

PC Tourism makes its pitch

PC Tourism

Editor's Note: This is a release being circulated across the region and nearby states by Pendleton County Tourism to boost the local tourism business.

FALMOUTH — As the excitement of summer begins to settle, school returns and cooler days approach, fall is preparing to make its colorful entrance in Pendleton County.

With scenic countryside, welcoming accommodations and a full lineup of seasonal activities, now is the perfect time to plan a weekend getaway.

Make it more than a day trip. Pendleton County offers a growing collection of vacation homes and overnight accommodations where visitors can slow down, enjoy the peaceful countryside and begin the morning with a hot cup of coffee and a beautiful Kentucky view.

Visitors who prefer sleeping under the stars can enjoy camping at Kincaid Lake State Park, which offers both full-hookup and primitive campsites surrounded by the peaceful sights and sounds of nature.

Pendleton County also provides a peaceful and convenient home base for visitors planning a trip to the Ark Encounter in nearby Williamstown.

After a full day exploring the world-renowned attraction, guests can return to the quiet countryside, relax in a comfortable vacation home or at their campsite and discover the local restaurants, shops and experiences that make Pendleton County special.

Start your Saturday morning at The Kentucky Millstone in Butler with a homemade breakfast featuring freshly milled flour, locally sourced ingredients and favorites such as biscuits and gravy.

Then visit the Pendleton County Farmers' Market, open every Saturday through October from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shop for fresh produce, locally raised meats, baked goods, handcrafted items and other products offered by area farmers and makers.

Continue your fall adventure by exploring the county's farm stores, where even more locally grown products and seasonal treats await.

For something truly unexpected, stop at Punkyville, one of Pendleton County's most distinctive roadside attractions. Created by Charles "Punky" Beckett beginning in 2003, this miniature town transports visitors to another time with themed buildings filled with antiques, memorabilia and historic treasures.

Explore the old-fashioned gas station, church, jail, bank, hardware store and train caboose while discovering the creativity and history behind this one-of-a-kind local landmark.

Live entertainment is also on the calendar at Kincaid Regional Theatre. Its remaining 2026 season includes the KRT Kids production of "Disney's Dare to Dream JR.: A Musical Revue," the annual October presentation of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and the beloved family musical "Annie" in December.

There is still plenty of warm weather ahead for an adventure on the water. Visitors can canoe or kayak along the South Fork or main Licking River, where Thaxton's Canoe Trails offers several paddling options, including special full-moon floats that allow guests to experience the river after dusk.

Those who prefer the calm waters of a lake can bring a canoe or kayak to Kincaid Lake and enjoy a peaceful paddle surrounded by the natural beauty of Kincaid Lake State Park.

Make an entire weekend of your outdoor adventure by reserving a campsite at Kincaid Lake State Park. The campground offers full-hookup sites for visitors traveling with an RV, along with primitive

campsites for those who prefer a more traditional outdoor experience.

Campers can wake up near the lake and spend the day paddling, fishing or hiking the park's two trails. Visitors can also explore additional trails located throughout Pendleton County before settling in for a quiet evening beneath the Kentucky sky.

Because river conditions and trip availability can change, visitors should check Thaxton's website or Facebook page for current schedules and reservation information. Camping reservations and current park information should be confirmed through Kincaid Lake State Park before traveling.

Another stop worth adding to your fall itinerary is Hilltop Highlands, where the farm's distinctive Highland cattle are an attraction all their own. The farm also hosts special events throughout the season, so be sure to check its current schedule while planning your Pendleton County getaway.

Golfers can choose from two scenic local courses. Pendleton Hills offers 18 holes surrounded by the rolling landscape of northern Kentucky, with a course that welcomes developing players while still challenging experienced golfers. Kincaid Lake Golf Course



offers a picturesque nine-hole experience featuring rolling terrain and views near Kincaid Lake.

Of course, few events capture the sights, sounds and flavors of fall quite like the Kentucky Wool Festival. Celebrating more than four decades of tradition, the festival returns Oct. 2 to 4, with sheep shearing and herding demonstrations, spinning and weaving, fiber arts, handcrafted goods, live bluegrass, country, folk and gospel music, family activities and plenty of festival food.

