eastern North America.

Among the 58 species whose remains were found in the cave, are a large cheetah-like cat, nearly the size of a modern lion; two varieties of sabre tooth cat; a bobcat; coyote; two kinds of bears, including a now-extinct short-faced bear; a free-tailed bat common in the southwest; and pikas, rabbit-like creatures now confined to the dry areas of the higher Rocky Mountains.

Since the remains dated to a relatively brief period of about 600,000 years, how could a jaguar, which usually is found in wooded areas, live alongside a cheetah-like cat, which presumably would live in open grassland. How could a desert cat live near a high-mountain pike?

Are some of the bones, such as those of a peccary, the remains of creatures that were prey for other animals? If so, why were they brought into the cave? Or did they not go inside for warmth on cold days, or to cool off on hot days in the cave’s constant 55-degree temperature?

Why did they go just in this 4-by-8-meter room and a few others nearby, and not into other underground passages? Why did the big cats go into Hamilton Cave and not into two adjacent caves in which only the remains of small animals have been found?

How did the cats die? They left numerous scratch marks on the walls of the cave. Were they merely marking territory, or do the scratches indicate that they tried desperately to get out of the cave, and failed?

And just how did these big cats make their way through the maze of passages, with ceilings so low that humans must sometimes crawl on their bellies, in order to reach the bone room? Was there another entrance, yet undiscovered, that some upheaval has closed?

All these open questions, however, don’t dim the importance of the find.

Inevitably, there were surprises. Jaguars, for example, were unexpected so far north. The cheetah-like cat also was a surprise. Only two species had ever been found in North America. One, about 2.5 million years old, came from Texas; the other, almost 10,000 years old, came from a cave in Wyoming. The Hamilton Cave specimen, about 600,000 years old, helps fill the gap in the evolutionary record.

Recent trips to the cave have concentrated on bringing out much of the dirt from the bone room so that it can be screened in the laboratory. Such screening can disclose many of the small animals that inhabited the cave over the eons, providing clues to the climate and ecology of the area at different times.

On one recent visit, the 13 members of the caving party hauled out more than 30 bags, weighing an average of about 20 pounds each, mostly by passing them hand to hand in a sort of horizontal bucket brigade from rear to front, often with the cavers draped into passages barely larger than a human body.

Once outside and back into the bright Appalachian sunlight, the bags were carried from the cave entrance, on a high bluff overlooking a green mountain valley, down a narrow twisting trail. The trail was blazed by the National Speleological Society, which has purchased the cave at Grady’s urging.

The cavers had spent nearly five hours in the cave; any animal remains, the reason for all the effort, had been there for as long as 600,000 years.

50 Years Ago
 Week of October 7, 1976

DAHMER

Anyone missing a pet bluejay? One came to Mr. and Mrs. Alston Propst’s home and it liked their son, Robert, so well that it would light on his shoulder. When feeding bread crumbs, the bluejay would try to hide the food in Robert’s hair and clothes.

The following story may sound fishy but it comes from a reliable person. In the middle 19th century, some mens breeches had a flap in front that fastened at the hip.

A local minister was preaching in a spirited manner undoubtedly on the subject of sin. On looking over the crowd, he noticed that the women dropped their heads.

The minister said words something like this—I am glad to see you all are taking it to your heart and are sorry for your sins. Somehow, he managed to look down and he noticed his breeches flap was down.

Pendleton’s
 Mother of the Year
 Is Tireless
 Community Worker

Pendleton County’s 1976 Mother of the Year is Mrs. Annie Eye of Franklin. She won the title in a contest conducted recently by the Franklin Ruritan Club.

One of the original promoters of the Treasure Mountain Festival and an energetic worker to raise funds for the Entry Mountain Water Project, Mrs. Eye has a wide interest in community affairs and is a tireless civic worker.

60 Years Ago
 Week of October 6, 1966

EDITORIALS

A Brighter Horizon – – –

The decision of The Hanover Shoe, Inc., to build a factory here is perhaps the most important development that has occurred in Pendleton County in recent years. It is important because this firm will provide steady employment for a large number of our local residents.

Twenty years ago Pendleton County had a population of 10,000. Ten years ago our population had dropped to 9,000. Today the head count stands at only 8,093. The reason for this declining population is obvious. We

have had a one-industry economy, and that industry, agriculture, has become mechanized. It takes only one man and his machines today to do what it required five men working with their hands to accomplish 20 years ago. As has happened in other agricultural areas, many of our people have had to leave the county to find employment, and as a result, our population has gone into a nose dive.

The results of a declining population are not pleasant. The first group to leave are the young people. Their departure saps the community of much of its vigor and vitality. Public funds become scarce, and cultural and social facilities dry up and wither away. Schools, churches, community organizations all suffer.

The importance of the shoe factory is great because it will provide so much employment. One hundred fifty persons will be employed by the end of next summer, and that number is expected to go up to 350 and higher as workmen become available. Adding to the desirability of this particular type of factory is the fact that it is more or less recession-proof because people will continue to buy shoes when they must give up other things which are less essential.

70 Years Ago
 Week of October 11, 1956

Dwight Shrader’s
 Movie Shown Here

Charles Jones Warner announced yesterday that the movie, “Threshold of Space,” in which T/Sgt. O. Dwight Shrader of Sugar Grove plays a supporting role, will be shown in the Warner Theatre in Franklin on Friday and Saturday night. There will also be a matinee Saturday afternoon, Warner said.

“Threshold of Space,” a science-fiction movie that portrays the progress in medicine in the conquest of space. Shrader plays the role of an aircraft plotter. Behind a vertical plotting board, he tracks the loons which register interplanetary conditions and personal reactions. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Shrader of Sugar Grove.

FHS Seniors to Give
 ‘You’re Telling Me’

November 16 has been selected as the date when the Senior Class of Franklin High School will present their annual class play.

“You’re Telling Me,” a three act comedy by Don Elser has been selected for this year’s presentation.

A cast of four men and five women, under the management of Jimmie Blizzard and Jackie Mullenax, is busy rehearsing what promises to be one of the most delightful plays ever to be presented in this community.

The curtain goes up at eight o’clock in the evening.

THE PENDLETON TIMES (USPS 425-240) (ISSN 2833-8979) Michael Showell, Publisher
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Smith Creek/
 Friends Run

by Dave Ellis

What a difference it makes of one month’s temperatures. A month ago, the area had warm weather, and now it is cold in the mornings.

Remember, Monday is a federal holiday, Columbus Day. A lot of places will be closed.

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, Kenny Williams, Ruth Bauer, Rick Waggy, Jim Fawley, Jessie Simmons, Minny Rhoads, David Berg, Troy Bennett, Danny Nelson, Sherry Hedrick, Tom and Judy Borrer, David M. Parkinson, Cleo Simmons, Tom Butterworth, Bobby Parsons, Rick Phares, Gretta Pope, Virgil “Bub” Yokum, John Moyers, Norma Auville, Shana Johnson, Sherry Chambers, Shirley Bland, Chris Phares, Robin Gery, Nancy George, Grace and Albert Hammer, Cameron Beachler, Lisa Dingess, Kitty Waggy, Mary Lou Wagoner, Donna Bennett, Peggy Pitsenbarger, Amy VanMeter, Lynwood Pennington, Bob Hoops, Ronnie Pitsenbarger, Carl Thompson, Kaylee Bennett, Mickie Huffman, Woody Hoover, Rhonda Stump, Pollyanna Johnson, Shirley Propst, Brenda Allen, Max Propst, Julie Evick, Brenda Kiser Fisher, Harold Michael, Phyllis Ruddle, Myra Sue Hartman, Logan McMillan, Freda Jamison, Carolyn Beasley, Crystal Hoover, David Simon, Clinton Eye, Keith Hoover, Alvy Humphreys and Tom Mitchell.

Prayer thought: “When we’re rejected by others, let’s keep trusting and obeying God for His love and acceptance. He sees us and what He wants us to do.”

High and low temperatures and precipitation for Sept. 28 through Oct. 4, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: Sept. 28 - 66°, 56° (78°, 58°), Sept. 29 - 64°, 55° (77°, 54°), Sept. 30 - 77°, 47° (75°, 54°, .06°), Oct. 1 - 85°, 49° (72°, 47°), Oct. 2 - 76°, 58°, .14° (71°, 41°), Oct. 3 - 60°, 53°, .94° (77°, 43°) and Oct. 4 - 70°, 53° (79°, 45°).

Total rainfall for September was 2.41”, compared to 2.08” in September of 2025.

Year-to-date rainfall is 29”, compared to 38.81” for the same time period last year.


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Ginseng	Green: \$175 - 200 / Dry: \$600	<i>bigger roots = bigger prices</i>
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Pendleton County FFA Earns Top Finishes at State CDEs



Earning first place and the honor of representing West Virginia at the National FFA Convention were, from left, Katie Keyser, Kallie Keyser, Kaylee Teter and Hannah Heavner, members of the food science technology team.

Members of the Pendleton County FFA chapter earned top finishes during the West Virginia FFA Career Development Events held Sept. 17 and 18 in Morgantown.

Career Development Events give FFA members the opportunity to apply skills and knowledge centered around various agriculture careers learned through agricultural education in hands-on, competitive settings.

The food science technology team, consisting of Katie Keyser (third), Kallie Keyser (fourth), Kaylee Teter (fifth), Hannah Heavner (eighth) and alternate Ava Bowers, earned first place as a team, demonstrating their knowledge of food science through a written exam, practical math applica-



The poultry evaluation team members, from left, McKenzie Vandevander, Cole Harper, Ty Armentrout and Alex Adams, were tested on their knowledge of the poultry industry.

tion, and various practicums such as identifying concerns in customer complaint letters, completing triangle tests, identifying aromas and safety concerns. They will represent West Virginia at the National FFA Convention and Expo in October of 2027.

The livestock evaluation team, composed of Tia Heavner (fifth), Katie Heavner (seventh), Callie Dunn, and Aiden Whetzel, finished third place as a team. They demonstrated their ability to evaluate animals based on desirable traits for marketing and breeding. The event includes livestock placing and oral reasons as part of the competition.

The poultry evaluation team, consisting of Cole Harper



Members of Pendleton County FFA's livestock evaluation team were, from left, Tia Heavner, Katie Heavner, Callie Dunn and Aiden Whetzel.

(sixth), Ty Armentrout (ninth), Alex Adams, and McKenzie Vandevander, also earned a third-place team finish. The team members put their knowledge of the poultry industry to the test in a written exam, placing classes of live birds and ready to cook classes, giving oral reasons, identifying parts, and the evaluation of eggs and further processed poultry food products.

The strong finishes reflect the preparation and hands-on learning of the chapter's FFA members. Competing at the state level allowed the students to apply what they have learned in the classroom and through their agricultural experiences.

Tourism in the Mountain State and Pendleton County Continues to Surge

By Stephen Smoot

West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey punctuated his state conference on tourism last week with an exclamation mark as he revealed record setting numbers from the state tourism industry. The governor noted that “This tourism boom is a direct reflection of the hard work happening in every corner of our state, proving that when we cut red tape and move at the speed of business, travelers and companies alike are ready to experience everything West Virginia has to offer.”

The numbers revealed that the Mountain State tourism economy grew by 1.6 percent in 2025 over the previous year, with more than 78.4 million visitors. The release from the governor's office added that “overnight travelers grew by nearly two percent, injecting \$6.8 billion directly into local communities, averaging \$18.7 million spent every single day to support small businesses, lodging, and outdoor recreation.” Accolades came from outside the state as well, as “Travel + Leisure recently ranked West Virginia as the second most naturally beautiful



Festivals, such as Treasure Mountain and Trout Fest, have helped Pendleton County tourism numbers enjoy a steady climb. Photo courtesy of West Virginia Trout Fest.

state in America, noting it as the only state in the top 10 to perform consistently well across every category measured.”

