

Pictorial



This week, Highland planning commission chair Jim Cobb said he believes the county should put any new applications for commercial wind facilities on hold for five years. The comprehensive plan committee and most of the commissioners agreed. It's unclear yet whether county supervisors have the authority to take such action, but if they do, the proposal should be put in place as soon as possible. A decision on Highland New Wind Development's project pending before the State Corporation Commission is expected in coming weeks. A five-year hold on industrializing with turbine towers may come too late to prevent HNWD from proceeding with its plans, but there's little doubt other companies are waiting to develop Highland ridges. Liberty Gap LLC's utility plans for Jack Mountain in Pendleton County have clearly included the possibility of extending its array south across the state line into Highland, and it would likely not be the only company to consider more of Highland's ridges. After all, this region, including Bath County, is where the winds are best in the state. But it's also where the stunning beauty of the Alleghenies is unparalleled, and thus far, unspoiled. These ridges deserve protection, and area residents deserve the time to decide how best to do that. Otherwise, scenes like this mountain ridge in Tucker County, W.Va. will be common sights in the Highlands. (Recorder photo by Anne Adams)