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Hardy County 4H Teams Don't Horse Around When They Grill the Competition

By Stephen Smoot

Last month, two area 4H teams made their mark on Louisville, Kentucky, a city historically referred to as the Gateway to the South. State champion teams in horse judging and poultry barbecuing took the over seven hour trek to compete against peers from across the nation.

First went the horse judging team. Earlier this year, both the senior and junior 4H teams traveled to the West Virginia University agriculture education complex in Reedsville, Preston County.

As Alexandria Smith, Hardy County's West Virginia University Extension Agent shared, the students practiced at least once a week between January and April. Smith noted that community support played a vital role, saying "everyone around here welcomed the kids to practice" judging horses.

"These kids have to choose to do judging," Smith explained, adding that "they are committed to doing this." Also, similar to sports programs, those involved in one generally compete in most other options.

Judging animals requires a keen eye and a practiced mind to perform a successful evaluation. In these competitions, eight classes of horses are judged with four of them serving as "reasons" classes.

These provide the stiffest challenge to participants, but also provide among the biggest benefits.

Competitors get a set time to evaluate the animal, taking notes as they go. Next, they receive a half an hour to provide "reasons" for their conclusions. This builds a skill set also seen in fields such as history, philosophy, and most important, the law. Participants must use evidence that they gather to present or defend their "case," which is their set of conclusions, or "reasons" for coming to the conclusions they reached.

Also similar to real life, professional situations, different judges come to different conclusions even while looking at the same evidence. Well explained reasons help them "to defend their placings," Smith stated.

"They learn a lot about defending their reasons and putting together good quality reasons," Smith explained.

Competing in this fashion also helps to build public speaking skills and confidence. Smith instructs the competitors to try to not write down a speech to memorize, but to visualize each concept, then speak more freely and flexibly when asked to present.

Last April, Hardy County took state championships in horse judging at both the junior and senior levels. They beat out Jefferson County, for whom equine traditions rate as highly as poultry in Hardy.

The senior team thus earned a

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Makinley Branson and Tommy Parisi showed off their barbecue skills and took home national honors

Ambulance Financial Issues Said to Be "a Revenue Problem"

By Examiner Staff

The Hardy County Emergency Ambulance Authority last week held a special public meeting at the Office of Emergency Management to discuss "operations."

Paul Lewis, director of the OEM and President of the HCEAA Board, listed the established rules for the meeting. After participants recited the Pledge of Allegiance and heard the invocation, Lewis called for the group to go into executive session to discuss legal and personnel related issues.

The Hardy County Medical Director, Carmen Rexroad MD, replied that Lewis could not call for a general executive session to discuss personnel, but needed to be more specific in stating why. Lewis then deleted the executive session call from the agenda and moved forward with the meeting.

One of the major issues that likely would have consumed most or all of the executive session came from the Hardy County Sheriff's Department's recent arrest of Derek Alt.

The Sheriff's Department arrested Alt on Nov 19 on the accusation that he had not turned in ambulance run sheets and names of personnel who responded to a double murder call. Alt had informed the Coun-

ty Commission that he could not turn over the records without a subpoena.

WHSV News quoted a Sheriff's Department officer as stating in the complaint that "he was given ample time to comply with the officer's request for the records and continues to refuse to release the records so this officer intended to charge him with obstructing the investigation."

The charge against Alt was obstruction.

Lewis later addressed the issue, confirming the need for a subpoena for the records. He also shared that, contrary to some speculation on social media, that Alt retains his positions of employment and that a hearing on the matter has been scheduled for Jan 30.

An executive session did take place on the matter at the close of the meeting.

Much of the time was spent discussing ways to address the financial problems facing Hardy County's ambulance services. Alt, as HCEAA executive director, took the opportunity at the beginning "to clarify some things."

He said that as executive director, "I do not run the business. I make recommendations and the (HCEAA) Board makes the decisions."

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Progress on Moorefield Elementary School Auxiliary Building Shared at Board of Education Meeting

By Steve Pendleton

On Monday, December 2, 2024, the Hardy County Board of Education met in regular session. Present were Dixie Bean, President; Melvin Shook, Vice-president; board members Douglas Hines, and Janet Rose; Dr. Sheena VanMeter, Superintendent; Jennifer Strawderman, Assistant Superintendent; Shawn Cullers, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent; Beth Barr, Director of Student Support Services; and Josh See, Director Transportation and Maintenance.

The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Josh See provided an update and photographs of the progress on the Moorefield Elementary Auxiliary building. He and maintenance staff made significant progress and recently spent three days installing indoor lights, ventilation and weatherization. Drywall was installed in the electrical room

and issues with plumbing were fixed. See said that the building is heated and very comfortable. Principal Wade Armentrout and volunteers have begun to paint the walls which are 120 feet by 60 feet. Bathroom plumbing and fixtures are in place. See indicated that field turf will be installed on the floor. While outdoor turf is replaced every 10 years, the duration for indoor turn isn't known but would last longer.

Melvin Shook inquired about the water leak at East Hardy High School (EHHS) which has escalated the monthly water bill to around \$3,000. The Hardy County Public Service District (PSD) visited the site twice. See said that it was believed that problem had been resolved but PSD director Logan Moyers called him on the Monday after Thanksgiving to report that usage was still running high. While it's known that the leak is not inside the building, the flow of water is not visible above ground anywhere on school property.

Janet Rose asked about digging until the leak was found. While that could be an expensive option, she said that in the long run it may save money. Digging would begin at the meter and extend from there. Dixie Bean inquired if there was evidence of leakage at the water meter. See noted that area wasn't showing a leak. Consensus among board members is to begin digging as soon as possible.

Two new school buses will arrive Wednesday, December 11th, much sooner than expected. One bus is electrical which See was able to secure without charge through the state Department of Education. He and M & M Trucking owner Andy Miller, recently toured the electric bus manufacturing plant in South Charleston. Both came away very impressed. The buses come with an 8-year guarantee on the battery. See said that maintenance is much more efficient. As well, the buses have what is known as a

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Moorefield Welcomes the Season of Christmas Merry Making

By Stephen Smoot

The party opened at 4 PM Saturday afternoon, but warm jacket and hat clad adults and children shaking with excitement started filing into the two square and along Main Street even before that.

After all, Santa and Mrs. Clause had a stop to make and children to greet!

Preparing for the crowds to come, vendors stocked racks, the smell of delicious victuals wafted from food trucks on site. Moorefield Lions Club members prepared to serve hot chocolate and tasty treats.

And the Believers Victory Center musicians finished up their practice time prior to the main event. Later, they sang songs of faith, spirit, and Christmas joy.

Above it all, the sun shone brilliantly just over the tops of the downtown streetscape. Brisk, but not too cold, temperatures greeted all as they awaited the holiday procession.

Behind the town's Christmas celebration was the partnership of the Town of Moorefield, the Moorefield Lions Club, and Believers Victory Center, united in the vital cause of bringing joy and ringing in the season.

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Moure-Reeves Named Community Champion by WV Living Magazine

In 2016, when Michele Moure-Reeves first accepted the position of Executive Director of the Hardy County Convention and Visitors Bureau (HCCVB), she did not know exactly what to expect with her new job. But sometimes the fuzziest of notions turns into the most rewarding experiences. Now, eight years later, she's been chosen by WV Living Magazine as the Potomac Highland's Community Champion, an annual award in which someone from one of the nine regions of West Virginia is awarded for their hard work in encouraging and promoting destination development. It's a well-earned recognition for the last several years of dedication

Michele has poured into Hardy County.

Michele initially went to school for art at Maryland Institute College of Art, which then developed into a graduate degree in American Studies from the University of Maryland College Park. For a short time she put this degree to work as an arts administrator until she moved to West Virginia in 1994 to operate an inn with her husband, which they ran for 20 years. It's an intriguing backstory for someone who would go on to run the HCCVB, a position that requires not only administrative chops and artistic vision and carry-through, but the understanding of having one's hands deep in

the hard work of hospitality.

There are 38 CVBs in West Virginia, each comprised of dedicated tourism professionals like Michele. The main responsibility of these organizations is to support the tourism industry through education and marketing in their county, region, and ultimately the state. Depending on what county an individual CVB serves, and what assets the county has, the directors help to grow and market tourism opportunities.

Each project that Michele has had the pleasure of kick-starting has been accomplished by working with an existing or new community organization. The projects have been made possible through

these community partnerships and supported by grants that have helped the projects thrive. The Hardy County Historic Schoolhouse Trail was created by an AmeriCorps member who founded the Mountain Heritage Folk School and now manages the trail (and is working on the African American burial sites project). The Lost River Educational Foundation manages the Hardy County Barn Quilt Trail with 14 quilts now installed throughout the county, and the Lost River Trails Coalition was formed to establish mountain bike trails in Lost River State Park (they also launched the Cryptids, the youth mountain bike team). These independent

organizations and their projects continue to evolve under the direction of their own leadership, building on the network of varied tourism assets in Hardy County.

Before Michele's hiring, the HCCVB's role wasn't completely understood, nor entirely utilized.

This situation has been changing as Michele and the Board have strengthened ties within the county, region, and state. They now regularly communicate with Hardy County & many tourism organizations, sites and programs as well as town and county officials, the business community, educational institutions, and regional CVBs. Building a stronger local tourism industry and creat-

ing a presence for Hardy County within the state is also dependent on maintaining connections with related statewide organizations and nonprofits, funding sources, and the WV Department of Tourism.

The progress to date and the growth envisioned is being made possible by the increase in overnight guests staying in the many lodging facilities in Hardy County. The tax revenue paid by these visitors has provided increased revenue for the county and municipalities as well as the HCCVB. This achievement has made it possible to contract a Marketing

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EDITORIAL

The Pursuit of Excellence

By Stephen Smoot

Those who enjoy these kinds of music (and every red blooded American, quite honestly, should) someday ought to carve about 45 minutes out of their lives and watch two music videos. No need to watch in any particular order, but those interested must look up Led Zeppelin performing Moby Dick at the Royal Albert Hall and also take the time to find a video of the Dave Brubeck Quartet playing a long version of “Take Five.”

Within these videos, one will witness two different men breaking the laws of both physics and physiology.

Joe Morello in his closely cropped coiffure, black suit, and ruler thin tie and John Bonham, a whirling dervish of hair and pale bare arms don’t at first seem to cut the same figure.

But they do.

Both men reign now, and perhaps forever, as the greatest percussionists to ever pick up a drumstick and perform. In both songs, the two drummers move effortlessly from bare hands to sticks, all the while their feet furiously kicking up their own beat on the pedals. It is said that Bonham could never escape performing this song without blood dripping from his hands, so hard did he strike the set.

In both songs, the arms fly at seemingly impossible speeds, the hands a blur, their faces pictures of pure and intense focus with thousands of eyes trying to follow each flutter. The virtuosity comes from both the quality of play and quality of music played, as both performed alongside some of the best in their time at the music they made.

The pursuit of excellence means something more than a slogan featured on a motivational poster or painted on the wall of a school. True excellence does not mean simply doing one’s best and hanging their hat on it rather than the result. It comes from the dedication of years, or even decades, to fine tuning a craft and setting a standard few others can attain.

Anyone in pursuit of serious excellence invests money, time, and effort. The risk comes from a dedication toward putting everything into a pursuit and possibly coming up short. Some, especially on the small group or individual level, must endure significant personal sacrifice. For some, that comes in time away from family or recreational pursuits. Others will battle real emotional, mental, or even physical pain to attain excellence.