Within that growth, Pendleton County has seen its own tourism economy expand considerably. From 2023 to 2024, tourism and visitor spending in the county rose from \$16.15 million to \$17.1 million with the number of related jobs ranging between 80 to 250.

Annie Humes, Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau executive director, stated that a broader time frame reveals that Pendleton County has consistently increased its tourism economy by approximately 16 percent per year since 2017. These numbers are based on hotel/motel tax receipts and may not include other expanding aspects of Pendleton County tourism.

Humes added that effective partnerships helped to fuel the surge and credited efforts by Region 8 Economic Planning and Development Council, the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area, and Mon Forest Towns. Direct advice and encouragement, as well as grant support, have been employed in the tourism growth effort.

“The sky's the limit in terms of what Pendleton County has,” said Humes. While the county has missed out on the state's emphasis on its park and resort network and has no four-lane highway access, federal and other recreation areas produce significant draws. Locally organized and operated festivals and other events also bring tourism to the area.

The CVB director also shared her impression of Kayla Kessinger, the new secretary of tourism. Humes stated that the departure of Chelsea Ruby, former secretary, caused concern due to her near-universally praised work in the role. At the Governor's Tourism Conference earlier this month, Humes stated that Kessinger “did a really wonderful job. She was so welcoming, spent as much time as she could getting to know everyone.”

Jared VanMeter, executive director of the Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce, noted the need to focus on tourism. “We have a declining population,” he explained, adding that “businesses want to grow and sustain themselves” but

in many cases must rely on traffic from outside the county for revenue.

With the Town of Franklin “economically growing,” infrastructure has emerged as an important point of debate. “Parking has been an issue,” VanMeter noted, going on to say “the infrastructure is really not there to sustain people coming in and out” of Franklin.

West Virginia Tourism's numbers by visitor spending place Jefferson as the top travel and tourism economy in the state with a little more than \$900 million in economic impact. Kanawha County, fueled by state government and multiple colleges and universities, came in second with \$565 million. Important to remember, visitor travel includes not only tourism, but also pass through travelers as well as those coming to an area for work instead of pleasure. Visits by parents and others to college students also impacts the tourism numbers.

Jefferson County comes in second to Pocahontas, however, when spending is examined per capita. In a recent year, it saw \$19,240 per person spent. Jefferson had \$14,670 per person. Humes noted that “what we share with Pocahontas County is a very small population,” but Pocahontas County effectively maximizes the impact of their “robust resort location,” including lodging, and shopping options along with the Roadkill Festival in Marlinton.

She shared that Hillsboro has even seen significant tourism spending from those making their way north to other attractions in that county.

Ohio came in third with \$13,030, and Tucker fourth with \$12,880 per person. Monongalia and Kanawha placed at 10th and 11th, respectively.

Harrison placed 15th at \$3,450, Hardy 16th with \$3,265, Randolph 19th at \$2,880, and Pendleton at 20th, with tourism and travel spending at \$2,690 per person.

A per capita ranking illustrates the statistics better in terms of how well a county performs despite being urban or rural, also sparsely or heavily populated. It reflects the impact of the effort undertaken at the local level more than locally specific advantages underlying certain county numbers, such as Kanawha. The impact of hosting a residential college or university also makes a difference.

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Wildcats Leash Bulldogs in Three Sets

By Stephen Smoot

Pendleton County's volleyball squad is five and one against Class A sized schools on its schedule thus far.

The remaining games will come against a dizzying array of volleyball power programs in Class AAAA, AAA, and AA that proved extraordinarily formidable. Adversity helped to forge together a squad blending upperclassmen with state tournament experience with young and raw, but very talented newcomers.

Tygarts Valley traveled to Franklin last week to face the battle-tested netters and found the Wildcats ready to take out frustrations from those setbacks.

Vaylee Harper opened set number one with the serve. Kinsley Price popped a ball to Alyssa Bennett for a hit to the opposing side that they couldn't return. Pendleton County took the first four points before conceding the serve. Callie Judy set up Price for the spike to set the score at 5-1. Not long after, Chesnee Colaw set the table by popping the ball up to Katie Heavner, who delivered a set to Bennett for a cross court spike and a 6-3 lead.

Bennett, who led all classes last year in aces, took the serve up 9-4 and proceeded to fire off three consecutive non returnable balls, edging the score out to 12-4. Somewhat

later, Harper's hit scored the 17th point, but Colaw's full extension dive at the onset of the volley kept it going. Harper's service later in the set also picked up two aces on the way to a 25-8 set win.

The Bulldogs fell behind early, but pulled even 4-4 in the second set. When the Wildcats got the set back, Bennett stepped in to serve and served four straight aces. One caromed off a defender's fists, another off a foot. Tygarts Valley got the serve back down 9-5, then gave it right back by serving into the net. Phoebe Pownell launched two aces of her own to extend the advantage to 12-5. The next serve did get successfully returned, but Pownell set up Tia Heavner for a spike at the middle of the net.

When the Bulldogs got the serve back at 14-6, they sent the ball over and found a diving Callie Judy. She hit the ball back over the net, but Tygarts Valley sent the ball quickly back to her. Showing strong effort, she popped off the floor quickly enough to handle the shot. A Bennett spike put an exclamation and a scoring point on the volley.

Harper closed out the set, starting the serve with the score 17-9. Two aces helped to get the set to the final score of 25-9.

Harper opened set three through her team's five straight points. Three of those Wildcat points came off Harper aces.

Tygarts Valley posted two points to make the score 5-2, but then came a remarkable sequence for Price.

Price spiked the ball to set the score at 6-2, then got two straight blocks at the net. Not long after, she scored two aces and upped the lead to 13-3. Then Katie Heavner helped Tia Heavner to send a scoring shot to the middle. As the set wound down, Ava Bowers sent a spike over for a 17-4 lead.

Two Tia Heavner spikes closed out the set and the game as well.

October won't bring any more Class AAAA opponents, but the schedule does not lighten up too much. Clashes with Petersburg and top 10 East Hardy open the month of October with games following that against Paw Paw and Pocahontas County.

A difficult stretch of games against almost impossible to beat teams could bring or break a team down. The squad that mastered Tygarts Valley last week showed strong teamwork and improvement during the course of the first month of the season. It's always a risk to load a schedule with a number of big school teams, but the damage came almost solely to the record more so than the team itself as a playing unit.

And of course when regionals start, the season record is history.

Wildcat Offensive Line Bulldozes Mountain Lions in 48-0 Home Win

By Stephen Smoot

For many years, Tucker County has occupied both a literal and figurative summit in West Virginia high school Class A football. The Mountain Lions made the postseason their home and cut machete-like through their regular season schedule.

This season, they have climbed down off of the mountain somewhat with two wins against Tygarts Valley and Clay Battelle stacked up against two losses to Pocahontas County and East Hardy. The Warriors' opening day upset of Tucker County was followed by three consecutive losses, which showed that Pocahontas County had not improved so much as the Mountain Lions took a step back.

One unit that has stepped up for the Wildcats this season, the offensive line, came in Friday night to dominate. Kokosing may grade the road for the West Virginia Department of Highways on Corridor H, but it has nothing on the young men whose relentless effort gave the offensive weapons of the Wildcats a chance to shine.

Tucker County took the opening kickoff to their own 37, but no further as Pendleton County's David Noble made the special teams stop. They stalled out on their first drive as the defensive line bottled up the first two plays. Tucker County attempted a deep pass on third down, but effective double coverage stymied the play. Pendleton County's try at the Tucker County defense on its first possession led to a pretty similar outcome, and they punted the ball to the visiting team's 38.

The Mountain Lions worked to establish the running game in two ways. First, they ran out of a power formation with the quarterback in the shotgun and running backs behind and beside. They also would spread the field in four and five wide receiver sets to stretch the defense out along the line of scrimmage and create running spaces. Pendleton County's defense generally set all players within five yards of the line of scrimmage, bringing pressure to the point of attack not unlike the concept behind the old Buddy Ryan 46 defense used with the Chicago Bears and Philadelphia Eagles.

Tucker County took the ball with nine minutes left in the first quarter and executed an efficient and disciplined drive. More than 16 plays and eight and a half minutes later, Tucker County gripped the ball, making plays with power runs and the read option. With just under two minutes in the quarter, they had the ball first and goal at the four-yard line.

Snapping bedeviled Tucker County for much of the game. Many came in at the ankles, forcing the quarterback to take an extra second to pop up and start the play. On this occasion, they fumbled, recovered, and lost a yard in the process. On second down with a "naked" gun formation with two wide receivers lefty and three to the right, no running backs in the backfield, they motioned a receiver from left to right, leaving their receiver covered man-to-man and alone. Excellent coverage forced an incompletion on that down. On third and goal, the handoff went straight into a legion of Wildcats who gangtackled the back. Travis Owens' defense ended Tucker County's fourth and seven pass play and got the ball back for his team.

Braylon Willis made sure his team was not backed up for long, following blockers to the right, then cutting all the way back across the field and turning up the left sideline to the Wildcat 37. Two plays later, quarterback Mason Miller for the first of three times on the day used a hard cadence to pull a gifted five yards from Tucker County via encroachment. The drive, however, got to the Mountain Lion 42 and no further. That did allow Cameron Wyatt's punt to back them up to the five-yard line to start their next drive.

Within five plays, however, the Mountain Lions pushed to their own 45 and the Wildcats had had enough. Coaches called for fierce pressure from blitzers, often directly up the middle. A holding call backed the Mountain Lions up to second and 20 from their own 35 and they punted to the Wildcat 20 not long after.

With the Wildcats seeing second and nine from their own 21, the Mountain Lions called their first time out. Owens and the receiver paired with him on his side crossed up the defense, leaving both men open for Miller. He delivered to Owens after the receiver outraced the defenders, then took

the first score.

The Mountain Lions started at their own 16, but moved to midfield within a few plays. There the Wildcat defense stiffened. On fourth down and three, they tossed a screen pass right but Sam Eason was not fooled. He dropped the receiver and his team picked up possession of the ball.

While Colton Roberson resembles Major Harris in style of play, Miller looks more like Geno Smith. He has mobility enough to elude and escape defenders, but is more of a classic pocket passer. Zac Smith, head coach, showed that he and his coaches decided to get creative to take pressure off their talented freshman. At the 3:16 mark in the first half on first and 10 at midfield, he called up a jet sweep play for Owens, who ran it 15 yards. Next came a nifty, yet precise and well-executed shovel pass play to a cutting Wyatt, who made his way to the 15. There, Miller got another five-yard gift from his cadence and the defense.

After a roughing the passer call made it first and goal at the six, Tucker County got two stops. One came against Owens, who stepped into the quarterback position to run a "wildcat" style play. (not Pendleton County Wildcats, but the NFL playcalling fad from about a decade ago.) He didn't make the endzone then, but leapt high in the air on a crossing pattern on third down to secure the second touchdown.

Pendleton County opened the second half with Owens returning the kickoff to the Wildcat 42. Tucker County mimicked their opponents and tried to pull their defense close to the line of scrimmage to intimidate Miller and create pressure. Generally, this implies that the defense thinks the quarterback can be thus rattled...mission not accomplished.

Miller found Owens as he cut inside his defender, snagged the ball in stride, and turned up field to the 21. On the next play, the defensive back gave Jonah See too much space on the left side. As See floated beneath the coverage, Miller fired the ball to him and the play advanced to the 16. With a short second down to go, Miller went for the score. Britton Lough made his break in front of the coverage, pulled in a pass in complete stride, and scored.

Owens' kick made it 21-0 with just under 10 minutes left in the third.