Whether your perfect fall weekend includes

visiting the Ark Encounter, stepping back in time at Punkyville, enjoying live theatre, paddling a river or lake, hiking a scenic trail, camping beneath the stars, playing a round of golf, discovering farm-fresh flavors or attending one of Kentucky's most treasured festivals, Pendleton County offers plenty of reasons to visit — and even more reasons to stay.

Start planning your fall getaway and explore local accommodations, dining, attractions and upcoming events at PendletonCountyTourism.com.

School

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- Start the routine early.

One of the best things you can do is ease into the school routine before the first day. That means gradually adjusting bedtimes, practicing morning routines and even doing a dry run of the school commute.

Don't wait until the night before to enforce bedtime — start a week or two early so the change doesn't feel so abrupt.

- Don't skip the open house.

If your school offers an open house, make it a priority. Walking the halls, meeting the teacher and seeing where they'll sit can help kids visualize their day

and reduce the fear of the unknown.

- Manage your own anxiety.

Kids are emotional sponges. If you're frantic, they'll feel it. Have you ever had mornings where you are spiraling inside but kept a calm exterior for the kids' sake?

Modeling calm and confidence helps them feel secure. Take a breath, plan ahead and give yourself grace.

- Normalize their feelings.

Let your child know it's OK to feel nervous. Encourage them to talk about their worries and listen to their concerns without judgment.

Share your own stories, like how walking into the cafeteria on the first day of

school used to make you feel. That kind of connection can be incredibly reassuring.

- Help them find their people.

Social anxiety is a big part of back-to-school stress, especially in middle and high school. Encourage your child to coordinate with friends about lunch periods or meeting spots.

If they're walking into a new school, remind them it's OK to sit alone at first. Others will join. Sometimes just having a plan makes all the difference.

- For educators: Build rapport first

To our fellow educators out there: before diving into academics, take time to build relationships. Kids need to feel seen and safe

before they can learn.

Whether it's through creative "get to know you" projects or simply being transparent about your own challenges, connection is key.

- Community matters.

Back-to-school events, supply drives and backpack giveaways aren't just feel-good moments -they're lifelines for families. When communities show up, kids feel supported.

The start of a new school year is a chance for a fresh start — for students, parents and educators alike. Let's meet it with empathy, preparation and a little bit of grace. Because when we ease anxiety, we make room for growth, joy and learning.

Shovonne Williams, assistant principal for Youth Villages, is an experienced educator and mother of three school-aged children. Youth Villages is a nationally recognized leader in the field of children's mental and behavioral health, with 120 locations across 30 states, including programs in Cincinnati, Lexington and Louisville.



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Lions

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up and tore down activities for that day, and provided labor to construct a walkway from the Butler Community Center to Licking River as part of the Boo Project.

The group, continued Licking River System and adjacent tributaries clean-up efforts throughout the year, removed approximately 514 tires from the river system along with 15 tons of garbage and 20 tons of recyclable materials in conjunction with other agencies and hosted a river sweep from Falmouth to the mouth of Kincaid Creek. This has been an ongoing effort to clean up this stretch of the Licking River which had not been touched since the flood of 1997, hosted a river sweep



from Ash Run to the U.S. 27 bridge at Butler, three Lions swept the area of the Main Licking from Falmouth South for approximately eight miles.

Other projects included sponsored two children for the Christmas Gift Program associated with the Northern Family Resource Center, assisted Falmouth Rotary Club with its spaghetti supper, twice cleaned up 10 miles of roadway as fundraisers for the club, provided workers to collect entry fees at the Kentucky Wool Festival gate and hosted the Cruise-In.

Fiscal

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The theater earlier had expressed interest in using the old sound system.

- Heating and cooling ductwork that was left over from county-owned property was voted and approved to be made surplus for auction at a later date.

The ductwork was previously installed in a local dollar store that had been vandalized. Insurance pro-

vided reimbursement for the damage in the amount of approximately \$23,000, and the remaining spiral duct was deemed unusable to the building.

- Pendleton County is currently requesting bids to repair the Pendleton County Fiscal Courthouse clock.

According to Magistrate Darrin Gregg, the majority of the people who have spoken with him about the clock do not want it to be changed or updated, they just want it to work.

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Funding provided by Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services through block grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Approved 7/23/26

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