Excellence can come in many forms. During President Donald Trump’s first race in 2016, Congressman Alex Mooney visited the Christopher Peacock cabinet factory in Wardensville. One could see the pride in the faces of all who worked there, especially in the company representative who informed the Congressman that they had a bipartisan company because their high-end market cabinets hung prominently in the kitchens of both Trump and Hillary Clinton.

Just over the ridge in Baker, the East Hardy varsity volleyball team in recent years has achieved excellence even as it fell short in the Class A title match this year. They brought a consistent level of teamwork, aggressiveness, and performance to each game. Winning in sports starts with what a team does between the last and first games of the season, especially in terms of building physical strength and mental toughness.

When children develop a habit of excellence, whether it comes from athletic accomplishments, representing the area agricultural community in national competition, or outstanding academic achievement, they carry those habits forward and apply them to serious adult pursuits in the wider world.

One of the best breeding grounds of excellence comes from competition. Striving to keep pace with or outstrip the accomplishments of competitors, along with rewards given to those and only those who showed excellence, will always be the best source of building that commitment.

What has in too many cases gotten lost along the way,

however, is the pride of attaining excellence even in the mundane. For example, when almost any fast food item is crafted with care according to the recipe and served in a timely manner, it will actually taste very good. That said, most who work in these jobs do not motivate themselves to excellence. Those few who do rarely find their level of capability rewarded.

One might say, it’s a hamburger, who cares, but just like the commitment to excellence is a habit, the acceptance of mediocrity is as well. Too often in recent years, the commitment to excellence in too many fields has been downgraded in favor of other priorities. The decline of performance and quality across a number of areas of American life and the acceptance of barely good enough over high standards has been the result.

One example comes from the serious decline that has taken place in the public education system.

Since 1980, when the federal government established the United States Department of Education, student achievement metrics have consistently declined. The measure of this Cabinet department’s worth must come chiefly from results. Almost a half century of decline means that this Department either stands in the way of educational excellence or has at the very least failed to do anything to help.

They are part and parcel of that decline and must either reform considerably or disappear altogether. If either happens properly, state and local systems can shape better ways to motivate excellence from their students without federal laws, rules, and regulations that hamper both schools and teachers.

One may wonder at what point will the decline that everyone sees in so many areas translate into a less powerful, less prosperous, and less secure America?

Perhaps it already has, but it is not too late to recommit and rebuild.

My UNBASED OPINION Unbased Revisited

By DAVID O. HEISHMAN



First run on 12.10.2014

I have questions for public school teachers in West Virginia. Do you have any idea of the pervasive apprehension parents of school age children have in sending their offspring off to your care and instruction? Do you know that those children represent the future for families who care about a better place in life? Do you have any feeling for the level of distrust parents have for your power to ruin that future with the stroke of a pen, a withholding of benefit of a doubt, or simply poor instruction. West Virginia state law says all children must attend school between sixth

and seventeenth birthdays. Many exemptions and modifications to that law allow various other roads to obtaining an education, but basic law requires public school or a viable alternative. Parochial and other private schools are available for parents who can afford them and home schooling. is an option for parents who have qualifications and time to teach. For most, public school is only economically viable option. In short, state law forces us to submit our children to care and instruction by persons over whom we have no control. Fortunately, we have conscientious school administrators who select and hire most competent teachers they can

find to fill empty slots. Parents depend upon that selection process for initial hiring and subsequent retention up to end of tenure qualification. Once three years, plus a fourth commitment is reached, protection by West Virginia Education Association (WVEA), the teacher’s union, kicks in and jobs for life become reality. Yes, teachers can still be removed after achieving tenure, but at high cost. High cost in legal fees by the school system defending against WVEA’s job protections... High cost in county education funding which won’t be available for instructional purposes. Projected costs may be so high that administrators

back down on firing in order to preserve their operating budget. The teacher may remain in the classroom because county board can’t afford to fire them. I’m a parent of three children who graduated from Moorefield High School and have moved on in life. With that separation, I’m now free from constraint in speaking out about apprehension and distrust in relationships with teachers. Always, always when our children were in classes, Phoebe and I were aware that our words or actions might affect our children’s treatment in school. To my knowledge, only once did an incident occur which appeared to illustrate spite

toward our children. Spite in retaliation for opinions expressed in this newspaper. Since my Unbased Opinion several weeks ago addressing inclusion of teacher’s pay signs among posted political campaign materials, I have questioned at least twenty parents and former parents of public school students about the apprehension of which I speak. Every single one I asked said yes they are/were apprehensive about treatment their child might receive at the hands of a disgruntled teacher. Recent national news is filled with stories about deaths of unarmed men in Ferguson, Missouri and New York, New York, killed by police on the

street. Proffered solutions to the widening gap between police and citizens include better training, race relations training, all sorts of adjustments in the way police go about their duties. I wonder how many such problems are caused by incompetent cops who have remained on police forces because public employee unions wouldn’t let them be fired, I wonder how many incompetent teachers remain in classrooms because their unions won’t let them be fired. Again. Give up your tenure protection and I’ll work hard to compensate teachers at higher levels based upon competence not longevity.

THIS WEEK IN WV HISTORY

Charleston WV – The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history.

To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

Dec. 12, 1931: Attorney George Daugherty, better known as the comic singer, storyteller, and songwriter “The Earl of Elkview,” was born upstairs over a Mannington silent movie house.

Dec. 12, 1942: Internationally known jazz pianist and recording artist Bob Thompson was born in

Jamaica, Queens, New York. He studied music at West Virginia State College (now University) and is the house pianist for the Mountain Stage radio program.

Dec. 12, 1953: Chuck Yeager set a speed record by flying two-and-a-half times the speed of sound in a Bell X-1A. Yeager, who grew up in Hamlin, had broken the sound barrier six years earlier on Oct. 14, 1947.

Dec. 13, 1861: The Battle of Allegheny Mountain, one of the bloodiest conflicts of the Civil

War’s first year, took place in Pocahontas County.

Dec. 13, 1926: Wheeling radio station WWVA-AM began broadcasting. The 50-watt station operated from the basement of John Stroebel’s house for most of its first year. Stroebel was a physics teacher and wireless pioneer.

Dec. 14, 1910: The accidental death of a Chesapeake & Ohio Railway engineer near St.

Albans led to the popular train song “Billy Richardson’s Last Ride.”

Dec. 14, 1857: Coal operator Justus Collins was born. He owned mines at Glen Jean and Whipple, and the octagonal Whipple company store survives today as a local landmark.

Dec. 15, 1879: Roman

Catholic Bishop John Joseph Swint was born in Pickens. He was responsible for building many religious institutions in the Diocese of Wheeling (now the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston).

Dec. 15, 1953: Blacksmith Jeff Fetty was born in Spencer and later graduated from Spencer High School. In 2012, he was named one of the world’s top metal designers by the International Metal Design Annual—becoming only the sixth American to receive the honor.

Dec. 15, 1967: The Silver Bridge at Point Pleasant collapsed, killing 46 people. The Silver Bridge was opened to traffic on May 19, 1928. The accident led to the passage of legislation for a national bridge inspection and safety program.

Light of hope

From L’Osservatore Romano

This Sunday, we start our sacred listening of the readings below a walkway in a kind of celestial fashion show: God’s favourite, the personified Jerusalem, changes her clothes from dismal to dazzling and the dazzling is no meretricious superficiality but rather a reflection of the divine goodness and integrity. That walkway then becomes an upward path and from on high, Jerusalem gazes upon a miracle of centring as her scattered children are drawn together across a transformed landscape of easy roads

and fragrant shade.

This is the poetic vision of Baruch in the first reading and for those who appreciate evocative images, the text deserves a moment of meditation. It is also the message of John the Baptist who, in today’s gospel, quotes not Baruch but Isaiah, the great prophet of Advent. The word of God offers us a profound glimpse at a transfiguration that generates a spirit of hope, hope that we need not be locked in a blocked world. This is not an abstract promise delivered ethereally in a make-believe world. Luke’s opening words root the divine invitation in historical reality: the political figures who dominate the Roman empire at

Dec. 15, 1972: An explosion at a Weirton Steel coke plant on Browns Island killed 19 men and injured 10 others. It was the worst industrial accident in Weirton’s history.

Dec. 16, 1893: Alexander Martin died at the age of 71 in Greencastle, Indiana. Martin was the first president of the Agricultural College of West Virginia, which was renamed West Virginia University at his recommendation in 1868.

Dec. 16, 1897: The last public hanging in West Virginia occurred in Ripley. John F. Morgan had been convicted of murdering Chloe Greene and two of her three children in the

Grass Lick area of Jackson County.

Dec. 17, 1957: The J. L. Stifel

the time of John the Baptist are the same people who dominate the world of 2024: all that is different are their names and faces. And even today, prophetic voices cry out in the wilderness, calling us to an integrity of life and to a commitment, determined of course by the concrete reality of our situations, to convert a world so that it is no longer divided and scattered but rather drawn into the light of God’s glory.

In one of his plays, Oscar Wilde wrote: “we are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars”. Light and glory permeate today’s Baruch reading. In the darkness of December in the northern hemisphere, the

& Sons calico plant at Wheeling closed. For most of its history, Stifel & Sons produced indigo-dyed prints and drills for clothing manufacturers. At itspeak, the plant produced 3.5 million yards of cloth per month.

Dec. 18, 1842: U.S. Senator Nathan B. Scott was born. By 1900, Scott had become one of West Virginia’s four richest and most powerful men.

Dec. 18, 1864: General Harry Hill Bandholtz was born in Michigan. Bandholtz was commander of the federal troops that intervened to end the West Virginia Mine Wars in 1921.

Dec. 18, 1816: Lewis County was formed. It was named for Colonel Charles Lewis, killed at the Battle of Point Pleasant.

sharp stars, if not overwhelmed by city lights, twinkle a promise that there is more to it all than dirt and squalor. The relatively short season of Advent brings into focus our scattered aspirations and hopes, as we continue our patient watching and waiting for the one who is to come, at the end of time, certainly, but also now, in an unending availability to hearts that are open. The second Sunday of Advent this year falls on December 8, the normal date for the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. May Mary, called Star of the Sea, shine on us with the light of hope.

By Fr Edmund Power, osb

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News

Council meeting less dramatic than expected

By Hannah Heishman

The Moorefield Town Council's meeting on Dec. 3 at Town Hall followed weeks of Facebook posts and chatter about allegations, who was right and who was wrong in the Moorefield Police Department and on the Council -- and it was decidedly anticlimactic.

The Council chambers were full, with 22 visitors. Normally, there are fewer than five. The meeting's agenda listed four visitors who planned to speak, but only two did so.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer, Mayor Carol Zuber opened the meeting by establishing ground rules, including that the only speakers would be the four who signed up to do so, and that each would be limited to five minutes.

As with other times citizens have signed up to speak, the Council members listened, but

offered minimal response and answered few questions. They did correct a few false statements. Although this was not an official public hearing, this is the Council's standard procedure when members of the public are speaking.

Most of the visitors were there to observe Council proceedings regarding the Moorefield Police Department. In November over a three-day period, the Council terminated MPD officer John Baniak, reinstated him with probation, placed Chief Stephen Riggelman on probation, terminated officer Kevin Helmick, then placed him on paid suspension pending the outcome of an upcoming, but as yet unscheduled hearing.

Helmick's mother, Winnie Helmick, was the first to speak.