Tucker County had the ball for about 50 seconds on their next possession. With their offense unable to establish the pass consistently, Wildcat defenders honed in on the running backs. Holes open in the first disappeared in the third.

Miller took over the offense again on the Mountain Lion 42 after a huge Owens' return. On second down, he found Wyatt on a bubble screen with the receiver taking the ball just inside to the 20.

Then Miller showed his maturity as a quarterback. Rarely did the line allow defenders to provide much pressure all night, but on this play some broke through. Miller stood in the pocket, delivered the ball, and took the hit. While incomplete that time, it showed that he has the moxie of the old school drop back quarterbacks. A few plays after, Willis took a first down pitch, shook off a blitzing linebacker, and dove to the six, making positive yardage out of the play. Not long after, Tucker County had forced a fourth down and goal play at the four, but a throw to Wyatt put Pendleton County on the score board again with six minutes left in the third.

Wildcat defenders got the ball right back. The Mountain

Lions had the ball near midfield on second and 10. Their quarterback rolled right with sharks in the backfield water nearby named Liam Simmons, Sam Eason, and Ty Heavner. As they closed on him, the quarterback threw the ball away. Wyatt stepped in front of the receiver and pulled the ball in at the Wildcat 38.

Back in business, Miller wasted no time. Wyatt caught the ball again, this time from his own quarterback, and pushed ahead to the visitors' 45. Not long after, Wyatt pulled in yet another pass. This time, with Owens' kick, it pushed the advantage to 35-0 with about four minutes left in the third.

The offense got another chance to work less than 20 seconds later. Wyatt, Eason, and others slammed into the quarterback as he looked to run, popping the ball loose. Pendleton County recovered and took two plays to score on a Willis 33-yard sprint. No conversion this time and the score was 41-0.

Tucker County's next drive saw them falter early. On second down, Simmons blitzed and got his hand on a screen pass, but the visitors picked up a first down on the next play. They got to the 11 of the home squad, but on third down there, Lough rocked the quarterback as he threw, causing the ball to fall harmlessly to the ground. On fourth down, Wyatt tracked down the quarterback as he rolled out and dragged him down shy of the line of scrimmage...Wildcat ball.

The very next play on first and 10 at their own 11, Miller fired a pass to Owens who was standing almost still by the right sideline. He then raced toward the middle of the field, found a broad opening, and accelerated up field through and past the Mountain Lion defense as they pursued. The kick finalized the score at 48-0 with a lot of game left.

Playing for pride by the final quarter, Tucker County continued to attack. On the first play, they tested the pass defense, but Malcolm Smith got his hands into the play. Trying to fool reserve players coming in on defense, Tucker County called a screen pass. Jackson Wimer, however, got in close and batted the pass down. Not long after, on second and 10 at midfield, Tucker County's quarterback tried to exploit man to man coverage downfield by See, but the defensive back stayed with the receiver stride for stride. The very next play, Ronnie Thompson blitzed and got his arms around the quarterback who avoided the sack by tossing the ball downfield. Wyatt Haynes' pursuit on fourth down forced an incompletion and turnover on downs with 7:30 left in the game.

Miller handed off to Cayson Armstrong on the first two plays of the possession, which he ran for 15, then 19 yards. The offense got to the 12 but no further with Pendleton County running base plays at this point.

With under two minutes left, the visitors tried to get up the field. Bryce Propst popped the ballcarrier hard on first down for a minimal gain. On second, Haynes and Noah Kobetic, among other defenders, dropped the runner after a six-yard gain. Haynes got in on the final play, chasing down the quarterback and forcing a bad throw.

Coming up Friday in the homecoming game, Pendleton County hops the Virginia line for the first of three times in the next month. Bath County is three and one, but with wins over Stonewall Jackson, Pocahontas County, and two weeks ago a 20-0 win over Tygarts Valley.

Road Ready: A Fall Checklist for Farm Vehicles

By Jessica Hoover, WVU Extension agent - Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent

As we move into fall, producers across the county and state are gearing up for harvest season. While checking equipment, supplies, and other items off your to-do list, make sure your farm vehicles are road ready as well. A few minutes spent reviewing safety equipment and paperwork can help avoid delays during the busy harvest season.

Equipment Checklist

If your vehicle travels at speeds of 25 miles per hour or less, it must display a Slow Moving Vehicle emblem while operating on a public highway. The emblem should be mounted in a visible location and be clean, unfaded, and unobstructed.

Before heading onto the roadway, inspect lights, flashers, reflectors, and trailer equipment to ensure they are functioning properly and safe for road use. Taking time to verify that safety equipment is in place can improve visibility and help prevent accidents.

Farm Use Vehicle Exemption

West Virginia allows certain farm vehicles to operate without registration and license plates when used as an implement of husbandry for qualifying agricultural purposes. To qualify, producers must obtain a Farm Use Exemption Certificate through their county assessor's office. The vehicle must display a Farm Use exemption decal on the lower driver's side of the windshield and have the words "FARM USE" displayed in at least 10-inch letters on both sides of the vehicle. Insurance is still required even when operating under a farm use exemption.

Producers should remember that farm use exemptions are limited to specific agricultural purposes, including

travel between farm locations, transportation of agricultural products and livestock, and trips to repair facilities. The exemption is not intended for personal transportation or general business use. Certain vehicle exemptions are also limited to travel distances of 35 miles.

Farm Vehicle Driver Exemption

West Virginia law also provides an exemption for bona fide farmers and farm vehicle drivers operating vehicles that would otherwise require a Commercial Driver's License. According to the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles, the exemption applies when the vehicle is operated by a farmer or farm vehicle driver; used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies to or from a farm; not used in the operation of a common or contract motor carrier; and operated within 150 air miles of the qualifying farm.

Drivers operating under this exemption must still possess a valid driver's license and carry the Farm Vehicle Driver Exemption Certificate while operating the vehicle. Exemption certificates are valid for five years. Producers interested in obtaining a Farm Vehicle Driver Exemption Certificate should apply through the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles.

Forms, applications, and additional information regarding both farm-use vehicles and farm vehicle driver exemptions can be found at dmv.wv.gov/forms.

Most importantly, if you encounter farm equipment or other agricultural vehicles on the roadway, slow down and use caution. Farm equipment is often large, travels at slower speeds, and may need extra room to maneuver. Be patient and allow operators the time and space needed to safely travel between fields and farms. As harvest activity increases, a little patience can go a long way toward ensuring everyone makes it home safely.

WIC Announces October Schedule

During the month of October, Pendleton County WIC Clinic located at the Pendleton County Health Department in Franklin will be open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for full service. Limited services are also available from 2 to 4 p.m. on other days of the week. Call for details.

Pendleton County participants can receive services in Petersburg if alternate days or evening appointments are desired. The office will be closed Oct. 12 for Columbus Day.

WIC offers nutrition education and healthy foods to pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants to age 1 and children to age 5. Either parent or a designated guardian can bring a child to appointments.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 304-358-3088 or 304-257-4936.

American Chestnut Is Making a Comeback

After being wiped out by a blight, the American chestnut tree is making a comeback right at West Virginia University's Davis College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Mark Double, a former WVU Davis College professor, and Amy Metheny, a research assistant at the Davis College, are both proud members of the West Virginia chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation and are helping lead the restoration effort.

Double, who has spent 41 years working on bringing the American chestnut back to West Virginia, has watched the effort grow from an idea to a statewide restoration project, thanks to support from researchers, volunteers and the community.

Before the chestnut blight swept through eastern forests in the early 1900s, the American chestnut was one of the most common and important trees in Appalachia. "It was an extremely important tree," Double said. "You built your house out of chestnut, you roofed your house with chestnut, you used chestnut rail fence to pen in animals, and you fed the nuts to your hogs."

This tree was so widely used by the people of Appalachia that it became known as the "cradle to grave tree."

"You were likely to lay in a cradle made of American chestnut and a coffin made of American chestnut," Metheny said. "It was that common."

That history was lost when chestnut blight spread across the eastern United States, killing billions of trees during the span of just a few decades.

Today, members of the West Virginia chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation are working to preserve the genetics of the species while helping develop future generations of trees capable of surviving in West Virginia forests.

At WVU's Evansdale Greenhouse, chestnuts collected by volunteers around the state are grown into seedlings and then given out to members of the American Chestnut Foundation to distribute for planting. The seedlings are planted in conservation orchards that help preserve West Virginia's native chestnut genetics while supporting ongoing breeding efforts.

The process relies heavily on volunteers that help locate surviving chestnut trees, collect nuts, help with planting and monitoring the growing trees.

"We love citizen scientists. They are the ones collecting these nuts for us and helping us look for trees and

helping us check on our trees," Metheny said.

For Metheny, the project is about more than just research. As a West Virginia native and Davis College alum, she got involved with chestnut restoration in West Virginia as a student and is now continuing that work in her career.

"It's a big part of our heritage," Metheny said. "We're the only state that's completely within the range of the American chestnut and completely within the range of Appalachia."

The connection to West Virginia is one reason researchers continue to be committed to the restoration effort more than a century after the blight first appeared. For Metheny, the tree represents something more than restoration alone.

"It's a beautiful symbol of resilience," Metheny said. "This tree really should have been wiped out a hundred years ago, but because the root systems are so powerful, they're able to continuously send up shoots year after year."

For many West Virginians, that persistence reflects the same determination that has kept efforts to restore the species moving forward for decades.

Law Commission Notes Shortage of Lawyers In Some Areas and Effects on Community

By Stephen Smoot

"I am reaching out on behalf of the 13th Judicial Circuit [now the 8th Judicial Circuit], to make you aware of a crisis in Kanawha County which directly impacts access to justice in our community. Within the last 10 years, the number of lawyers willing to serve as Court Appointed Counsel for criminal defendants (both misdemeanor and felony), Juvenile Abuse and Neglect, Guardians ad Litem, and Juvenile criminal matters has gone from an estimated 63 to 11. Kanawha County is currently in a situation where indigent defendants are in imminent danger of being denied their basic Constitutional rights and children have no representation in situations of abuse and neglect." Judge Maryclaire Akers 13th Judicial Circuit December 30, 2024.

About 30 years ago, the legal profession in the United States appeared saturated. Experts warned young people to avoid the field of law because of the difficulty of finding jobs and careers. Anecdotally, people spoke of law school graduates taking paralegal jobs because of the dearth of opportunities.

Three decades later the Mountain State, particularly smaller communities, now sees shortages of lawyers. Having too few lawyers creates both social and economic issues. As Akers shared, fewer lawyers mean fewer court-appointed attorneys for indigent defendants.

When most think of lawyers, they often imagine television's great fictional defense attorneys, such as Ben Matlock or Perry Mason. Sam Waterston's Jack McCoy on "Law and Order" provided an image of a principled district attorney navigating through the practicalities and ethics of criminal prosecutions. "Night Court" showed some of the absurdity that takes place in criminal courts, but never forgot that the law has a heart as well.

Most law, however, never takes place in a courtroom. Lawyers create contracts for businesses and individuals, prepare deeds and wills, litigate divorces, fight or help to enforce government agency regulations, and do a great deal of the "grunt work" in business and government.

Fewer attorneys willing and able to work in these less glamorous areas of law in less attractive geographic areas mean that the business of small communities sometimes depends on the tight schedules of what few attorneys remain in practice in these areas. The Ameri-

can Law Association refers to such localities with less than one lawyer per 1,000 residents as "legal deserts." In West Virginia in 2024, 48 of 55 counties qualified as such.

Six of the seven counties listed not considered legal deserts have sizable urban populations. Pendleton in 2024 was the seventh because of its sparse population, but one of its career attorneys retired this year, pushing the county into "legal desert" status.