"I'm here to hopefully correct a wrong," she said. Addressing the Council directly, she told them, "You know you did wrong... This

whole thing is utterly shameful for the Town and the Moorefield Police."

Helmick said she feels she has a target on her back because she was in town, speaking up for her son. The comment echoes concerns Kevin Helmick has expressed for himself as a result of filing a grievance against Riggelman. There is no public evidence a threat exists.

The next and last guest to speak was Scott Carlson. Kevin Helmick is engaged to his daughter.

"If you really know who Kevin, Officer Helmick actually is, you'd know a mistake has been made," Carlson said. "This man has endured enough stress and grief over this that no man should have to endure. This is a terrible black eye for the Town of Moorefield. I'd like to know why... Helmick, was suspended, terminated, then suspended? There's no good reason for it. I'm proud

to know him.

"Things have happened, things have been said. It's a small town, people talk."

Carlson began asking about consequences for other involved officers.

"We're not answering questions today," replied Council member Mary Jo Tobin. "We can't comment on ongoing investigations."

"There were other actions taken against other officers," clarified Council member Scott Fawley.

Carlson continued to question the Council's actions and motivations.

"Officer Helmick filed a grievance, then Chief filed a grievance against him," Carlson charged calling Riggelman's response "unprofessional."

He also asked about the Council's response to two completed investigations, one conducted by

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Local author Diana Ketterman will hold a book signing for her work Truth Is Not of This World at the Winchester Book Gallery on Dec 21 from 2 to 4 PM at 7 North Loudoun St in Winchester.

Grant County Family Support Center will hold a num-

ber of events throughout the month. These include Karaoke Christmas at 6 PM on Dec 13, Spanish and English practice class on Dec 16 at 5 PM and Dec 30 at the same time, Wacky Wednesdays on Dec 11 and 18 from 11 AM to 1 PM. All events held at 101 Alt Ave in Petersburg

Hardy County Planning Commission Meeting 12-3-2024

By Tom Burgess

Hardy County Planning Commission discussed the first draft of the Land Use Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan in Tuesday's regular public meeting, among other issues.

In reference to overall needs, Commissioner Jerry Yates said, "We need more housing and we

need higher density." And added Planning Commission Director Melissa Scott, and smaller lots like Caledonia Heights."

Scott reported that there were 12 building permits issued in November, down from the previous months. She also reported that a number of county subdivisions were considering whether or not to permit solar arrays, with one

already considering denial. In response to another question, Scott said large lots under consideration for approval(s) are 10 acres or above.

Nicole Rohrbaugh Commission Office GIS manager submitted a report that all new addresses had been added to the GIS system.

The Commission held a

lengthy discussion on draft1 of the Land Use Chapter of the Comprehensive plan. As the discussion dealt with pre-draft language admissions and changes, the final chapter language would be issued for public consumption after County Commission review.

The next public monthly hearing will be help on January 7, 2025.



THE OLD MASTER

By Jay Fisher



The Old Master's Views

The Neal Brown Era is over. After six years, WVU has let go of Neal Brown as its football coach. Brown did a lot of things right, but his teams never seemed to be able to sustain anything but very average performance. His season records were: 5-7, 6-4, 6-7, 5-7, 9-4, and 6-6. Overall, he was 37-35 at WVU, with a 25-28 conference mark. Also, fan enthusiasm was severely waning. Also, WVU is one of just three power conference teams (Rutgers and Texas Tech are the other two), during Brown's tenure.

I'm pretty sure the decision was already made prior to the season finale against Texas Tech, but that game removed any doubt. Tech led just 6-3 after the first quarter, but after that, the rout was on. They led 35-3 at halftime, and scored on their first seven drives, on their way to a 52-15 laughter.

So, what is next? Potentially, there is a bowl game. The normal portal window for football is about to open up, and the firing of a head coach triggers a 30-day window regardless. There could be enough players deciding to transfer out (and be able to potentially enroll in their new school for spring semester) that WVU would not be able to really field a bowl team. Beyond that, WVU must find a new coach.

"Who will be the new coach" will be the predominant question for WVU fans until the announcement is made. It's hard to tell who Wren Baker might be looking at, but that won't stop people from speculating. We can get some clues from his previous hires at WVU, which have tended to be head coaches with a successful track record (several years of winning, often at multiple schools). He has shown that previous ties to WVU or that state aren't necessary. He did mention in a recent interview that a head coach at WVU must have an understanding of the state, and be able to deal with its characteristics (such as no pro teams in the state, being recognized everywhere you go, etc). His hires have not been "big city" types of coaches: Darrian DeVries is from Iowa and coached Drake, Jen Greeny was at Washington State (which is nowhere near Seattle), Mark Kellogg coached at Stephen F Austin, West Texas A&M and Northwest Missouri State.

Now, football is a different animal that other college sports. Head coaching experience is important, but not necessarily required for success. Dan Lanning at #1 Oregon was not previously a head coach. Neither was Kirby Smart at Georgia. Syracuse had a very good year under first year head coach Fran Brown, who was

a position coach at Georgia.

I can see four categories of coaches WVU could look at: successful Group of 5 head coaches, successful Power conference assistants (mainly coordinators), successful lower division head coaches, or a semi-retired head coach not currently coaching.

Names that have already been floated among G5 coaches include Barry Odom at UNLV, Tim Albin at Ohio, Ryan Silverfield at Memphis, Bob Chesney at James Madison, Tyson Helton at Western Kentucky, and -- yes -- Rich Rodriguez at Jacksonville State, among others.

Hot assistants at power conference schools include: Andy Kotelnicki (Offensive coordinator at Penn State, previously at Kansas), Glenn Schumann (defensive coordinator at Georgia), or Will Stein (offensive coordinator at Oregon), among others.

FCS head coaches who could get a look could be someone like Mike Jacobs at Mercer or Brent Vigen at Montana State.

Retired coaches getting a lot of mention are Jimbo Fisher and Dan Mullen.

Is everyone mentioned an actual candidate? Not really -- some of it is pure speculation, some of it is an agent telling a reporter to mention his client, but there isn't interest in coaching at WVU, but they want leverage with their

current job (or another job they want) by making it seem like WVU is a possibility.

We did see during the basketball coaching search that Wren Baker kept information close to his vest, and there were plenty of rumors that ended up being untrue.

One good thing about a job search this year is that there are relatively few power conference job openings. UNC and Purdue fired their coaches, and the UCF coach resigned. That means WVU is facing less competition in the job market.

Another important factor to remember: when Neal Brown was hired, it was met with widespread praise. People in general thought it was a good hire. Things didn't work out, but it goes to show that we never quite know how things will pan out. In the hiring cycle when Brown was hired, there were 27 coaches hired at the FBS level. Only 6 are still there -- some were hired away by bigger schools (e.g. Eli Drinkwitz from Appalachian State to Missouri), but most were let go. And some of the six are on the coaching hot seat themselves.

Wren Baker has made good hires so far at WVU -- but this one is his most important one to date. It will be interesting to see how it works out.

continued from page 1

The Emergency Substitute List degenerative braking system. As brakes are applied going downhill, the battery recharges, so the energy used going uphill is instantly restored.

Dr. VanMeter and See made a presentation to School Board Authority (SBA) in Charleston to request funding for a new man trap (revolving door) at Moorefield Middle School and new hardware for exterior doors at East Hardy Elementary. SBA director Andy Neptune asked that Hardy County Schools contribute 10 percent toward the cost.

If the funding is approved, school board members must approve that expense.

In reference to the discussion at the last board meeting about maintenance costs for buses, Rose inquired about record keeping for repairs. See stated that he does maintain a log of all repairs that are reviewed to determine if one bus is being repaired more frequently than others. When that happens, a discussion is held to decide whether the bus should be retired. One bus that is older than 12 years has had several problems. It is not the oldest vehicle in the fleet but in the lower one-third. Rose has noticed from invoices that the same buses need repairs. See believes that any bus at 12 years or older is a money pit.

Consent Items

The board approved minutes from the November 4 th regular meeting and minutes from the special meeting of November 22 nd .

Unfinished Business

The Emergency Substitute List Policy was passed unanimously.

New Business

Dr. VanMeter presented the winning bid for the Moorefield Middle School Roof and HVAC system. The bid was approved without objection. The superintendent provided information regarding violation of school bus stops. Three motorists have been criminally charged since January 2023 including the most recent incident in October 2024. WELD has run spots in the station's community news feature warning people to observe flashing lights during bus stops. Jessica Markwood has made arrangements for a billboard with the message to look out for buses and children. Sheriff Steve Dawson and Moorefield Chief of Police Stephen Riggelman are expected to attend a board meeting soon to discuss the concern.

Mission Statements/ Accomplishments

The EHHS girls' volleyball team was recognized for a stellar season. They are playing in the semifinals at the state tournament this week.

Personnel

The superintendent's contract was unanimously approved. The contract runs through 2029. The personnel recommendations presented by Dr. VanMeter were also approved.

With no further business, a motion and seconded to adjourn the meeting was passed.

The next Hardy County Board of Education meeting will convene at Moorefield High School on Monday, December 16th beginning at 6:00 p.m.

AT THE LIBRARY

At the Library, December 11, 2024

We are currently collecting recipes from our local folks for the publication of a Hardy County Public Library Cookbook! Please put together your favorite tried and true recipes to share with others and drop them off at the front desk.

Events: Crochet, Thursday's at 1:00 pm Story Time -- Wednesdays at 10:00, every 1st Saturday at 10:00 December 12, 5:30pm -- Diamond Art bookmark painting, ages 14 & up. Only 20 spaces available, please call to reserve your spot 304-538-6560 December 14, 10:00 -- 11:30 -- Santa Clause is coming to the Library! Join us for a Christmas craft, hot chocolate and cookies!

New fiction: Robert B. Parker's Hot property by Mike Lupica

Spenser is waiting out the latest Boston snowstorm when he gets word that Rita Fiore has been shot. Rita's always been a tricky one: flirting with Spenser for years, she's an ever-present figure that transcends friendship

in Spenser's circle. But at the end of the day, Rita is family. And family will always be protected. Both a pit bull in the courtroom and provocateur outside it, Rita is no stranger to controversy. But as one of the city's toughest lawyers, Spenser knows that there's no short list of suspects who might want to enact revenge. With Rita's life hanging in the balance, it's up to him to get to the bottom of things, even if it means unearthing some unsavory secrets that might just lead him into an age-old game of lies and deceit.

The December market by RaeAnne Thayne

Amanda Taylor isn't a fan of Christmas, but as the owner of a local soap shop, ignoring the holiday season isn't an option. To forget the pain of Christmases past, Amanda focuses on making the season bright for her customers at the Shelter Springs Holiday Giving Market. But when her beloved grandmother Birdie starts dating the dashing new resident of the Shelter Inn retirement community, Amanda smells trouble. Fortunately,

Rafe Arredondo, the grandson of Birdie's charming suitor, is equally dubious of the match. Unfortunately, he's just as fiery as his grandfather--and Amanda has zero interest in getting burned.

A merry little murder plot by Jenn McKinlay

During the most wonderful time of the year, famous author Helen Monroe arrives in Briar Creek to be the writer in residence, but her 'bah humbug' attitude excludes her from the many holiday celebrations the town residents enjoy. To try to spread some Christmas cheer, library director Lindsey Norris invites the new writer in town to join her craftersnoon club. Helen politely refuses, and when an altercation happens between Helen and another patron, Lindsey begins to suspect the author has been keeping to herself for a reason. Another newcomer, Jackie Lewis, reveals she's visiting Briar Creek to be near Helen because she believes they are destined to meet. Having dealt with a stalker in the past, Lindsey feels compelled to tell Helen about Jackie, as she suspects that Helen

is unaware her 'number one' fan is in town. When Jackie's body is later discovered in the town's park beneath the holiday-light display with a

copy of Helen's latest manuscript in her hand, the reclusive novelist becomes the prime suspect in the murder of her self-proclaimed mega fan.

Rockin' around the chickadee : by Donna Andrews

Meg's sister-in-law, Delaney is pregnant. Since her due date is on or around Christmas Day, this is putting a bit of a damper on the usual holiday festivities. Meg and Michael are NOT hosting the usual house full of relatives and parties. Instead, Meg, along with her mother, her grandmother, her cousin Rose Noire, and her good friend Caroline, are militantly doing everything they can think of to keep Delaney quiet and healthy. All the relatives are farmed out to friends and neighbors; all the parties are being held somewhere else, and while Delaney is bored and mutinous, she's doing well, and they're managing to maintain a serene, peaceful environment for her ... until a body is found in

Meg and Michael's yard.

New Non-fiction

Black Saturday : an unfiltered account of the October 7th attack on Israel and the war in Gaza by Trey Yingst

Fox News war correspondent Trey Yingst shares his firsthand account of the Hamas attack on a music festival in Israel on October 7, 2023, and the ensuing war.

The Madison women : gender, higher education, and literacy in nineteenth-century Appalachia by Amanda E. Hayes

By uncovering how higher education and gender roles evolved in Appalachia over time, Hayes delivers a history that contradicts the stereotype of the region as hostile to education--including mini biographies of women who attended Madison College in the 19th century.

Not without hope : the true story of one child's journey from tragic losses to healing by Judy Kimble Williams

Settled in the hills of rural West Virginia in the 1940's, just a few years after the Great Depression, was the picture-perfect family of seven. At least, it appeared

that way to their tight-knit community. The 40-acre farm was nestled in a valley with a red barn, some chickens, and a milk cow named Blondie, along with two well-kept gardens. Summertime found the children playing in the stream of water which was close enough to the house for them to be able to hear their mother's voice calling them. Suicide! Then seven months later, once again, the children had to deal with the loss of their beloved mother, who had held her family together. Now what? Five children left on their own from ages 6-17. Who would take care of them? Would they have to move? Would they be able to stay together? Scared, and once again dealing with significant loss, this is how the story goes, through the eyes of the 8-year-old.

From here to the great unknown : a memoir by Lisa Marie Presley

Born to an American myth and raised in the wilds of Graceland, Lisa Marie Presley tells her whole story for the first time in this memoir, completed by her daughter, Riley Keough.

Moorefield Christmas

continued from page 1

Said Pastor Rich Sparks, “we always want to be focused on community.” He explained that Christmas was never meant to be confined inside of walls, going on to say that “Christ was out in a manger” and those who celebrated His birth came to Him.

The partnership has continued for two years and continues to go strong. Jim Yao, events coordinator for the Lions Club, stated that “the kids just love that” and “we had a bunch of people who helped to make this happen,” adding that the tree came from a generous donor and that the Town set up the tree.

Earlier in the day, local organizations celebrated the spirit of giving. David Judy, Commander of the local Sons of Confederate Veteran shared that “Thanks to the good will of the community, the recent food and toy drive held on Dec. 7th by McNeill’s Rangers, netted over \$2500 in food and toys and \$500 in cash. This was all turned over to a local church to be utilized locally.”

Judy added, “Thank You. God Bless. Merry Christmas.”

As four o’clock rolled around, sirens sounded and the Moorefield town Christmas parade got underway.

The Moorefield High School band marched, followed by majorettes clad in red velvet looking dresses, very reminiscent of Mrs. Clause. Santa and Mrs Clause themselves rode in on a vintage Moorefield Fire Department apparatus.

Next to the Clause couple, the Pilgrims chicken attracted the most interest. As the chicken, wearing an elf shirt, waved, a small group of small children jumped excitedly and chanted “Chicken! Chicken! Chicken!”

As the sun dipped behind the western ridgetops, its light brilliantly illuminated a bank of clouds in different tones of bright orange. Temperatures started to drop, but the spirit of the season kept all warm enough.

At the center of the square sat a fat fir tree, its girth perfectly sized for the homemade ornaments that adorned it. Children one by one walked over from the Lions Club booth where they had crafted ornaments for either the Town or their family

trees.

On the tree hung hundreds of ornaments, each with its own special message. Some read “Support the Troops” while others had the names of girl scout troops and other organizations.

The most special and poignant, however, always started with the same text - “In Loving Memory.” This tree not only celebrates the joy of Christmas, but also family members and other loved ones who shared in the joys of Christmases past. They carried the names of one or more people who could not be with their families on Christmas 2024, except in memory.

Sweet & Treats On Main hosted a special surprise for the children. The American Legion Post 61 Riders arranged for Santa and Mrs. Clause, as well as The Grinch, to hear Christmas wishes and take photographs.

“It’s all for the community and the kids,” shared Todd Tanner, who serves as president of the Riders. He explained that the Riders were founded five years ago and have held this gathering at Sweets & Treats On Main for the past four. They also put together events for Hallowe’en and have a special program for a group of foster children at a nearby residential facility.

“Those smiling faces are awesome,” Tanner said warmly.

One of the fathers could be overheard saying excitedly to his small child “That was your first visit with the big man!” He showed that kids of all ages can feel the love and cheer of Christmas.

At 5:30, over the loudspeaker came “Is everyone having a joyful time?”

Then the crowd gathered in for the lighting of the town tree. With the crescent moon and the evening star flanking it, the lights came on.

Yao then led the assembled attendees in the singing of O’ Come All Ye Faithful.

Families started drifting off into the night as volunteers started breaking down booths and removing their items from the square. Some would go next to the community choir performance at Duffy Memorial United Methodist Church later in the evening.

But all carried away the gift of lasting family memories and the joy of living in such a special community.

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Ambulance Financial Issues

continued from page 1

This protocol is similar to most similarly structured organizations. Executive directors administer the organization, but Boards remain the final decision-makers.

Alt shared to those present that they had worked together to come up with ideas on how to improve the financial conditions. He opened by asking if municipalities could help by providing financial support, perhaps through raised city and town sales taxes.

Municipal sales taxes often, but not always, are applied by one of the 34 cities in the home rule program. Whether or not done through home rule, all municipalities charging them must get approval from the State. Steven Schetrom, County Commissioner and HCEAA Board member, stated that he did not believe that the towns and cities could charge more than they do currently.

Additionally, some already have their own fire departments and EMS crews.

Other ideas proposed included sharing fuel costs with other county organizations, sharing supply orders with other first responder entities such as Valley Health, and other ways to try to work with other institutions.

Another option, referred to by Alt as the “least popular,” lay in cutting cash stipends. Wardensville Volunteer Rescue Squad from January to September received approximately \$55,000 while West Hardy EMS got around \$71,000.

Alt also suggested that staff cuts could also help. Jean Flanigan, on the HCEAA Board, said “well, it’s our biggest expense,” then inquired about fine tuning schedules to the busiest periods.

Board member Fran Welton then asked about collection of the ambulance fees. Lewis replied that the non compliance number is at about 20 percent and that those who do not pay eventually get taken to Magistrate Court. Later, Schretrom asked about recommendations for a new ambulance fee, to which Lewis replied that \$200 for the regular fee and \$100 for homesteads could be levied.

“Expenditures are not the problem,” Alt explained, adding that “it’s a revenue problem.”

Lewis then opened the floor for public comment.

Officials from other ambulance services raised concerns about some of the proposed solutions to the overall financial problems. Becky Fishel from WVRS shared that “if you take our stipend, we close our doors. We just had to pay \$10,000 to fix an ambulance.”

Others pointed out that West Hardy EMS has had to put back money for a new building after they were informed in June that they had to vacate their current facility.

Discussions on budgeting spurred an Alt suggestion to have three separate operating budgets, each overseen by the Board, to which Billie Biddle, treasurer for West Hardy EMS said “I agree with Derek.” Earlier Biddle had expressed frustration that Alt as an executive director could presend during the meeting agenda while others “had to wait until the public is invited to speak.”

Dr. Tim Thorn, Board member, called for cooperation, saying that “the truth is, we need West Hardy and West Hardy needs us” and that working together on little things “will help to fix the big things.”

Hardy County CVB

continued from page 1

Associate to assist Michele in all levels of advertising, promotion, and community engagement. In 2023, the Board of Directors developed a new strategic plan. With the input of the community, the organization established goals to move forward. Intending to revisit the plan later in 2025, Michele and the Board would like to see further investment in partnerships to nurture tourism while maintaining the character of Hardy County, increasing community development projects, and expanding marketing efforts.

Most recently a special project in Moorefield has demanded a significant amount of brain power and labor between the HCCVB, The Town of Moorefield, the Hardy County Commission, and the owner and crew of TMIC, Inc. The Robert Higgins House was leased to HCCVB by the Town as a potential visitors center and permanent office space, something that the organization lacked since its inception. When considering how the space should be managed, the idea came into being of a museum in the historic structure and the visitors center in two new additions.

The builder of the cabin, Robert Higgins, became the inspiration for a space that honors not only the life of the man but also the history of log cabins and the historical events taking place at the time in Moorefield and beyond. The museum will have timelines that trace the stories of the Indigenous Peoples who were here before Higgins and the overarching timeline of the fight for American independence. All of this will be told through the lens of one man whose life is part of the tapestry of the county’s—and the country’s—history.

The Hardy County Travel Information Center and Robert Higgins House Museum is an ambitious project that has experienced many set-backs but is now moving forward. Occupying a significant amount of Michele’s time, the project has brought her past experiences and education into play with knowledgeable consultants and with the county’s and

town’s incredible insight and generosity. Michele’s contributions, in addition to the project’s planning and oversight, have included writing grants to support the historic restoration of the Higgins House and the creation of the museum and visitors center. The HC-CVB is developing an educational opportunity for area students and will maintain regular hours to draw visitors, both local and out-of-state, to learn about the connection of our rural history to the growth of our country and to appreciate all that Hardy County has to offer.

The primary artifact of the museum will be the house itself, and the interpretive displays will tell the story – but we are looking for additional information. If there is anyone in the community who has any knowledge, photographs, documents, or artifacts that may be applicable to this museum, Robert Higgins, the Indigenous People who inhabited this area, and the history surrounding the house itself, please contact the HCCVB at visithardy@gmail.com. And for anyone looking to support this project (as well as those of other local organizations and tourism sites), volunteering is a wonderful option. In the future, the museum will rely on docents—volunteers who are enthusiastic to learn about this history and have a desire to share it with others.

In addition to Michele’s award, several Hardy County businesses won “Best of WV” recognition in this year’s contest and, like all the county’s businesses, deserve our continued support. The resounding theme of the HCCVB may well be the belief that a “rising tide lifts all boats” and that support of our businesses serves to enrich the quality of life of our community. As a working artist, Michele recognizes the benefits of such support and the importance of finding one’s community, which she has accomplished in Hardy County. Michele will continue to make it a home she’s happy to be part of and excited to share with others who wish to experience this rural land, the traditions of its residents, and the beautiful mountains we all love.

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Hardy County 4H Teams

continued from page 1

trip to nationals in Louisville. Junior teams cannot advance farther than state competitions. Smith said “we’re pretty proud of our juniors as well,” and pointed out that they will soon compete in the higher categories. Members of 4H reach senior status between the ages of 14 and 21.