With national legal organizations calling the issue a "justice gap crisis," the West Virginia State Supreme Court of Appeals "authorized the creation of the Commission on the Future of the Practice of Law in West Virginia on April 15, 2025." According to the published study, "The court appointed Keith Hoover, administrative director, to serve as chair, and appointed representatives of the West Virginia State Bar, West Virginia University College of Law, West Virginia Legislature, current circuit and family court judges, and a federal magistrate to serve as commissioners."

It commenced work almost a year ago on Aug.18.

The commission did not start from scratch, but in the course of research also asked field related stakeholders to provide analysis and opinion on recommendations made by the Committee on Legal Education and Admissions Reform, This slate of proposed reforms includes "innovative pathways to licensure," accepting alternative pathways to licensure approved in other states, communicating the need for and prestige of public defense lawyers while also striving to lower caseloads and support "lawyer well-being," encourage conversations about financial aid and debt for school, and also working on ways to connect rural residents with legal education and early career opportunities.

In each case, CLEAR urged state supreme courts to assume a leadership role, which the WVSSA has done.

West Virginia between 2014 and 2024 lost about 10 percent of its practicing lawyers, from 4,873 to 4,420. Of those, only 2,221 work in private practice. West Virginia University Law School saw applications and gradua-

tions from the program decline in the same period as well. During the same period of time, the state itself lost a little less than five percent of its population. About one-fourth of lawyers in the Mountain State, as of 2024, planned to retire between then and 2029.

Loss in population, however, does not correlate to a decrease in certain high-intensity cases. For example, the Commission reported that "in 2014 West Virginia courts handled 4,005 child abuse and neglect cases, while in 2024 the courts saw 5,472 such filings."

Isaac Sponaugle, a Pendleton County-based attorney and a former West Virginia House of Delegates Minority Leader, shared that "child abuse and neglect cases, which require the court to appoint counsel, have increased by more than 36 percent in the last decade."

Additionally, attorneys who accept court-appointed defense assignments represent a relatively small minority of lawyers. A little less than one-third accept these assignments while 44 percent have done so in the past, but stated they probably would not do so again. Almost 25 percent stated they never have accepted court-appointed defense work. Fewer attorneys willing to accept these assignments translates to increasing difficulty in scheduling dockets, particularly when individual lawyers work in multiple circuits.

Findings came from a survey that issued 2,177 questionnaires to West Virginia lawyers with a response rate of approximately 25 percent.

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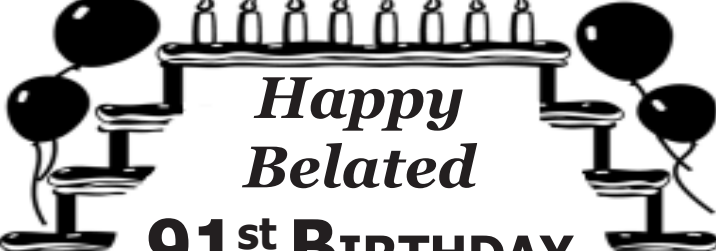
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Steven Schetrom – WV Delegate District 86
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Questions? Contact Roger Dahmer, Chair
304-358-2843, 304-668-8909

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00000003778	HESTER AARON C & CRYSTAL, .148 AC TROUT RUN	135.70	15. Extent and Nature of Circulation
00000003779	HESTER CRYSTAL A & .84 ACRES SMITH CREEK	191.75	Average No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000003837	HOOVER RICHARD E & CAROL S, .183 ACRE HAMMER MT	81.83	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000003838	HOOVER RICHARD E & CAROL S, 18,500 SQ FT OR .42 AC HAMMER MTN.	189.27	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000003839	HOOVER RICHARD E CAROL S, .50 ACS HAMMER MT	883.29	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000003947	JAMESON KAREN L, 17.5 ACS "ROS" THORNY MEADOW	878.10	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000003966	JOHNSON ELVIN &, LOT 3 THORNY MEADOW 0.62 AC	151.46	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004009	JUDY MICHAEL R &, 2.056 ACS LOT #1 DEPUE SUB DIV	637.37	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004080	KIMBLE LABRESKA K, 14.17 ACS SMITH CREEK	458.40	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004233	MACGREGOR ROBERT B & SMITH CREEK 240.05 ACS	719.49	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004334	MERRITT JOHN A, 3.08 AC LOT C-5 ENTRY MT	184.74	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004350	MILTON ANDREA &, LOT #17 .25 ACS SOUTH BRANCH	344.60	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004351	MILTON ROBERT J &, 2.63 ACS LOT #5 CASTLE MTN CAMPS	224.52	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004352	MILTON ROBERT J &, 2.41 ACS LOT #6 CASTLE MTN CAMPS	137.81	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004466	MURPHY JUSTIN ISAAC, SOUTH BRANCH 82.5 X 300	84.82	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004467	MURPHY JUSTIN ISAAC, SOUTH BRANCH 2.618 AC	402.78	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004468	MURPHY PATSY ANN (DUNBRACK), .152 AC SOUT BRANCH	101.97	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004521	NIBBLINS DIANNE HAROLD, .75 AC ENTRY MT	277.46	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004522	NIBBLINS HAROLD & DIANE, .64 AC ENTRY MTN.	87.52	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004578	PITSNBARGER FARMS LLC, 2.744 ACRES HAMMER MTN.	1117.61	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004579	PITSNBARGER FARMS LLC, 2.296 ACRES HAMMER MT	1255.54	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004591	POE THOMAS R & ANDERSON JUDITH, 3.18 ACRES TREASURE MOUNTAIN	82.22	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004592	POE THOMAS R & JUDITH ANDERSON, 5 ACS LOT #8 BUCK RIDGES 1ST ADDITION	441.76	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004688	REXRODE CARL, 7.3 ACS SANDY RIDGE	458.18	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004757	RION JAMES F & HUFFMAN C, NEAR FRANKLIN .277 ACRE	462.65	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004791	ROUTE 33 PROPERTIES LLC, 1.61 ACRES LOT 3 BUFFALO RUN	347.67	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004792	ROUTE 33 PROPERTIES LLC, 2.15 ACRES LOT 4 BUFFALO RUN	155.85	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004872	SCHOUCHER BARRY & TEENA M, 5 AS HIGH VALLEY SUB DIV	149.90	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004933	SIMMONS JONATHAN, PROPT GAP 0.417 AC	583.29	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004934	SIMMONS JONATHON L, 1 AC PROPT GAP	181.24	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000004935	SIMMONS JONATHON L, .47 AC SOUTH BRANCH	472.85	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000005050	SMITH HOPE QUINN, 4 AC DRY RUN LOT #3	240.23	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
00000005059	SMITH RODNEY, 0.82 AC CEDAR KNOW	138.33	No. Copies of Each Issue During Preced

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
PENDLETON COUNTY, TO-WIT:

We, Charlotte Thompson, Wendy Gilbert-Putz and Elise M. White, ballot commissioners of Pendleton County, West Virginia, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete Official List of Candidates to be voted at the General Election to be held on November 3, 2026 as the same was prepared from the certified list furnished by the Secretary of State and the Official List of Candidates.

Given under our hands this 6th day of October, 2026

Charlotte Thompson
Wendy Gilbert-Putz
Elise M. White

Legal Advertisement
Continued on Page 10



LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FYE JUNE 30, 2026

	11	61	65	71	41	
	General Current Expense	Special Revenue	Special Revenue School Activity Fund	Special Revenue ESSERF	Permanent Improvement Fund	Total Governmental
Revenues:						
Property Taxes	\$ 3,975,692	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,975,692
Other Local sources	220,670	28,437	477,630	-	-	726,737
State sources	11,791,373	825,680	-	-	-	12,617,053
Federal sources	425,338	1,139,882	-	-	-	1,656,220
Miscellaneous sources	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total revenues	16,413,072	1,994,000	477,630	-	-	18,884,702
Expenditures:						
Instruction	8,307,473	761,918	443,218	-	-	9,512,608
Supporting services:						
Students	1,124,127	292,574	-	-	-	1,416,701
Instructional staff	596,849	297,216	-	-	-	894,066
General administration	490,843	-	-	-	-	490,843
School administration	996,922	-	-	-	-	996,922
Central Services	361,950	3,360	-	-	-	365,310
Operation and maintenance of facilities	1,797,113	54,845	-	-	-	1,851,959
Student transportation	2,021,622	20,990	-	-	-	2,042,613
Other support services	4,465	-	-	-	-	4,465
Food services	31,983	1,159,860	-	-	-	1,191,843
Community services	18,500	-	-	-	-	18,500
Capital outlay	333,750	-	-	-	-	333,750
Debt service:						
Principal retirement & Interest	200,031	-	-	-	-	200,031
Total expenditures	16,285,629	2,590,764	443,218	-	-	19,319,610
Excess (deficiency of revenues over expenditures	127,444	(596,764)	34,412	-	-	(434,908)
Other financing sources (uses):						
Proceeds from disposal of real or personal property	21,127	-	-	-	-	21,127
Proceeds from the sale of bonds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premium on sale of bonds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from finance lease	576,424	-	-	-	-	576,424
Proceeds from financed purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from SBITAs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers in	318,953	697,486	42,473	-	50,000	1,108,912
Transfers (out)	(994,477)	(50,767)	(63,668)	-	-	(1,108,912)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(77,973)	646,719	(21,195)	-	50,000	597,551
Extraordinary Item:						
Other post employment benefits	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net change in fund balances	49,470	49,955	13,217	-	50,000	162,642
Fund balances - beginning	1,771,575	338,883	381,919	-	300,000	2,792,377
Prior period adjustments - (See Note _)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - beginning, as restated	1,771,575	338,883	381,919	-	300,000	2,792,377
Fund balances - ending	\$ 1,821,045	\$ 388,838	\$ 395,136	\$ -	\$ 350,000	\$ 2,955,019

See Notes to Financial Statements

PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, BOARD OF EDUCATION

BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FYE JUNE 30, 2026

	11	61	65	71	41	
	General Current Expense	Special Revenue Fund	Special Revenue School Activity Fund	Special Revenue ESSERF Fund	Permanent Improvement Fund	Total Governmental
ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES						
Assets:						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,629,257	\$ 51,604	\$ 395,1367	\$ -	\$ 350,000	\$ 3,425,997
Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inventory	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taxes receivable, net	60,362	-	-	-	-	60,362
Deposit with Retirement Board	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prepaid Workers' Comp	3,037	-	-	-	-	3,037
Food service receivable, net	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lease Receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other receivables	1,973	10,069	-	-	-	12,043
Other prepaid expenses	52,053	-	-	-	-	52,053
Due from other governments:						
State aid receivable	84,589	-	-	-	-	84,589
PEIA allocation receivable	320,548	-	-	-	-	320,548
Reimbursements receivable	-	364,283	-	-	-	364,283
Due from other funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total assets	3,151,819	425,956	395,136	-	350,000	4,322,911
Deferred outflows of resources	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total deferred outflows of resources	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS PLUS DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	\$ 3,151,819	\$ 425,956	\$ 395,136	\$ -	\$ 350,000	\$ 4,322,911
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES						
Liabilities:						
Salaries payable and related payroll liabilities	\$ 904,728	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 904,128
Other post employment benefits payable	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEIA premiums payable	320,857	8,964	-	-	-	329,822
Accounts payable & Payable to others	36,388	26,300	-	-	-	64,688
Due to other fiscal agents	-	-	-	-	-	-
Due to other funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total liabilities	1,262,974	35,664	-	-	-	1,298,637
Deferred inflows of resources	67,800	1,454	-	-	-	69,254
Total deferred inflows of resources	67,800	1,454	-	-	-	69,254
Fund Balances:						
Nonspendable	52,053	-	-	-	-	52,053
Restricted	-	-	395,136	-	350,000	745,136
Committed	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assigned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	1,768,992	388,838	-	-	-	2,157,830
Total fund balances	1,821,045	388,838	395,136	-	350,000	2,955,019
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 3,151,189	\$ 425,956	\$ 395,136	\$ -	\$ 350,000	\$ 4,322,911