Moorefield hosted the state 4H barbecue competition as part of the poultry competitions at the middle school. Portable grills were set up on the grounds for students to compete with either two turkey tenders or two chicken halves. The competitors develop rather creative sauces, but must also cook their chicken properly so that it is neither raw nor excessively charred.

The Hardy County team won at Moorefield and then represented the state at nationals last week. In

Louisville, the competition went somewhat differently. Participants received two chicken thighs or two turkey patties, which Smith shared was a challenge. On top of displaying creative and capable cooking skills, the barbecuers also had to give a presentation on food safety, then answer questions from judges.

Out of a large group of 4H poultry grill masters from across the United States, Makinley Branson placed fourth in turkey barbecue and Tommy Parisi sixth in chicken.

Bringing home awards and achievements serves as only part of the goal. The population of Louisville approximately equals a third of that of the entire Mountain State. Smith called the city “a great place” and shared that the students took trips to local restaurants, a shopping mall, and other attractions.

Even more important, as Smith said “they get to meet other kids from other states and talk about the differences,” not only in judging, but also how farmers in different states do different things.

She added that from her point of view, the best part lies in “the kids getting together, spending time with each other, watching them experience new things.” Smith added that the barbecue competitors went to Louisville in the same days as the Pendleton County 4H poultry judging team and that each enjoyed seeing the other so far from home.

Most importantly, however “we had a blast. We were the only table laughing as hard as we were at the chicken banquet.”

And some of Hardy County’s finest young people did a fine job representing their industry and their community in the Bluegrass State.



The Hardy and Pendleton County poultry competitors pose together at the 4H conference they both attended last month.

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Honeysuckle Turkey Breast \$1⁴⁹ per lb.

Pepsi Products 6/16.9 oz. 4/¹²

Frozen Cool Whip, 8 oz. 3/⁵

Dairy Philadelphia Cream Cheese, 8 oz. 2/⁴

Produce Russet/Idaho Potatoes, 8 lb. \$2⁹⁹

Blueberries, Pint \$1⁸⁸

Deer Park Spring Water, 32 pk., 16.9 oz. Bottles \$4⁹⁹

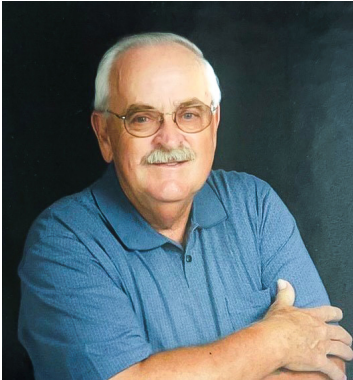
Bakery 8" Table Top Pies \$5⁹⁹

Deli Bar S Chipped Ham \$3⁹⁹ per lb.

Kahns All Meat Bologna \$2⁸⁸ per lb.

OBITUARIES

Bernard Franklin Bean



Bernard Franklin Bean, husband of Jean Thorne Bean, of Verona, Virginia passed away on Monday, December 2, 2024 at

Augusta Health in Fishersville. Mr. Bean was born in Hardy County, West Virginia on August 7, 1938, a son of the late Ellen Ludella and Ouvard Bean. Bernard retired after working for Smith's Transfer and Staunton Foods with 48 years of service. He was a member of Verona United Methodist Church, a lifetime member of the Verona Volunteer Fire Department, and Boy Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop 121 in Verona for many years. In addition to his parents, Mr. Bean was preceded in death by a great-granddaughter, Carolina.

Surviving, in addition to his wife of 66 years, are his sons, Greg Bean and his wife, Roxanne, Jeff Bean and his wife, Carolyn, and Wes Bean and his wife, Heidi, grandchildren, Logan Bean and his wife, Amber, Benjamin Bean, Joshua Bean and his wife, Heidi, Aaron Bean and his wife, Courtney, and Justine Bean; great-grandchildren, Addison, Leland, Delaney, Hadley, Josie, and Raelynn Bean; and a sister, Ellen Harper and her husband, Sam. A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 7, 2024 at Verona

United Methodist Church by Pastor Sean Gundry and Pastor Shawna Hiner. A luncheon and receiving of friends will follow the service, in the fellowship hall. Memorial contributions may be made, in Bernard's memory to the Verona United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 47, Verona, Virginia 24482. Coffman Funeral Home and Crematory, 230 Frontier Drive, Staunton is in charge of his arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.coffmanfuneralhome.net

Church Services

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church
2029 St. Road 55, Moorefield, WV (304)434-2547
Fr. Arul Anthony
Fr. Jose Manuel Escalante
Mass Times: Saturday @ 5:00 p.m.
Sunday @ 8:00 a.m.
Sunday (Spanish Mass) @ 12:00 p.m.

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EVERYONE WELCOME

Donald Lee Pritt



Donald Lee Pritt, age 68, of Petersburg, WV passed away on

Sunday, November 24, 2024 at his home. Mr. Pritt was born on October 31, 1956 in Marlinton, WV, the son of the late Kessler Lincoln Pritt and Juanita Mae (Sparks) Pritt of Scottown, OH. Donald was preceded in death by his wife, Alice Catherine "Cathy" Pritt on November 5, 2019. Mr. Pritt graduated from Pocahontas High School and enlisted in the United States Marine Corp. After serving our country, Donald began working at American Woodmark in Moorefield, WV where he later retired. He was a Christian in faith and known as a genuine, sweet person who didn't have a mean bone in his body. He found a second

chance at love with his fiancée, Eileen Hose and the two cherished their time together. In addition to his fiancée, Donald is survived by: 2 stepdaughters, Chasity McKenzie (David) of Keyser, WV; Stephanie Barger (James) of Petersburg, WV; a sister, Barbara Reinhold of Scottown, OH; 2 brothers, Robert Pritt (Cindy) of Renick, WV; John Pritt (Frances) of Hillsboro, WV; 10 Grandchildren, Whitney Simons (Jake); Maiah Hartman; Autumn Harrison (Caleb Alexander); Luke McKenzie (Ash-ton); Ryan Harrison (Kayla); Liam, Jacob, and Beth Catherine Barger; Rosie Mongold (Daniel); and Herbie Keplinger (Sam)

and 2 Great-grandchildren. In addition to his wife and father, he was preceded in death by a brother, Joe Pritt and brother-in-law, Walter David Reinhold. Mr. Pritt's family received friends on Wednesday, November 27, 2024, 1-2 PM, at the Basagic Funeral Home, Petersburg, WV. Funeral services followed at 2:00 PM with Pastor Bradly "Duke" Thorne officiating. Military honors were bestowed by the USMC and the Grant County Veteran Honor Guard. Memories and words of comfort may be left at www.basagic.com or on Facebook at Basagic Funeral Home

Lonnie Riggleman



Lonnie Melvin Riggleman, age 66 of "Rig, WV", passed away Monday afternoon, December 2,

2024, at his residence. Born November 19, 1958, in Petersburg, WV, he was the son of the late Albert Asbury Riggleman and Grace Virginia Ratliff Riggleman. He was also preceded in death by a brother "Butch" Riggleman and a sister Indole Kesner. Lonnie was a true outdoorsman who cherished the simple joys of life, whether spending his days fishing or deer hunting. He also had an affinity for the sound of bear dogs and the camaraderie of bear hunting. He had a passion for Westerns, often seen engrossed in Louis L'Amour novels

or enjoying a good movie. When he relaxed, the sound of his favorite radio tunes filled the air, creating a cozy atmosphere of nostalgia and comfort. Surviving is a son, L. Logan (Missy) Riggleman and their daughters, Irie and Marina of Moorefield, WV; a sister, Faye (Elwood) Kesner of "Rig, WV"; brothers, Monte (Jeanie) Riggleman and Alden ("Woody") Riggleman of "Rig, WV" and several nieces and nephews. Funeral Services will be conducted 6:00 PM Friday, December 6, 2024, at the Fraley Funeral

Home Chapel, 107 Washington Street with Pastor Steve Snyder officiant. The family will receive friends from 4:00 PM until time of the service. Let's honor Lonnie's remarkable life and the joy he brought to those around him. To offer condolences, share memories, or upload photos in celebration of Lonnie, visit his Tribute Wall at www.fraleyfuneralhome.com. Together, we'll cherish the moments and the impact he made in our lives.

Doctors' Tips for a Healthy and Safe Holiday Season

(StatePoint) The holiday season is a joyous time of year, but it can also throw your wellness routines out of alignment. Doctors advise prioritizing healthy choices during this period, so you can start 2025 on the right foot.

"Everyone's holiday wish is to be happy, health and safe, but the season is often a time for overindulgence in food and drink, increased stress and exposure to respiratory illness," says Bruce A. Scott, M.D., president of the American Medical Association (AMA).

The AMA recommends taking these steps during the holidays:

1. Vaccines are a safe and remarkably effective defense from a number of serious respiratory viruses that circulate in the fall and winter. To protect yourself and your family, get up to date on your vaccines, including the annual flu shot, as well as the updated COVID-19 vaccine for everyone 6 months and older. Vaccines are also available to protect older adults from severe RSV. Tools to protect infants during RSV season include maternal vaccination as well as the monoclonal antibody immunization. If you have questions, speak with your physician and review trusted resources, including getvaccineanswers.org.



2. Watch what you eat. Pay particular attention to labels and avoid processed foods as much as you can, especially those with added sodium and sugar. Consider having a healthy snack before the big meal or offer to bring a healthier dish for the holiday spread. Drink water instead of sugar-sweetened beverages, and eat nutritious, whole foods like fresh fruits and vegetables alongside richer holiday fare.

3. Stick to your exercise schedule and prioritize physical activ-

ity during this busy time of year. A good rule of thumb for adults is at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity. Brisk walks, bike rides, hikes and even family-friendly sports like basketball and touch football are good for heart health.

4. Use time with relatives to find out whether your family has a history of type 2 diabetes or cardiovascular disease, and whether other family members have been

told they have prediabetes. With this information, you can better understand your risk and take charge of your health.

5. Prioritize your mental health. Factors like holiday spending and navigating time with extended family can bring on extra seasonal stress. You can help manage stress by getting sufficient sleep, exercising and seeking help from a mental health professional when you need it.

6. Make smart choices and plan

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ahead if you're driving. In December 2021 alone, 1,013 Americans died in alcohol impaired-driving crashes. Do not drive under any circumstances if you intend to drink. And if you are the designated driver, make a 100% commitment to sobriety.

7. Be prepared when traveling. Whether you're flying or taking a road trip, you might be tempted to grab convenient, unhealthy food for the journey. Consider packing your own snacks, such as fresh fruits and vegetables or small portions of dried fruits and

nuts.

8. Get New Year's resolutions started early. Speak with your doctor or health care professional about quitting tobacco and nicotine use, and declare your home and car smoke-free to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure.

"The holiday season is a wonderful time to reconnect with family and friends – it's also a chance to reconnect with your physical and mental health," says Dr. Scott.



Council meeting less dramatic than expected

continued from page 3

Pendleton County Prosecuting Attorney April Mallow, and the second by a paid, private company. He asked if the Council have followed what the investigations advised them to do, and asked about the cost of the private investigation.

“The final bill has not arrived, yet,” City Clerk Rick Freeman replied.

Carlson then accused Riggelman of illegally acquiring Helmick’s home IP address. The report filed by Pendleton County’s Mallow indicates that, when Riggelman requested the records

from the internet provider, they said he, “would have to sign for this information.” It does not state anything about requiring a subpoena or warrant.

“I demand that you reinstate Officer Helmick immediately,” Carlson said. “You have dishonored him.” He added that he didn’t think Helmick had ever been written up, and that he had an exemplary career at the MPD. I believe that officer H has never been written up, he has an exemplary career at Moorefield PD.

Following public comment, the Council held a brief meeting with abbreviated reports from

the Town offices.

Public works director Lucas Gagnon said the Town is ready for snow, and reminded Council members of the Christmas Parade and tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 7.

MPD Chief Riggelman reported the department responded to 149 calls for service in November. AAA recognized the department with a 2024 Community Traffic Safety Platinum Award for what they’ve contributed to safer roads in town.

He reported he’d placed an order for ballistic vest plates to replace ones determined to be faulty and unsafe for \$6,300;

the Council had previously approved a budget of \$7000.

The Council then went into executive session to discuss ongoing personnel issues.

The Council came out of executive session with no action taken, and following motions to do so, Zuber adjourned the meeting.

“How much longer are you gonna make my son suffer?” Winnie Helmick asked, as she left.

The next meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. The public is always encouraged and welcome to attend.



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Hardy County Commission Meeting on December 3, 2024

By Tom Burgess

Hardy County Commissioners held their regular December meeting on December 3, 2024 with a call to order by Commission President David Workman with the Pledge of Allegiance, and a prayer led by Commissioner Steven Schetrom II. The approval of the November 6 meeting minutes took place, as well.

First, Michele Moore Reeves, Director of the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, reported the progress on the CVB’s new headquarters, which should be ready for occupancy by May. Also, Reeves reported continued progress on the Mountain Bike trails in East County. Finally, the CVB will be receiving flood insurance, in coordination with the County Coordinator.

Next, Eric Schaffer and Hannah Heishman, Board Members with the McCoy’s Grand Theatre and Museum that work for planning and fundraising for the theatre’s 100th Centennial Celebration in 2027. They told Commissioners that all of the incandescent light bulbs would be replaced by energy

efficient LED lighting, among other upgrades such as 12 plays and shows from regional groups. The Commission approved \$8,362.00 for an initial funding amount while awaiting additional funding amounts expected in January-February 2025.

Commissioner Workman then introduced Paul Lewis, Office of Emergency Management/911 Director for his report. He said Power Connection staff are moving the generator from the old 911 Center to the Lost City Tower site. Premier Construction is adding additional outlets in the ceiling to handle the radios and Aviat equipment.

T-Mobile contacted Director Lewis about placing their cell service on the Helmick Rock Tower if there is room. They expressed strong interest in this new site and sent a person to inspect the tower. Lewis said he expects to hear from the person inspecting the tower next week. Also, he said he’d like the Commissioners to hear from the NextGen representative about their product.

During November, Lewis reported that they had a total of 595 calls handled and dispatched to first responders. Law Enforcement had the following calls: WV DNR had 14 calls, HC Sheriff’s Office had 246 calls, Moorefield PD had 156 calls and WV State Police had 30 calls.

EMS had the following calls: West Hardy Ambulance Service had 108 calls, HCEAA had 97 Calls and Wardensville Rescue had 36 calls. the fire departments had these calls: Capon Valley VFD had 6 calls; Mathias / Baker VFD had 15 calls and Moorefield VFD had 26 calls.

He said they had 16 calls that we called DOH on for various problems.

He reported that currently, they have had no 2025 grant information from the Office of Emergency Management in Charleston. He also reported that he is still waiting for the release of the 2023 Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG).

He informed Commissioners that their first meeting planning summit to be held at the Stonewall

Jackson on January 29-30 2025. Also, he reported that the housing summit will be held statewide this year.

Sheriff Steve Dawson reported heavy call volume in November. He also requested that the Commissioners approve a personnel action to upgrade a deputy from part time to full time, adding that the individual’s performance has been very positive and the move will make the office shortfall lessen. The request was voted in the affirmative, 3-0. Also, Sheriff Dawson requested that Deputy H.T. Miller be promoted to Chief Deputy.

Bill Ours, County Health Director, reported a large increase in COVID shots given out in November and just recently approved purchase of \$45,000 in COVID shots. Regarding the new County Health Building, Mr. Ours reported that he held discussions with the contractor about the building’s interior painting. The result was that the entire interior paint job would be repainted at the contractor’s cost.

Peggy Moomaw requested that she submit a membership request to the National Information Offi-

cer Association for 2025. The annual fee is \$90 per year. The request was approved 3-0.

Next Nicole Rohrbaugh with the Hardy County Planning Office displayed a new County zoning map that reflects all four re-zonings made since 2014.

The Commission agreed 3-0 to produce a letter of support for fiber installation throughout the county.

County Coordinator Wendy Branson requested a Commission vote for the 2025 holiday schedule. The Commission voted 3-0 in favor of the schedule. Branson then proposed a vote for a part time hire for court house security. It was approved 3-0. Next, the Commission approved 3-0 the drafting of an Appalachian Letter of Support for a capacity building grant.

Branson then provided Commissioners with a dog pound update specifically — 7 dogs in Wardensville, 7 in Moorefield and 3 in other locations. Lastly, she provided Commissioners a grant proposal for a dog pound improvement contract.

The Commissioners then vot-

ed 3-0 to set January 7, 2025 as the next regular public hearing. And, it was noted that the Jail Bill for the month of November was \$38,293.01 and the Farmland Preservation amount collected by their office for November 2025 was \$23,718.42.

Next and last but not least, County Clerk Greg Ely submitted his resignation after serving since January 2005 as the county Clerk running the training and management of multiple county services and needs. He trained voting day poll workers, maintained and allocated voting machines, among other efforts. Ely was a welcome fixture in the Court House. He managed estates, finance, the recording office and always had answers and a smile for anyone in need.

The Commission accepted Greg’s request for retirement, 3-0 in the affirmative and then voted 3-0 to accept the County Clerk’s recommendation for Deputy Clerk Loretta Humbertson, to be elevated to County Clerk. The Commission voted 3-0 affirmatively for this item.

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East Hardy aims for third straight state tournament

East Hardy Boys Basketball has the dynamic skills to make a third consecutive trip to the state tournament and the Cougars are ready to pounce to the hoop this season to reach that goal.

“We have high goals for the year. We believe if we work hard we can be one of the teams competing for a state championship in March. We want to get better each week and we will consider it a success if we can maximize this team’s potential,” East Hardy Boys Basketball coach Chris Hahn remarked.

The Cougars will be guided by 18-year veteran head coach Chris Hahn along with assistant coaches Matt Teets and Tyler Mongold.

East Hardy Boys Basketball roster includes: Jordan Teets 12 SF, Jaeden Edwards 12 SG, Brayden Gregory 12 SF, Evan Hamilton 11 PG, Mason Hamilton 11 SG, Joseph Price 11 PF, Gideon Good 10 C, Aubrey McCullough 10 PG, Trevor Roof 10 SG, Dayton Dove 10 SF, Kaden Barrett 10 SF, Gage Dove 9 PF, Nehemiah Graham 9 SF, Angelo Louis 9 SG, Mason Wilkins 9 PF and Simon Combs 9 SG.

“Jordan is going to be our most consistent scorer, Gideon is our Center and he is going to literally be the guy we play around this year and through he has de-

East Hardy High School Boys Basketball Roster

Jordan Teets, senior, SF
Jaeden Edwards, senior, SG
Brayden Gregory, senior, SF
Evan Hamilton, junior, PG
Mason Hamilton, junior, SG
Joseph Price, junior, PF
Gideon Good, sophomore, C
Aubrey McCullough, sophomore, PG

Trevor Roof, sophomore, SG
Dayton Dove, SF
Kaden Barrett, sophomore, SF
Gage Dove, freshman, PF
Nehemiah Graham, freshman, SF
Angelo Louis, freshman, SG
Mason Wilkins, freshman, PF
Simon Combs, freshman, SG

Head Coach: Chris Hahn
Assistant Coaches: Matt Teets and Tyler Mongold

Jaeden Edwards, Brayden Gregory, Evan Hamilton, Mason Hamilton, Joseph Price, Gideon Good, Aubrey McCullough and Trevor Roof.

“Trevor Roof, Joseph Price, Brayden Gregory are all going to have very important roles on this team. They each bring a different skill set speed, great court awareness and strong physical presence,” Coach Hahn said.

East Hardy has three seniors poised to strike the net and lead the team to Charleston: Jordan Teets, Jaeden Edward and Brayden Gregory.

Teets was a huge part of the scoring regiment last season with all-around range including perimeter shots, while Edwards is quick and provides guidance on the floor and Gregory is a physical player making entry in the

veloped so much in the offseason it should be a treat to watch him work in the paint this season. Mason and Evan are both going to have an expanded offensive role this year. But make no mistake they are the heart and soul of our defense. We are not the same team if they leave the court,” Coach Hahn commented.

The Cougars will look to the seniors to be the calm in the storm and Jordan knows exactly how to be stoic in the face of adversity with a state championship golf title and back-to-back state basketball appearances,

“Senior leadership is very important. A player who has seen it all that can be the calm in the storm is important. Luckily for us Jordan is calm and always ready for the challenge,” Coach Hahn noted.

The varsity team will be comprised of Jordan Teets,

continued on page 12



Moorefield eyes state berth

Moorefield Boys Basketball knows the recipe for success having made four regional championship appearances in the past five seasons including a state tournament bid four years ago and the time to renew that journey to Charleston has arrived for this season in Class AA competition.

The Yellow Jackets will be led by Scott Stutler, who takes the helm for the seventh season and 15th overall within the Moorefield coaching program.

Coach Stutler will be joined by assistant coaches Eric Linville and Addison Barb.

“Our goals and expectations stay the same from year to year. We work hard to get better each day so that we are playing our best basketball at the end of the season. That has been a key to success in the post season the last 5 years. We have been in 4 out of the last 5 regional final games and won 3 out of the last 4 sectional championships,” Moorefield Boys Basketball coach Scott Stutler commented.

The Yellow Jackets roster includes four seniors: Guyan Kahangirwe, Diego Taylor, Dawson Arbaugh and Kyle Molen; six juniors: Brady Vetter, Shawn Reed, Bereket Tamiru, Law Sherman, Brock Linville and Josiah Howard; six sophomores: Cyrus Kump, Kail Greenwalt, Jackson Helmick, Anthony Vetter, Brendan Fawley

Moorefield High School Boys Basketball Roster

Guyan Kahangirwe, senior
Diego Taylor, senior
Dawson Arbaugh, senior
Kyle Molen, senior
Brady Vetter, junior
Shawn Reed, junior
Bereket Tamiru, junior
Law Sherman, junior
Brock Linville, junior
Josiah Howard, junior
Cyrus Kump, sophomore
Kail Greenwalt, sophomore
Jackson Helmick, sophomore
and Brayden Sackett-Williams; and a freshman quintet: Zeke Eye, Edgar Camberra-Herrera, Kole Keplinger Holden Crites and Austin Arbaugh.

The Yellow Jackets are building the team chemistry within the Hive to mold a successful and cohesive unit this year.

“Chemistry is not where we want it to be right now but it will get better as the season goes along,” Coach Stutler noted.

Moorefield have a strong rebounding presence with Kahangirwe in the paint along with Reed, Kump, Linville, Greenwalt, Tamiru, Howard and Molen crashing the boards.