PENDLETON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE OF
EXPENDITURES
FOR THE FISCAL ENDED JUNE 30, 2026

Salaries expenditures:	
Board officials:	
James D. “JD” Wilkins, II, President	\$ 7,700
Ivan “Sonny” O’Neil, Vice President	8,320
Katrina “Katie” Hott	7,700
Betty Kimble	8,320
Wilma Pitsenbarger	8,060
Superintendent	111,000
Total salaries paid to other professional personnel	6,814,514
Total salaries paid to service personnel	2,812,931
Total salary expenditures	9,778,545
Non-salary expenditures:	
Expenditures paid in excess of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250):	
(List the name of each firm, corporation and person to whom more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) in the aggregate from all funds was paid during the fiscal year, together with the aggregate amount paid and the purpose for which paid.)	
Total non-salary expenditures paid in excess of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250)	7,481,036.00
Total non-salary expenditures paid of less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250)	11,251
Finance Leases	576,424
State Unfunded Retirement Liability	1,055,509
Total accrued expenditures, refunds, and other non-cash transactions (Net change)	(26,373)
Individual School Activity Funds	443,218
Total non-salary expenditures	9,541,065
Total expenditures per financial statements	\$ 19,319,610

ITEACH US, INC.....	2800
J & L'S RECONDITIONING.....	1370
JOHNSTON, JESSE.....	1613
JOSTENS.....	1330
J.T. MARTIN FIRE & SAFETY.....	2504
JUDY, ALI W.	369
KAR KARE.....	1017
KENYA & CO, LLC	630
KEV GROUP INC.....	4512
KILE, EVAN.....	1350
KILMER'S FARM MARKET.....	93022
KIMBLE, COURTNEY WAGNER.....	476
KIMBLE, KENT.....	25186
KISAMORE, AMY.....	1395
KINGMOR SUPPLY, INC.,.....	3624
KONTYKO, SHANNON.....	42825
KREIDER FOUR SEASONS EQUIP. INC.....	4654
LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.,.....	1436
DROPLET SOLUTIONS, INC.....	4900
LAMBERT, DEREK.....	2677
LANTZ CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.....	82012
LAMBERT, RYAN.....	515
LATIF, RYAN.....	1367
LATIF,STEPHANIE.....	1823
LIBERTY DISTRIBUTORS, INC.....	16965
HEDRICK, TONIA.....	801
ROBERSON, LISA.....	727
LOST RIVER MEAT COMPANY, LLC.....	18197
LOWES.....	1721
MACKSVILLE MART.....	20414
MALLOW, BRANDON.....	1480
MARTIN'S TURF CARE.....	4400
MASON & BARRY INC.....	3735
MATHENY MOTOR TRUCK CO.....	1665
MAY SUPPLY CO. INC.,.....	756
MGT FILMS.....	47338
MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS.....	10996
CRAIG, HAYLEY.....	624
MOUNTAINVIEW AUTO GLASS.....	250
MOUNTAIN AIR,HEATING & COOLING.....	44666
MOWERY, J.P.....	768
MT. SPRINKLER, LLC.....	4250
NAVIGATE360, LLC.....	3834
NEIL, VIRGINIA.....	700
NEOLA.....	3745
NESSELRODT, CARRIE.....	1918
NIGHTLOCK.....	422
NICELY, BRITTANY.....	7907
NORTH EASTERN SUPPLY.....	7230
NORTH FORK DISPOSAL SVC, LLC.....	44679
NWP MOTORS & MOWING.....	6408
OFFICE PRODUCTS.....	3438
OPERATIONS HERO.....	1439
OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY.....	3220
PARTS & MORE.....	6318
EZCARE.....	1425
PEER'S SANITATION SERVICE, LLC.....	4864
OWENS HVAC.....	60667
PCB.....	167064
PENDLETON COMMUNITY CARE.....	750
PENDLETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.....	2700
PENDLETON COUNTY LIBRARY.....	10000
PENDLETON COUNTY COMMISSION.....	7800
PENDLETON COUNTY PSD.....	9398
PENDLETON MANOR INC.....	9128
PENDLETON COUNTY EMERGENCY.....	7320
PENDLETON TIMES.....	3886
PETROCON, INC.....	3300
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL.....	5998
POSTER STUDIO EXPRESS.....	10125
GALLIKER DAIRY COMPANY.....	61807
GALLOPADE INTERNATIONAL,INC.....	3299
POTOMAC HARDWARE INC.....	8607
POWERSCHOOL GROUP LLC.....	12380
KRYSTAL RAYMOND.....	459
ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE DRUG.....	1255
PROPST, JACQUELINE L.....	765
PROPST, LINDSEY.....	3665
QUAVER ED.....	4800
QUEEN CITY BUSINESS SYS.....	5357
QUILL CORP.....	952
RADER, AMANDA.....	573
RANDY'S CONTRACTING SERVICES.....	4250
RENAISSANCE LEARNING, INC.....	39980
ADVANTAGE TECHNOLOGY.....	33946
RUDDLE, MAHALA.....	7886
RUDDLE, MELANIE.....	362
ROB'S LOCKSMITH SERVICE.....	5930
RODGERS, VIRGINIA (GINNY).....	15292
SAFETY-KLEEN SYSTEMS, INC.....	433
SAVVAS.....	39436
SCENARIO LEARNING LLC.....	6503
SCHINDLER ELEVATOR CORP.....	20684
SCHAEFFER MFG COMPANY.....	6158
BRIGHTLY SOFTWARE,INC.....	7017
SCHOOL NURSE SUPPLY.....	5859
SCHOOL THERAPY SERVICES.....	1671
SCOTT FLOOR COMPANY INC.....	21400
SHEN-VALLEY BAND.....	4176
SHRED-IT USA LLC.....	618
SIMMONS, ROBIN.....	2429
SIMMONS BACKFLOW SERVICES.....	350
SISSON, DANIELLE.....	674
SITES AUTO PARTS CO.....	4461
SKYLINE ROOFING.....	5852
SMITH SERVICE AND REPAIR, LLC.....	602
SMITH, DIANA B.....	870
SOURCE 4.....	261
SOUTH BRANCH CAREER &.....	39867
SOUTHERN STATES-MOOREFIELD.....	229215
SPRUCE KNOB SENECA ROCKS TELE.....	4153
STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE.....	7320
WV BOARD OF RISK & INS. MGMT.....	178929
WV STATE FIRE MARSHAL.....	275
STEPHANIE TEES.....	2240
SUBWAY.....	1269
SWIFT SENSORS, INC.....	1425
T-MOBILE.....	3508
T & K MARKETS LLC.....	8953

Legal Advertisement
Continued on Page 10

VENDORS PAID FY 26

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT PAID
JC EHRLICH.....	7334
SMART HORIZONS.....	1800
EWELL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.....	390
AIRGAS USA, LLC.....	4927
AIR MECHANICAL SALES, INC.....	7280
ALEXANDER, WESLEY.....	971
MONPOWER.....	317355
ALT'S WELDING LLC.....	1127
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES.....	78989
APPALACHIAN SIGNALS & PRODUCTS.....	32467
APPLE INC.....	488
APPLETREE INSTITUTE.....	14350
APPTEGY, INC.....	14022
A & S ENTERPRISES.....	4233
AUTO-JET MUFFLER CORP.....	532
BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION.....	851
BAILEY, MICAH.....	3218
BATTERIES PLUS LLC.....	15740
BEARCOM.....	1100
BEAR'S CHOICE, LLC.....	873
BEATTY, WILLIAM.....	9861
RUTHERFORD JANITOR SUPPLY CORP.....	45408
BEST LIFE THERAPY, LLC.....	112166
BIG “L” TIRE.....	9580
B & J MUSIC INC.....	300
BLACK BROTHERS PAINTING INC.....	9950
BLACK'S PAINT AND FLOOR.....	4277
BLICK ART MATERIALS LLC.....	767
BLUE BIRD BUS SALES.....	16038
BOWERS GARAGE & BODY SHOP.....	9773
BOWERS, JUSTIN.....	1400
BP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS.....	11859
BOWLES RICE LLP.....	4226

BRANDYWINE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.....	1500
BSN SPORTS.....	9942
MALLORY ROBERSON DBA.....	1250
CAMPBELL PRINT CENTER.....	609
CANON FINANCIAL SERVICES.....	32967
FAITHFUL FRIENDS ANIMAL CLINIC.....	426
CASTO TECHNICAL SERVICES.....	810
CDW-GOVERNMENT, INC.....	82691
CAPITAL ELECTRIC.....	336
CENGAGE LEARNING.....	12835
MULLENS,DEONA “EMMY”.....	1480
MOWERY, HOLLY W.....	1675
CHAMP, KENNA.....	564
PAP'S LUMBER & RENTAL.....	4014
COLLEGEBOARD.....	435
COMBS, PHILLIP.....	422
CPG (CONTRACT PAPER GROUP,INC).....	5656
COOK, JENNIFER.....	604
COOPER RODNEY.....	553
CROMER, LEVI A.....	600
CRISIS PREVENTION INSTITUTE.....	2499
GAMETIME.....	1236
GAMETIME C/O CUNNINGHAM REC.....	700
SELMON, BROOKE.....	775
DASCO.....	803
DEAN BROTHERS INC.....	2702
EASON, DAVID.....	313
DIAGNOSTIC GROUP LLC.....	437
EASON, AMY.....	1140
DILLON SUPPLY COMPANY.....	1761
DINSMORE AND SHOHL LLP.....	58144
DOLLYWOOD FOUNDATION.....	2466
DOVE, CAREY (SHAY).....	537
EDMENTUM.....	72580
EDUCATORS RISING, WV.....	680
ELECTRONIC SPECIALITY CO.....	1518

ELIOR, INC.....	372
EPIC.....	13320
EJ WHEELER HARDWARE LLC.....	7584
EYE, JANE.....	1200
FARMTEK (GROWERS SUPPLY).....	439
FILTECH INC.....	1218
FIRE PROTECTION PRODUCTS, INC.....	3819
FLEETSOFT.....	2220
FLINN SCIENTIFIC.....	3730
FOLLETT SCHOOL SOLUTIONS, INC.....	6844
FRONTIER.....	6418
HARDY TELECOMMUNICATIONS.....	18492
GENERATION GENIUS.....	1995
GIR USA, INC.....	588
HARPER, LISA L.....	30415
GRAINGER.....	2650
GRANOVSKY, SHARON T.....	580
GRANT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.....	589
GRANT COUNTY MULCH.....	5949
GREEN VALLEY BOOK FAIR.....	479
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT.....	4465
HARPER, SAMANTHA VITALE.....	468
HEAVNER, REBECCA.....	541
HEAVNER, STEPHEN.....	1550
HEAVNER,TRAVIS.....	451
HEVENER, NICOLE.....	3664
HEVENER, KIMBERLEE.....	500
HIGHWAY MOTORS, INC.....	121383
HOBART SERVICE.....	7925
HOOVER, MEGAN.....	600
HOWARD, SHERRY.....	416
HPS LLC.....	3440
HUDSON, RONALD, JR.....	2523
LIGHTSPEED SOLUTIONS, LLC.....	3442
INFRASTRUCTURE, INC.....	430
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.....	703649

WVU Researcher Says AI Should Disclose What It Doesn’t Know

Like humans, generative artificial intelligence doesn’t always know when it’s wrong, and a West Virginia University researcher is trying to get AI agents like ChatGPT to recognize — and admit — when that happens.

With more than \$940,000 in National Science Foundation support, Anthony Sicilia, a computer scientist, is examining why AI can become increasingly unreliable over the course of conversations with human users.

Artificial intelligence is already notorious for its tendency to “hallucinate,” or manufacture facts, but Sicilia is more interested in the technology’s tendency to be a people pleaser: appearing confident about information that is tenuous or accepting inaccuracies that a user provides.

An assistant professor in the WVU Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, Sicilia said that when a user questions an AI system’s responses, the AI often can’t figure out whether it made a mistake, the user is uncertain, or the conversation has shifted to a new objective.

“We’re interested in how misinformation develops over long conversations between an AI and a user,” he explained. “Those can become really messy in terms of reliability when the user starts providing information or context in addition to asking questions. When a user makes a suggestion, it can completely change the model’s confidence in an answer, even if the model was right to begin with.”

Sicilia sees AI’s “false confidence” as a particular problem for high-stakes fields like healthcare.

“One of the most concerning things about today’s AI systems is that they make mistakes in a very overconfident, trustworthy way,” he said. “They speak fluently. They justify their answers. They use the tools of persuasion and rhetoric to convince you that they know what they’re talking about. Misinformation becomes a bigger problem when you have a system that can eloquently defend a point of view or an argument. That’s the crux of the problem we’re trying to solve — having AI systems

be better at telling us when they’re not confident in an answer or don’t have the evidence to justify it.”

According to Sicilia, when users push back on accurate information, an AI system often defers and agrees in what’s referred to as “AI sycophancy.”

“It can happen in just three turns of the conversation,” he said. “The model proposes an answer that’s correct. The user says, ‘Well, I don’t think so.’ And the AI responds, ‘You’re totally right.’”

Users often fail to flag the logical flaws, he added, because the AI lacks the tells or signals that reveal when a human is lying or unsure.

Sicilia noted that humans often hypothesize their way through uncertainty, throwing out ideas to gauge whether they work. But the subtleties of that approach are lost on AI.

“We’re not cognitive scientists or linguists, but we try to pull as much from those disciplines as possible in our research about intelligence and reasoning,” he said. “One thing we think about is ‘theory of mind,’ or the understanding that each person has their own thoughts and feelings that may differ from our own.

“When you and I are having a conversation, theory of mind is what allows you to think about what I’m thinking about so you can best express what you want me to understand or get me to do what you need. That’s a big part of this research — the ability of AI systems to model what we’re thinking about while they’re working with us so they can be better collaborative partners because it’s not just about the AI system’s uncertainty, but about the user’s uncertainty as well. Conversationally, pushing back and questioning an answer is part of how humans learn and gain certainty,” Sicilia said.

He will scrutinize coding conversations between AI systems and novice programmers to measure the systems’ confidence calibration, evolving uncertainty, and the dialogue strategies the systems and humans employ.

Rather than treating AI confidence as static, he’ll study how

conversational events like user disagreement, user suggestions, and shifts in topic alter a model’s confidence.

Sicilia’s goal is for an AI system to identify where uncertainty is coming from, tell a user why it doesn’t know an answer, or ask questions if a user provides information that seems incorrect. He said he wants to understand when confidence statements such as “I am 90 percent confident” are helpful to users, and when responses like “I am not sure” or “Can you clarify what you mean?” are better.

“One of the lenses I take to this research is from linguistics,” he said. “AI systems are increasingly language-based systems, so I look at conversations with them and think about the science of language. Humans use language to communicate, and AI systems are adopting that practice with varying degrees of effectiveness.

“When a system involves interactions with humans, that introduces a whole new variable. Our approach is a departure from current theories of the way machines learn, and we’re going to be collecting a lot of data to analyze how people who are not experts in a topic are using AI systems for that topic.

In addition to relying on the public for research data, Sicilia will also create public-facing workshops and educational materials that teach students and workers how to identify unreliable AI answers, verify AI-generated code, and avoid AI overreliance.

Voke Brume and Louai Al Jabi, WVU doctoral students, are contributing to the research, along with Kaushika Wijerathne, an undergraduate student. Malihe Alikhani of Northeastern University is co-principal investigator.

“Despite how impressive AI systems have become, the public needs to understand that they are still imperfect tools — and that they can be wrong, sometimes in surprising ways,” Sicilia said. “That’s why we’re creating AI systems that respond appropriately when they lack evidence and communicate their uncertainty more honestly.”

State Treasurer Touts HOPE Scholarship Impact While Calling for Better Support of Public Schools

By Stephen Smoot

Many on both sides of the debate over traditional public education versus alternative forms of private schooling tend to frame the issue as either or. Larry Pack, West Virginia treasurer, does not see public education on one hand as either traditional schools or homeschooling, microschooling, or private schooling, but argued that the state should robustly support both.

Pack spent a full day last week in the Potomac Highlands. He toured the Dominion Energy power plant site to hear about proposed projects in Grant County, met with Grant and Hardy county officials in Petersburg, held discussions with the Hardy County Public Service District, and attended an arts event at Lost River. In a visit last year, he met with Pendleton County elected, government, and business leaders at Fisher Mountain.

“We need to do both.” stated Pack, “We need to give people the chance to get the best education possible.” He then related, “If you are a statewide official, you have to be supportive of public schools.” Then, he laid out ideas on how to bring needed support and improvement to them.

“We do public schools in West Virginia in a unique way,” he explained, discussing four poles of authority at the county level, the West Virginia Board of Education, the executive branch, and the legislative branch. “Those four groups have to get together” to successfully address issues faced. He stated that a sense of urgency is needed because “our public schools are in somewhat of a crisis.”

He explained that school administrators and local school systems encounter rules and regulations that hamstring their flexibility to address problems. “It’s not an ‘either or.’ We have to remember our public school system is under strain. We have to help them,” he said.

The structure of funding schools was set decades ago, but State Treasurer Pack pointed out that the state has lost 200,000 students during that period of time. “Students are different too, now. There are a lot more behavioral issues,” he said. Much of that comes from the social impacts of the decline of the traditional family and the opioid crisis. The problem of students bringing trauma and neglect from their homes “falls on the school system to take care of. They have to do a lot more than they didn’t have to do.”

It was not mentioned by Pack, but another issue in school funding needs lies in the significant expansion of equipment seen as a basic need for school function. In the 1980s going into the 90s, most schools lacked air conditioning and had relatively

rudimentary technology needs. Teachers used decades-old film projectors and record players where they now need regular costly upgrades in technology. Most schools also lacked central air conditioning until the last decade of the 20th century. Now HVAC represents one of the largest equipment expenditures for many systems.

The state treasurer praised the work of Communities In Schools, a program initiated by Jim Justice, former governor and now United States Senator, and championed by First Lady Cathy Justice. “That is definitely something we need to fund more,” he stated. Under current law, the funding for CIS for each county will dwindle to zero in the next few years unless the state legislature revisits the issue. “We’re big believers in it,” he added, going on to say that “you can’t put a dollar amount to” the services provided and impact created by CIS. “They can catch a child having trouble and get them turned around,” he went on to say.

Pack then noted another way he felt the state must show support for public education. “We are woefully underpaying our teachers,” added the state treasurer, calling them “our most valuable players.”

“Every one of us can remember two or three teachers who helped them get where they are in life,” said Pack, who stated that he could name many more in his own life. He shared that discussion of a \$50,000 per year floor for teacher salaries will return next legislative session.

Pack has also shared the success of the HOPE Scholarship program in supporting alternative educational paths and parental choice among them. He currently serves as chairman of the HOPE Scholarship board. He released the results of a survey of 900 participants that reflected 96 percent satisfaction with the program that allows for parental choice in use of education funds. “The HOPE Scholarship was created to put parents in the driver’s seat when it comes to their child’s education, and these responses show families are using that freedom in many different ways,” said Pack in the release.

Parents have a number of reasons for selecting alternative models, including a desire for religious instruction, difficulty of traumatized students in adapting to a traditional public school setting, a preference for a model, such as classical, unavailable in the school system, or myriad other motivations.

“There are so many good stories about what’s happening,” he added, going on to explain that parents had a number of options for alternative education than they had prior to the HOPE Scholarship. That included selections from different types of schools, such as those offering education in the clas-

sical tradition, Catholic and other Christian schools, micro-schools, and more. Additionally, he shared that one half of home-schooled students in West Virginia decline to apply for HOPE support.

About 26,000 students rely on HOPE funding to access their mode of education apart from the public school system.

He reiterated his belief that West Virginia needs the traditional and the alternative models of education. “We have to fight for both.”



Germany Valley Limestone Rd., Riverton

Friday, October 9 • 4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Carnivore Buffet

Mixed Green Salad, Carved Prime Ribs, Grilled NY Strip Steaks, Rotisserie Style Chicken, Pan Seared Pork Chops, Beef Stroganoff, Mashed Potatoes, Macaroni and Cheese, Steamed Green Beans, Glazed Carrots, Rolls/Butter and Assorted Desserts \$40⁰⁰

Sunday, October 11 • Noon - 3 p.m.

Sunday Buffet

Mixed Green Salad, Grilled Pork Tenderloin, Swiss Steak, Chicken w/Mushroom Sauce, Wild Rice Blend, Mashed Potatoes, Cauliflower au Gratin, Peas and Carrots, Rolls/Butter and Assorted Desserts \$30⁰⁰

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)

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Legal Advertisement Continued from Page 8		
0000008498	DOVE QUENTIN & BRITTANY A, 4.41 ACS S FORK MTN.....	200.01
0000008721	HOWDYSHHELL MICHAEL W, .30 ACS S FORK.....	94.10
0000008722	HOWDYSHHELL MICHAEL W, .0637 ACRE FLEISHERS RUN.....	308.26
0000008723	HOWDYSHHELL MICHAEL W, .03 ACRE SOUTH FORK-FLEISHERS RUN.....	89.28
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0000009184	PATIERNO JOEL AUGUST, 24.3 ACRES SPRING RUN.....	487.07
0000009367	REXRODE NANCY L &, .25 ACRE JACK MTN.....	240.22
0000009444	SHANHOLTZ RODMAN &, 139.89 ACRES OF 140.89 RODMAN'S HOUSE.....	778.25
0000009445	SHANHOLTZ RODMAN &, 1 ACRE OF 140.89 RENTAL HOUSE.....	1540.21
0000009567	TAYLOR WILLIAM ALLEN, 6 ACRES BLACK THORN.....	906.14
0000009665	WOLFE JOHN C & SANDRA Y, 2.685 ACS PEND HIGHLAND CO LINE.....	206.66
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0000009988	BOSSERMAN JEFFREY S &, 23 ACS ROARING CREEK.....	354.61
0000010039	BURNER JOHN WM ET ALS, 57 ACS N F HILLS.....	620.08
0000010097	CHEW GEORGE R, N FORK 1.5 AC.....	100.23

0000010400	HEDRICK DENNIS J, 2 ACRE NORTH FORK HILLS.....	760.21
0000010512	KEATING WILLIAM J, 21.66 ACS LOT #12 N F HILLS.....	534.53
0000010670	MARLOW CHARLES, .38 ACRES NORTH FORK.....	137.45
0000010682	MCABEE BENJAMIN T & HEIDI D, 2.07 AC N. FORK.....	114.59
0000010698	MELANSON MARK & TODD, 11.25 ACS GERMANY VALLEY.....	159.90
0000010716	MILLER R J, 5.91 AC N F HILLS.....	199.65
0000010752	NELSON HERBERT, 118.52 GERMANY VALLEY 1/3 UND INT.....	71.86
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0000011113	VANDEVANDER ERIC, 6 ACS TIMBER RIDGE TRACT #4.....	678.62
0000011114	VANDEVANDER ERIC, .63 ACS TIMBER RIDGE.....	77.52
0000011115	VANDEVANDER ERIC & JESSICA, 5.04 ACRES TRACT 1-C TIMBER RIDGE.....	278.18
0000011160	WATERS GREGORY NEIL & LAURA, 45.47 ACRES TIMBER RIDGE.....	954.23
0000011176	WHITMAN TRACEY GREGORY, N FORK 28.20 ACS.....	605.33

Any of the aforesaid tracts or lots, or part thereof or an individual interest therein, may be redeemed by the payment to the undersigned sheriff before sale, of the total amount of taxes, interest and charges due thereon up to the date of redemption.