The Yellow Jackets have a large contingent of quick players including Taylor, Arbaugh, Vetter, Reed, Sherman, Linville, Kump, Greenwalt, Helmick and Fawley.

Anthony Vetter, sophomore
Brendan Fawley, sophomore
Brayden Sackett-Williams, sophomore
Zeke Eye, freshman
Edgar Camberra-Herrera, freshman
Kole Keplinger, freshman
Austin Arbaugh, freshman
Holden Crites, freshman
*Each player plays all positions on floor, so no specific position provided

Head Coach: Scott Stutler
Assistant Coaches: Eric Linville and Addison Barb

“Guyan Kahangirwe and Diego Taylor are our top returning players. They are both good leaders that practice and play extremely hard. Other players that will help on the varsity level are: Shawn Reed, Brady Vetter, Kyle Molen, Dawson Arbaugh, Cyrus Kump, Bereket Tamiru, Law Sherman, Josiah Howard, Kail Greenwalt and Jackson Helmick.

Moorefield looks to the seniors to develop the culture of the team to reach beyond the goals and standards already in place.

“Senior Leadership is very important for the culture of the program. These guys have been here and know the expectations, they lead by example and hold others accountable,” Coach Stutler said.

Moorefield’s season opener in

continued on page 11



Yellow Jackets swarm mats for state tickets

Moorefield High School Wrestling Roster

Aiden Jones, senior
LaTanya Redman, senior
Dylan Colasessano, senior
Jean Gonzalez-Rivera, senior
Riley Pillus, senior
Earl Wyman, senior
Jhon Paul, junior
Andrew Wolfe, junior
Kevin Aleman, junior
Wyatt Shirk, junior
Daltan Ault, junior
Luke Combs, junior
LeeAnne Coon, junior

Jordan Fields, junior
Javier Acosta, sophomore
Caleb Flinn, sophomore
Thomas Parisi, sophomore
Chernet Ansani, sophomore
Alex Rodriguez, sophomore
Drake Milliner, sophomore
Kailynn Penkov, freshman
Laurencio Sanchez, freshman
Axel Rodriguez, freshman
William Atkins, freshman

Head Coach: Rob Pillus
Assistant Coach: Larry Schoonover

The Yellow Jackets Wrestling team is already buzzing loudly after the first tournament and look to sting the competition en route to state tournament tickets punched this season.

Moorefield Wrestling is guided by head coach Rob Pillus and assistant coach Larry Schoonover.

Moorefield Wrestling has four wrestlers coming back from the state tournament last year starting with Region II champion senior Riley Pillus.

Moorefield senior Aiden Jones and sophomore Javier Acosta were in Huntington last year

with fourth place regional medals and gearing up for another trip.

Moorefield senior LaTanya Redman competed in the girls state tournament in Huntington.

The Yellow Jackets seniors Dylan Colasessano and Earl Wyman placed sixth in the regional tournament and look to move up to qualify for the state tournament.

The Yellow Jackets have a ton of potential this season throughout the lineup which also includes senior Jean Gonzalez-Rivera, juniors Jhon Paul, Andrew Wolfe, Kevin Aleman, Wyatt

Shirk, Daltan Ault, Luke Combs, LeeAnne Coon and Jordan Fields; sophomores Caleb Flinn, Thomas Parisi, Chernet Ansani, Alex Rodriguez and Drake Milliner; plus freshmen Kailynn Penkov, Laurencio Sanchez, Axel Rodriguez and William Atkins.

Moorefield commenced the season at the Hedgesville Duals last weekend and travel to the Lewis County Tournament this weekend.

The Yellow Jackets visit Jefferson on December 20-21 hoping for great gifts of wins before Christmas.

Moorefield starts the new year at the Baker Brawl on January 4.

Moorefield has open dates in January and February that should equate to some home matches in the Hive.

The Yellow Jackets are ranked eighth overall in the Class A Wrestling WVMat Poll.

Moorefield knows what it takes to swarm to the state tournament and will be in Braxton County to determine the fate on February 21-22.

The state tournament in Huntington will be on March 6-8.



East Hardy Wrestling grapples for state berth

East Hardy Wrestling is hitting the mats preparing to have strong takedown to slam into the state tournament with a plethora of experience to guide the way.

The Cougars are led by head coach Steven Miller and assistant coaches SierraMarie Miller, Will Leonard, TJ Van Meter and JC Nutter.

Coach Miller was selected as

the girls wrestling coach of the year last year, while graduated senior Nahkita Bauserman won a state championship and was honored as the outstanding wrestler of the year.

The winning culture continues to grow in Baker as eight returning grapplers have state tournament experience from last year.

East Hardy Wrestling senior

Sean O’Callaghan was the Class A Region II runner-up and placed fifth overall at the state tournament.

The Cougars state experience continues as sophomore Garrett Van Meter won the Class A Region II championship and sixth place state medal.

East Hardy junior Morganne Miller placed fourth in the girls

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PETITIONER,
-VS-
CAPON VALLEY CHAROLAIS FARM, LLC, et al.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 2024-C-36
PROJECT NO. X316-H-125.16 0; NHPP-0484(118)
RESPONDENT(S)
PARCEL NO. 40 ORDER Or PUBLICA-TION

TO: The above-named Respondents, owners, claimants, or lienors of the land herein referred to: You are hereby notified that on the 30th day of January, 2025, at 20:00 p.m. . of that day, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, application will be made upon a verified Petition, to be then and there presented to the undersigned, the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, a West Virginia Corporation, to the Circuit Court of Hardy County, West Virginia, at a session of said Circuit Court to be then held at the Courthouse of said County. The Petitioners will request an order vesting defeasible title to the Petitioners of said lands, rights of way, and easements as the Petition for Condemnation filed in this case, pursuant to Section 14a, Article 2, Chapter 54 of the Official Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended.

The land to which defeasible title is sought by the Petitioners is located in Capon District, Hardy County, West Virginia, and is designated as Parcel No. 40, Project No. X316-H-125.16 00; NHPP-0484(118), no the maps and plans of said project. Said lands, rights of way, and easements are more particularly bounded and described in the Notice filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Hardy County, West Virginia.

At which time and place you may attend and protect your interest if you are as advised.

Dated this 25th day of November, 2024,
15 Armstrong Street Keyser, West Virginia

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS, BY COUNSEL

By: Anthony W. Rogers
WV State Bar #6802
155 Armstrong Street
Keyser, West Virginia 26726
Phone: (304) 788-8080
Fax: (304) 788-2004
awr@kirkwoodrogers.com
Counsel for Petitioner

12/4,12/11

Region VIII Solid Waste Authority's Comprehensive Litter and Solid Waste Plan Update
Commercial Solid Waste Facility Siting Plan Update

The Region VIII Solid Waste Authority will hold a public hearing concerning the five-year update of the Comprehensive Litter and Solid Waste Control Plan and the Commercial Solid Waste Facility Siting Plan. The hearing will take place in the Region 8 building conference room, located at 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847 on January 13, 2025, at 10:00 A.M., during which public comments will be heard. The draft plan may be reviewed at the public library (Petersburg, Romney, Moorefield, Keyser, Franklin, Capon Bridge, Burlington, Fort Ashby and Piedmont, WV), at the County Clerk's office, and at the Region 8 Planning and Development Council. Written comments will be accepted until January 23, 2025, and may be mailed to the Region VIII Solid Waste Authority, P.O. Box 116, Petersburg, WV 26847.

12/11

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE is hereby given pursuant to and by virtue of the authority vested in the Substitute Trustee, Pill & Pill, PLLC, by that certain Deed of Trust dated June 9, 2022, executed by the Borrower, Carey Hockman, to Douglas McElwee, the Trustee, of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Hardy County, West Virginia, in Book 340, at Page 563. At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 128 Timber Ridge Rd., Wardensville, WV 26851. Pill & Pill, PLLC was appointed as Substitute Trustee by an APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE dated July 30, 2024, of record in the Clerk's Office in Book 354, at Page 795. The Borrower defaulted under the Note and Deed of Trust and the Substitute Trustee has been instructed to foreclose under the Deed of Trust. Accordingly, the Substitute Trustee will sell the following described property to the highest bidder at the front door of the Courthouse of Hardy County, in Moorefield, West Virginia, on the following date:

December 17, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

All those two (2) certain tracts or parcels of real estate, together with all rights, rights-of-ways, improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, being located and situate in Capon District, Hardy County, West Virginia, and designated as Lot 17, containing 4.485 acres, more or less, and Lot 18, containing 4.00 acres, more or less, of North Mountain Estates Subdivision, on a Plat of North Mountain Estates Subdivision prepared by Frank A. Whitacre, Licensed Land Surveyor No. 506, of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Hardy County, West Virginia, in Plat Book No. 3, at Page 71, to which reference is now made for a more particular description of said real estate and for any and all other pertinent purposes.

Being the same tracts or parcels of real estate conveyed unto Carey Hockman from Carolyn E. Hockman by Deed dated June 9, 2022, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Hardy County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 364, at Page 299.

Reference is hereby made to the aforesaid deed and other documents therein referred to and same are incorporated herein, by reference, for any and all pertinent purposes.

The aforesaid tracts of real estate are identified for tax assessment purposes in the Hardy County Assessor's Office on Tax Map 275, as Parcels 0024.0016 and 0024.0017.

The real estate is subject to any and all rights-of-ways and/or easements in chain of title, if any, that may exist but are not depicted in the public records.

TERMS OF SALE:

- The property will be conveyed in an "AS IS" physical condition by Deed containing no warranty, express or implied, subject to the Internal Revenue Service right of redemption, all property taxes, prior Deeds, liens, reservations, encumbrances, restrictions, rights-of-ways, easements, covenants, conveyances and conditions of record in the Clerk's office or affecting the subject property.
- The Purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the transfer taxes imposed by the West Virginia Code § 11-22-1.
- The Beneficiary and/or the Servicer of the Deed of Trust and Note reserve the right to submit a bid for the property at sale.
- The Trustee reserves the right to continue sale of the subject property from time to time by written or oral proclamation, which continuance shall be in the sole discretion of the Trustee.
- The Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the property to vacate said property, and any personal property and/or belongings remaining at the property after the foreclosure sale will be deemed to constitute ABANDONED PROPERTY AND WILL BE DISPOSED OF ACCORDINGLY.
- The total purchase price is payable to the Trustee within thirty (30) days of the date of sale, with ten (10%) of the total purchase price payable to the Trustee at sale.

Pill & Pill, PLLC, Substitute Trustee

BY: Jonathan L. Wertman, Esq.

Pill & Pill, PLLC
85 Aikens Center
Edwin Miller Boulevard
P.O. Box 440
Martinsburg, WV 25402
(304) 263-4971
foreclosures@pillwvllaw.com

11/27,12/4,12/11,12/16



JOB POSTING

The Hardy County Clerk is seeking applicants for the full-time/part-time position of Financial/Deputy Clerk.

Requirements: Applicants must possess basic computer knowledge and strong customer service skills. Preference may be given to bookkeeping or accounting experience / QuickBooks experience, and/or education/experience. Other Requirements include: High School Diploma, or equivalent; Valid driver's license; U.S. Citizen.

Duties include: General office tasks including but not limited to recording and indexing documents, printing book pages, assisting customers in research and will be trained on elections and estates, in particular. Additional task related to financial transactions and record-keeping. These duties include some lifting. Further details will be discussed during the interview process.