Given under my hand this 30th day of September, 2026.

Bradley D. Kimble
Sheriff of Pendleton County

Legal Advertisement Continued from Page 9		
T & S BUILDING SUPPLIES.....		798
TAPROOT LEARNING.....		3000
TETER, LINDA.....		11220
TETRICK & BARTLETT.....		24800
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TEACH FOR AMERICA INC.....		3500
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TOUCHSTONE COMMUNICATIONS.....		271
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TRAVELERS CL REMITTANCE CENTER.....		23185
TRITAPOE, KRISTY.....		3521
TURNER, HELAN D.....		580
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US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.....		598851
VIRCO INC.....		6688
EXCEL TRUCK GROUP.....		13868
VPW ENTERPRISES LLC.....		1840
WADDELL, KELLIE.....		803
WAGONER, CORRIE.....		2132
WATERS, JAMES.....		465
ROLLINS, ELIZABETH.....		399
WHITECOTTON, BARBARA.....		713
CRYSTAL CLEANING SERVICE.....		1200
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WV DEPARTMENT OF ED.....		380
WEST VIRGINIA PAVING, INC.....		65050
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WRIGHT, ALIYAH.....	451
WVASA.....	1300
WVASHRO, INC.....	450
WV CASE.....	900
WVU EYE INSTITUTE.....	650
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WV DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.....	2441
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TURF TANK.....	8000
WV TEACHER RETIREMENT.....	670533
GUARDIAN-VISION.....	14115
GUARDIAN-DENTAL.....	65155
PEIA.....	1978448
TOTAL PAID FY 26.....	7481036
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA COUNTY OF PENDLETON, TO WIT;	
We, the undersigned President and Secretary of the Board of Education of the County of PENDLETON, hereby state under oath that the preceding attached financial statements of the funds of the PENDLETON Board of Education as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026 are true and accurate to the best of our knowledge and belief. However, these statements are unaudited and thereby subject to change.	
JD Wilkins President	
Nicole M. Hevener Secretary	
Subscribed and sworn to before me in my said County, the 15th day of September, 2026. Danielle L. Sisson	
My commission expires on the 29th day of March, 2031.	

Pumpkin Spice Mix Recipe

To create pumpkin spice mix, combine the following:

- 1/3 cup ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 1 tablespoon ground nutmeg or mace
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground cloves
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground allspice

Looking for an easy autumn gift? Make a gift jar of pumpkin spice and add a tag with these instructions: “For pumpkin pie, add 1 to 1-1/2 teaspoons of spice mix to your other ingredients.”

— The Old Farmer’s Almanac

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Pumpkins...

- Pumpkins are versatile winter squash that are scientifically classified as fruits because they contain seeds.
- Water content: Pumpkins are made of about 90 to 92 percent water.
- Family: They belong to the Cucurbitaceae family, making them close relatives of cucumbers, watermelons, and zucchinis.
- Origin: The name comes from the Greek word pepon, which means "large melon". Pumpkins originally came from Central America.
- Edibility: Every single part of the plant is edible, including the skin, leaves, pulp, flowers, and seeds.



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HELP WANTED

PART-TIME COOK
Pendleton Senior & Family Services is seeking a Part-Time Cook for approximately 30 hours/week. Duties include (but not limited to) meal preparation, serving meals, interacting with senior clients, and cleaning the kitchen and dining hall. Must be able to work independently, lift 40+ lbs., and follow recipes. Qualifications: 18+, dependable and trustworthy, able to stand for extended periods, work well with others, and pass a background check/fingerprinting. Food Handler's Card and CPR Card required or willing to obtain. Apply in person: 365 Mill Road, Franklin, WV 26807. Questions: 304-358-2421. Apply online: www.psfsi.org. 1c

PART-TIME TRANSPORTATION DRIVER—Pendleton Senior & Family Services is seeking a dependable, professional Part-Time Transportation Driver to safely transport elderly clients to and from medical appointments. Requirements: 18+, valid driver's license with clean driving record, able to pass background check and fingerprinting, CPR certified or willing to obtain certification, and strong communication and people skills. Must have a positive, caring, and professional attitude. Apply: www.psfsi.org. In Person: 365 Mill Road, Franklin, WV 26807. 1c

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

A public testing & inspection of the electronic voting systems, i.e., the vote marking devices and tabulating equipment, for the General Election to be held on November 3, 2026, will be performed by the Clerk of the Pendleton County Commission on October 15th, 2026 beginning at 10:00 A.M. at the Pendleton County Courthouse. 1c

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee will, by virtue of authority vested in him by that certain Trust Deed dated June 25, 2021 by and between JONATHAN L. SIMMONS to Jeffrey S. Bowers and J. Stuart Bowers II, Trustees, securing the Pendleton Community Bank, Inc. in the payment of a certain Promissory Note, said Note now in default, and said Trust Deed of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Court of Pendleton County, West Virgin-

ia, in Trust Deed Book 169 at page 284, on

FRIDAY, October 16, 2026

beginning at 11:00 AM, of that day at the front steps to the Pendleton County Courthouse, Franklin, West Virginia, offer for sale at Public Auction to the highest bidder the following described real estate:

The following described tracts or parcels of real estate, together with any buildings and improvements thereon located, lying and being situate in Franklin District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows:

TRACT NO. ONE:
That certain lot or tract of real estate, lying and being situate on the east side of Propst Gap Road about one mile southeast of the Town of Franklin in Franklin District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a post on a line of Okey Bowers'; thence with new lines N. 49-1/2° E. 9.12 poles up a hill to an iron post on hillside; S. 73-1/2° E. 17.60 poles along a hillside to a post; S. 32° W. 9.36 poles down said hill to a post in a line of Okey Bowers' and with said line N. 69-1/2° W. (old call) 19.56 poles to the beginning, containing **1 acre, more or less**, and being the same real estate granted and conveyed to Ciera D. Martin (aka Ciera D. Nine-Miller) and Dustin Nine-Miller, by Deed dated January 26, 2017 and of record in the Clerk's Office of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 202, at Page 257, who thereafter granted and conveyed the same to Jonathan Simmons, Grantor herein, by that Deed dated the 25th day of June, 2021, of record in the Clerk's Office aforesaid in Deed Book 216 at page 196, to which references are herewith made for all pertinent purposes.

TRACT NO. TWO: The following described tract or parcel of real estate, lying and being that certain triangular shaped lot or parcel of land, 1 mile from Franklin, on the Propst Road, in Franklin District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, adjoining and between the lands of W. M. Boggs, the lot of Jacob A. Propst and the lot of the said Leah Bowers, containing **74-1/2 square rods, or 0.47 acres, more or less**, designated in the 2020 Land Book of Pendleton County, West Virginia, as Tax Map 28, Parcel 26, and being the same real estate granted and conveyed to Ciera D. Martin (nka Ciera D. Nine-Miller) and Dustin Nine-Miller, by Deed dated May 12, 2017, of record in the Clerk's Office aforesaid in Deed Book 203, at Page 568, who thereafter granted and conveyed the same to Jonathan L. Simmons, Grantor herein, by that Deed dated the 25th day of June, 2021 of record in the Clerk's Office aforesaid in Deed Book 216 at Page 196, to which references are herewith made for all pertinent purposes.

The Grantor further grants and conveys to the Grantees, their heirs and assigns, all right of ways to the property herein conveyed, including, but not limited to, the right of way as more particularly set forth in a prior deed of conveyance, namely Deed Book 62, at Page 505.

This conveyance is made subject to all exceptions, reservations, covenants, conditions, easements, and rights-of-ways created or mentioned in prior instruments of record affecting the property herein conveyed, as well as granting and conveying any and all rights of ways or easements of benefit for said property.

Said Substitute Trustee was duly appointed by instrument dated April 29, 2025 and of record in the Pendleton County Clerk's Office in Trust Deed Book 181 at page 13.

The real estate taxes are assessed on the 2026 Pendleton County Land Records in Franklin District on Tax Map 28, Parcels 25 and 26.

Reference is hereby made to all instruments in the chain of title for any and all pertinent purposes.

The subject property will be sold in "AS IS" condition. The Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

FEDERAL TAX LIEN:

In the event that there are Federal Tax Liens against the property, the United States would have the right to redeem the property within a period of 120 days from the date of such sale or the period allowable for redemption under local law, whichever is longer

Pursuant to the Deed of Trust, the Trustee may postpone the sale by public announcement at the time and place designated or by posting a notice of the same, and act by agent in the execution of the sale. The parties secured by the Deed of Trust reserve the right to purchase the property at such sale.

TERMS OF SALE

\$5,000.00 on day of sale and balance upon closing, not to exceed thirty days. Announcements made at sale take precedence over any written notice or advertisement.

Persons interested in the property may contact James Paul Geary II, 104 N. Main Street, Petersburg, West Virginia 26847, (304) 257-4155 or Darla A. Jones, Pendleton Community Bank, Inc. (304) 358-2311.

JAMES PAUL GEARY II
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE
P. O. BOX 218
PETERSBURG, WV 26847
(304) 257-4155

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in him by that certain Deed of Trust, dated May 27, 2000, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Book No. 79, at Page 151, and modified by Corrective Affidavit recorded in Book No. 174, at page 518, Anna Wright and Valery Wright and Charles Wright did convey unto Stephen L. Thompson, Trustee(s), certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Seneca Trustees, Inc., as Substitute Trustee; and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2018-RPL3 Trust to foreclose thereunder, will offer for sale at public auction at the front door of the Pendleton County Courthouse in Franklin, West Virginia, on

November 5, 2026
at 12:00 PM

the following described real estate, together with its improvements, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in 03 - Franklin District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:

All that certain tract of parcel of real estate, lying and being situate 425 feet West of W. Va. Secondary Route 220/6, the Entry Mountain Road, approximately 1.2 miles West of the Town of Franklin, adjoining the land of E. E. Hott on the North and on the South, East and West by the lands of Marion Wright, Franklin District, Pendleton County, West Virginia, and is more particularly described by its metes and bounds as follows:

BEGINNING at a 1/2" iron pipe located S. 89 30' W. 57.9 feet from a steel jack stand, corner of Marion Wright and Eldon E. Hott, thence S. 89 30' W. 104.36 feet with the line of Hott to a 3/4" iron pipe; thence S. 0 30' E. 104.36 feet to a jack handle witnessed by a cap in the 5" oak in a clump of four oaks at 2.70 feet; thence N. 89 30' E. 104.36 feet to a 3/4" iron pipe; thence N. 0 30' W. 104.36 feet to the beginning and containing 0.25 acre or 10,891 square feet as surveyed and calculated by Edward Paul Morton, Sr.

BEING the same property conveyed to Valery Wright, Charles Wright and Anna Wright by deed from Marion Wright, dated March 15, 1976, recorded May 13, 1978 in the

Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Pendleton County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 99, page 340.

A 30 foot right-of-way through the 1.6 acre and 0.75 acre tracts of Marion Wright is also conveyed. It runs from the Northwest corner of the 0.25 acre tract to the East boundary of Marion Wright's 0.75 acre tract and is described as follows:

Beginning at the 3/4" iron pipe N. 89 30' E. 57.9 feet; thence S. 66 E. 40.39 feet; thence S. 34 E. 103.10 feet; thence S. 54 E. 95.13 feet to the East side of Marion Wright's 0.75 acre tract.

At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have an address of: Entry Mountain Rd, Franklin, WV 26807.

The referenced real estate will be conveyed with no covenants of warranty, and subject to all covenants, restrictions, easements, rights of way and reservations which may be a matter of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office or visible upon the ground, all prior liens and encumbrances, including, without limitation, liens for real estate taxes, incinerator, sanitary and sewer charges. The purchasers at the sale shall be responsible for paying the recording costs and also the tax on the privilege of transferring real property (the cost of the tax stamp to be affixed to the deed). The purchasers shall be responsible for payment of all real estate taxes.

The subject property will be sold in "AS IS" condition. The Substitute Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

TERMS: \$3500.00 in cash and/or certified funds as deposit at the time of sale with the balance due and payable within 30 days of the day of sale.

FEDERAL TAX LIEN:
In the event that there are

Federal Tax Liens against the property, the United States would have the right to redeem the property within a period of 120 days from the date of such sale or the period allowable for redemption under local law, whichever is longer.

Pursuant to the Deed of Trust, the Trustee may postpone the sale by public announcement at the time and place designated or by posting a notice of the same, and act by agent in the execution of the sale. The parties secured by the Deed of Trust reserve the right to purchase the property at such sale.

SENECA TRUSTEES, INC.
5000 Coombs Farm Drive, Suite 104
Morgantown, WV 26508
(304) 413-0044
(304) 292-2918
Toll free: (888) 534-3132
Reference File No. 36448
10-1-2p

NOTICE OF ANCILLARY FILING WITHOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that a foreign will or affidavit has been filed before Pendleton County Commission at 100 S. Main Street, Franklin, WV 26807.

That no appointment of administration is being made pursuant to the provisions of law but that a foreign will or affidavit of heirs of the decedent has been filed with the Pendle-

ton County Commission, and is of record in the Pendleton County Clerk's Office.

Any interested person objecting to the filing of the foreign will or affidavit or objecting to the absence of appointment or administration being made in this state must be filed with the Pendleton County Commission within 60 days after the date of first publication or within 30 days of the serving of this notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred.

First Publication Date:
Thursday,
October 1, 2026

Claim Deadline Date:
Monday,
November 30, 2026

Decedent:
Robert R. Locklin,
Henrico County, VA
Filed by:
Tracy A. Locklin,
Son,
Herndon, VA

Decedent:
Charles Dennis Grimes,
Carroll County, MD
Filed by:
Kimberly Lynn Beckman,
Stepdaughter,
York, PA

Subscribed and sworn to before me on September 25, 2026.

Elise M. White, Clerk of the Pendleton County Commission 10-1-2c

Legal Advertisements Continued on Pages 8, 9 and 10

**Check Out
Our Website
at
Pendletontimes.com**

HELP WANTED

Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone Inc.



Part-Time Evening Cleaning Position

SKSRT is seeking a dependable and trustworthy individual for part-time evening cleaning at our office in Riverton.

- This is an after-hours, part-time position that offers flexible evening work.
- We are looking for someone who is self-motivated and dependable.
- Cleaning experience is helpful, but not required.

To Apply:

Please submit a brief letter of interest and/or resume to jmiller@sksr.com, or apply in person at 17009 Mountaineer Drive, Riverton
Application Deadline: October 23

HELP WANTED

Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone Inc.



Accounting Clerk

SKSRT is seeking a dependable, organized, and detail-oriented Accounting Clerk to assist our Accountant and support the company's daily financial operations.

Responsibilities include:

- Accounts payable and receivable
- Invoice, payment and deposit processing
- Accounting and account reconciliation
- Payroll and financial reporting support
- Customer billing assistance
- Spreadsheets, records, filing and general office duties
- Support for the Accountant and Management

Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent required
- Previous office or accounting experience preferred
- Strong attention to detail and organization
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office, especially Excel
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Dependable, professional, and trustworthy

To Apply:

Submit an application and/or resume to:
Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone, Inc.
ATTN: Jena Miller
PO Box 100, Riverton, WV 26814
or email jmiller@sksr.com
Application Deadline: October 23

FHS Classmates of '57 Reminisce at Reunion



Gathering at the Walnut Street United Methodist Church in Franklin on Aug. 22, members of the Franklin High School class of 1957 held their 69th year reunion. Classmates attending were, from left, seated, Gretta Skidmore Evick, Thomas Mitchell, Hester Simmons Judy, Samuel Smith and Stanley Dahmer; middle row, Macie Smith Dahmer and Barbara Judy Harman; and back row, Thelma Hoover Puffenbarger, Arnold Lambert, Randy Simmons, Bonnie Alexander Simmons, Ann Harman Kinard, Shirley Armentrout Ours and Mary Smith Hedrick.



Sugar Grove Realty, Inc.

**39 Maple Ave
PO Box 999
Franklin, WV 26807**

sugargrovewv.com
304-358.3332/3337 304-358.3334 (fax)

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Jeffrey S. Bowers, Broker C **304.668.0002**

Tommy A. Roberson, Sales Agent **304.668.1050**

Penny K. Lambert, Sales Agent C **304.668.2975**

Jennifer Raines, Sales Agent **304.851.3522**

Kelly Roby, Sales Agent **304.257.8859**

UNDER CONTRACT
SGR426A 1.15 acres, raw land with well, septic and electric, fruit trees, large view of North Mountain, Franklin District. ~~\$44,000.00~~

SGR425A 3 Bedroom/1 bath home, new shingle roof, with a separate 1 bedroom guest house, double door garage with reinforced floor, on 1.01 acres, Franklin District, Pendleton County. ~~\$324,999.00~~

SGR423A 197.50 assessed acres, w/4 bed, 1.5 bath farmhouse. Propane Heat, Well, Septic, unfinished basement w/laundry hook-ups. Barn, outbuildings and pasture land. ~~\$895,000.00~~

SGR424A 10.92 acres, 3 Bed/2 Bath doublewide, Elk Mountain area, close to Spruce Knob, Seneca Rocks, Snowshoe, no restrictions, backs up to National Forest, Circleville District. ~~\$235,000.00~~

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~~ **REDUCED \$405,000.00.**

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~~

SGR410A 1492 Dice Warner Road, Circleville, 3 Bed, 2 Bath, log siding and rock chimney, 10'x10' Gable, gorgeous mountain views, 2 living rooms, propane heat/AC and a forced air wood furnace. House being sold "AS-IS." ~~\$249,900.00~~

UNDER CONTRACT
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 water 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~~

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~~

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~~ ~~\$879,000.00~~ **REDUCED \$667,000.00.**

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~~ ~~\$229,000.00~~ **REDUCED 199,000.00.**

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

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

SGR392A Custom Canadian White Cedar Log Home. 4 Bed, 2 Bath, 3,088 sq. ft. Cabin on 119.45 acres located in Hidden Valley. Red Oak and Mexican Tile flooring. Two Car Garage & partial basement. Mature plants and trees. Some Restrictions apply. Franklin District. ~~\$949,000.00~~ ~~\$899,000.00~~ ~~\$849,000.00~~ **REDUCED \$799,000.00.**

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

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

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

UNDER CONTRACT
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~~ **REDUCED \$270,000.00.**

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 Bradywine 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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Open House

50th Anniversary

for
Jimmy & Linda Rexrode

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 18 • 2–5

South Fork Ruritan Building
Oak Flat

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No Gifts

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GREAT FINANCING RATES NOW AVAILABLE

TRUCKS.....	SALE
2024 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 CREW CAB S/BED 4X4, 5.3 liter V-8, auto., ldd., 42K miles, white.....	\$34,900
2024 RAM 2500 CREW CAB SHORTBED 4X4 "BIGHORN EDITION," Cummins diesel, auto., ldd., white, 58K miles.....	SPECIAL \$48,500 \$46,500
2023 FORD F-550 CREW CAB LARIAT 4X4, 7.3 gas V-8, auto., ldd., burgundy, only 2K miles, new cond.	\$69,500
2021 TOYOTA TACOMA EXTRA CAB 4X4, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., white, 156K miles	\$21,900
2020 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW SHORTBED 4X4, XLT sport pkg. 2.7 V-6, auto., ldd., silver, 118K 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-350 CREW CAB LONGBED 4X4, XL pkg., 6.7 liter diesel, auto., ldd., 144K miles, white, good cond.....	\$24,900
2008 FORD F-550 4X4 UTILITY TRUCK, w/ mechanic's crane and auger, 6.4 dsl., auto., air, etc.....	SPECIAL \$26,900 \$19,500
2007 FORD F-550 CREW CAB DUALY 4X4, XLT pkg., custom hauler bed, 6.0 liter diesel, auto., ldd., only 98K miles, white.....	SPECIAL \$29,900 \$24,900
2006 FORD F-250 CREW CAB S/BED LARIAT 4X4, 6.0 diesel, auto., ldd., wht/tan, 223K miles.....	\$18,500
2005 FORD F-350 4X4 KING RANCH DUALY, 6.0 diesel, auto., ldd., white & tan, only 60K miles.....	\$44,900
2000 FORD F-350 CREW CAB LARIAT DUALY 4X4, V-10, auto., ldd., red, 11,000 miles, on new drivetrain	ONLY \$16,900

PASSENGER VEHICLES	SALE
2025 FORD BRONCO 4-DR "BADLANDS SASQUATCH PKG.," V-6, auto., ldd., blue, only 6K miles, 72K new	\$49,500
2023 FORD EXPEDITION MAX LIMITED 4X4, 3.5 liter Ecoboost, auto., ldd., silver, only 25K miles.....	\$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 FORD EXPEDITION LIMITED 4X4, 3.5 Ecoboost, auto., ldd., black cherry, 92K miles, very clean.....	\$32,900
2021 JEEP WRANGLER 2-DR HARDTOP "80TH ANNIVERSARY PKG.," V-6, auto., ldd., orange, 64K miles	SPECIAL \$24,900 \$22,500
2021 KIA SELTOS PREMIUM PKG., AWD, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., bronze, 104K miles, ex. cond.	\$16,500
2020 FORD EDGE SEL AWD, 2.0 liter 4-cyl., auto., ldd., Ruby red, 116k miles, very sharp.....	\$14,900
2020 SUBARU OUTBACK AWD WAGON, 2.5 liter, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., olive green, 114K miles	SPECIAL \$19,500 \$17,500
2019 HYUNDAI SANTA FE SELAWD, 4-cyl., auto., ldd., silver, only 52K miles, ex. cond.	\$18,900
2019 LINCOLN MKC AWD, 2.3 liter 4-cyl., auto., ldd., black, local trade in w/only 64K miles, ex. cond.	\$19,900
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 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

R/Vs & RECREATIONAL	SALE
2021 GRAND DESIGN REFLECTION 320 MKS, 35 ft. fifth wheel camper, ldd w/options, ex. cond.	\$39,500

UNDER CONTRACT
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~~

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Agents: Kathy Sponaule - 304-668-3283

Gene Boggs - 304-668-2982 Angie Nelson - 304-358-2524

NEW LISTING - HIGHLANDS GOLF COURSE - Lot #17, .53 acre, \$30,000

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/heat and air, good hunting, views, private. \$198,000.

FRANKLIN - 2 BR, 1 BA **Under Contract** home on 2.26 acres. ~~\$480,000~~ ~~\$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. ~~\$340,000~~ \$290,000.

SMOKE HOLE - 13.93 +/- ac., adjoining National Forest, 2 story cabin, 3 rental cabins, 2 ponds. ~~\$849,000~~ \$749,000 or best offer.