Base salary if hired for full-time is set between \$24,000.00 and \$26,000.00; negotiable with experience. Full-time position also qualifies for retirement and insurance benefit packages. Part-time position hire will be negotiable at an hourly rate, benefits excluded.

Applications are available at the Hardy County Clerk's Office, 204 Washington Street, Room 111, Moorefield, WV Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and on the Hardy County.com website on Tab labeled JOBS. Completed applications must be returned to the County Clerk's Office by 4:00 p.m. Friday, January 3rd 2025.

The Hardy County Clerk and Hardy County Commission are equal opportunity employers.

12/11,12,18

Notice of Ancillary Filing without any Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees

Notice is hereby given that the following foreign will or affidavit of heirs has been filed in the Hardy County Clerk's Office at 204 Washington Street, Room 111 Moorefield, WV 26836-0200, and no appointment or administration is being made pursuant to the provisions of West Virginia Code 41-5-13.

An interested person(s) 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 file a statement with the Hardy County Commission through the County Clerk's Office at the address listed above within 60 days after the date of first publication or 30 days of service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not timely filed, the objection is forever barred. The Hardy County Commission upon receiving any timely objection thereto shall schedule a hearing or hearings thereon and order relief, if any, it considers proper including, but not limited to, an order directing that full and complete ancillary administration of the estate of the nonresident decedent be made in this state.

First Publication Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024

DATE FILED 11/12/2024
ESTATE NAME: REUBEN LEE WRATCH-FORD
2920 STUART DRIVE
FALLS CHURCH VA 22042-1431
AFFIANT REU ANN WRATCHFORD REECE
12209 MAJOR DR
GERMANTOWN MD 20876-4026

DATE FILED 11/12/2024
ESTATE NAME: MILDRED WILSON WRATCHFORD
12209 MAJOR DRIVE
GERMANTOWN MD 20876-4026
AFFIANT REU ANN WRATCHFORD REECE
12209 MAJOR DR
GERMANTOWN MD 20876-4026

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 12/05/2024

Gregory L Ely
Clerk of the Hardy County Commission

12/11,12/18

Notice of Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees

Notice is hereby given that the following estate(s) have been opened for probate in the Hardy County Clerk's Office at 204 Washington Street, Moorefield, WV 26836-0200. Any person seeking to impeach or establish a will must make a complaint in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code 41-5-11 through 13. Any interested person objecting to the qualifications of the personal representative or the venue or jurisdiction of the court, shall file notice of an objection with the County Commission within 60 days after the date of the first publication or within 30 days of the service of the notice, whichever is later. If an objection is not filed timely, the objection is forever barred. Any person interested in filing claims against an estate must file them in accordance with West Virginia Code 44-2 and 44-3 and/or 44-1-14A(10).

Settlement of the estate(s) of the following named decedent(s) will proceed without reference to a fiduciary commissioner unless within 60 days from the first publication of this notice a reference is requested by a party of interest or an unpaid creditor files a claim and good cause is shown to support reference to a fiduciary commissioner. If no reference to a fiduciary commissioner is listed herein, claims against the estate(s) must be filed in accordance with West Virginia Code 44-1-14A(10).

First Publication Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024
Claim Deadline: Sunday, February 9, 2025

ESTATE NAME: JOHN WILLIAM SPROUSE
EXECUTOR JACOB WILSON 498 RIG WEST ROAD MOOREFIELD WV 26836-8251

ESTATE NAME: ROBERT LEE LONG JR
ADMINISTRATRIX DENISE LYNETTE LONG 4858 SR 55 MOOREFIELD WV 26836-8519

ESTATE NAME: GERARD LIONEL PHILIP-PON
ADMINISTRATRIX JANETTE ANN PHILIP-PON 80 WOODLANDS TRAIL PETERS-BURG WV 26847-8693
ATTORNEY CHARLES MCWILLIAMS WALSH, COLUCCI, LUBELEY & WALSH 204 S LOUDOUN ST SUITE 100 WINCHESTER VA 22601-4636

ESTATE NAME: DAVID ALLEN WHETZEL
ADMINISTRATRIX CTA DBN DON-NA WHETZEL 299 ARLINGTON MANOR DRIVE MOOREFIELD WV 26836-1095
ATTORNEY NATHAN H WALTERS WALTERS, HEISHMAN & VANCE, PLLC PO BOX 119 204 NORTH ELM STREET MOOREFIELD WV 26836-0119

ESTATE NAME: ROBIN LESLIE BRILL
EXECUTOR LESLIE O BRILL 420 N ALA-BAMA AVE CHESNEE SC 29323-1325

ESTATE NAME: AARON MATTHEW JUDY
ADMINISTRATOR CTA GEORGE KEVIN JUDY II 167 PERU HOLLOW RD MOORE-FIELD WV 26836-8199

ESTATE NAME: VIOLA IRENE MILLER
ADMINISTRATRIX BONNIE LOU BRILL 127 SANDFIELD ROAD WARDENSVILLE WV 26851-8218

ESTATE NAME: GRETA CATHERINE LEHMAN
ADMINISTRATOR LEE EDMUND LEHMAN PO BOX 11 MOOREFIELD WV 26836-0011
ATTORNEY NATHAN H WALTERS WALTERS, HEISHMAN & VANCE, PLLC PO BOX 119 204 NORTH ELM STREET MOOREFIELD WV 26836-0119

ESTATE NAME: GLORIA GAY REMINGTON
ADMINISTRATOR JESSE JAMES REMINGTON 1023 HOLLY HALL DR RICHMOND TX 77406-2340

To: HOLLY BAKER SHAKYA, CHRISTOPHER C. BAKER, KAREN R. BEWICK, KENNETH J. BE-WICK, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT SOUTH FORK MAP 9999
PARCEL 0000 0010 0000
You will take notice that JOSHUA & MEGHAN WHITAKER, the purchaser of the following real estate, Cert No. 2023-C-000059, located in SOUTH FORK District, 292.38 AC MIN RTS 1/5 INT which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of BAKER JACK & JEAN BEWICK, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARDY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on June 12, 2024. JOSHUA & MEGHAN WHITAKER requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after May 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before April 30, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest. \$84.19 for tax year ticket number 2022 – 12390

Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number \$0.00

Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest for tax year 2023-12438 \$1.43

Additional taxes with interest. \$0.00

Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest. \$103.47

Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of \$800.74 State with interest.

Additional Statutory Fees with Interest. \$0.00

Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or \$989.83 personal check.

You may redeem at any time before April 30, 2025 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Given under my hand November 7, 2024

G. Russell Rollyson Jr.
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of HARDY County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568

11/27,12/4,12/11

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 543, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until December 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
012	2022990070	T699- IDIGS 25 00	STBG-2024(126)D	TRAFFIC SIGNAL ITS, SIGNAL SYSTEMS, LGTNG, TECH VARIOUS COUNTY: STATEWIDE

DBE GOAL: 5 % OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.

REMARKS:

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must submit electronically with their bid a Proposal Guaranty Bond for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

12/11,12/18

Golden Lanes Bowling Petersburg

ODD COUPLES MIXED LEAGUE 11/26/2024

TEAM STANDINGS: Vetter's Guns & Ammo 47 – 13, Terminators 41 – 19, MMATFB 37 – 23, Country Cars & Trucks 33 – 27, Empire Strikes 32 – 28, Split Happens 30 – 30, WELD 30 – 30, Family Traditions I 19 – 41, Family Traditions II 18 – 42, Happy Bowlers 13 – 47;

HIGH GAME MEN (SCRATCH): Tyler Halterman 245, Troy McGreevy 243, Jon Hedrick 235, Cohan Kesner 226;

(HANDICAP): Tyler Halterman 259, Troy McGreevy 247, Eric Whetzel 244, Jon Hedrick 243;

HIGH SERIES MEN (SCRATCH): Jon Hedrick 615, Troy McGreevy 609, Cohan Kesner 590, Andrew Hawk 579;

(HANDICAP): Eric Whetzel 703, Andrew Hawk 657, Kevin McDonald 641, Jon Hedrick 639;

HIGH AVERAGE (MEN): Cohan Kesner 210.62, Troy McGreevy 205.20, Jon Hedrick 200.44, Ed Wompler 197.86;

HIGH GAME WOMEN (SCRATCH): Sarah Earle 205, Ashley Wratchford 190, Denise McGreevy 180, Emily Stark 174;

(HANDICAP): Sue Earle 241, Sarah Earle 233, Ashley Wratchford 231, Sonya Horton 220;

HIGH SERIES WOMEN (SCRATCH): Sarah Earle 543, Ashley Wratchford 533, Carissa Michael 496, Denise McGreevy 494; (HANDICAP): Ashley Wratchford 656, Sarah Earle 627, Denise McGreevy 620, Sue Earle 605;

HIGH AVERAGE (WOMEN): Carissa Michael 190.75, Sarah Earle 174.68, Dee Anna McDonald 171.22, Emily Stark 160.04

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2024 Chevy Malibu LS
Only **\$21,990**

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2024 Chevy Silverado Custom Crew Cab 4x4
Only **\$43,990**

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GET HARDY COUNTY NEWS FASTER THAN EVER BEFORE!



MOOREFIELD MIDDLE		
School Girls Basketball Roster		
Emily Parisi	8	Aeries Deetz 7
Allison Jackson	8	Serenity Thorne 7
Alilyia Eye	8	Lelia Brafford 7
Kiersten Rinker	8	Allyson Landes 7
Kennedy Kuh	8	Elizabeth Cambero-Herrera 7
Ella Polling	8	Rebecca Liller 7
Chloe Champ	8	Anna Koontz 7
Natalie Rubnkonig	8	Kylan Markwood 6
Anniston Kite	8	Allison Ours 6
Crislynn Pories	7	Adalyn Toney 6
		Kennedy Strawderman 6
		Head Coach: Vivian Carr

EAST HARDY MIDDLE		
School Girls Basketball Roster		
Alexis Baker	8	
Isabella Ferlazzo	8	
Charlee Hahn	8	
Shaye Barb	8	
Taylor Tilletson	8	
Harper Kline	7	
Georgia Hahn	7	
Hannah Riggle	7	
Hannah Tinnell	6	
Myla Gordon	6	
Savannah Weaver	6	
Rachel Lloyd	6	
Kisstyn Halterman	6	
Head Coach: Davey Tinnell		
Assistant Coaches: Chris Hahn and Heather Hahn		



EAST HARDY MIDDLE	
School Boys Basketball Roster	
Payton Bosley	8
Kane Persinger	8
Ian Brill	8
Ian Peterson	8
Marshall Walker	8
Kypton Miller	8
Luke Holliday	7
Colton Aylor	7
Chance Hahn	7
Dalton Nicholson	7
Zach Weaver	7
Head Coach: Derek Brill	

MOOREFIELD MIDDLE		
School Boys Basketball Roster		
Lucas Stutler	8	Edison Metheny 8
Zakk Keplinger	8	Brantley Crites 7
Brody Simmons	8	Dakon Taylor 7
Raymond Ware	8	Levi Stoltzfus 7
Hector Luna-Davy	8	Hunter Wimer 7
Eastyn Haines	8	Zack Harvey 7
Nathan Crites	8	Mason Redman 7
William Kump	8	Jake Baldwin 7
Mathew Iman	8	Brayden Crouse 6
Vance Simmons	8	Kaden Flinn 6
Thomas Simmons	8	Sawyer Shirk 6
		Head Coach: Paul See



Congratulations

to the 2024 Best of West Virginia* Awardees



GOLD

Lost & Found Pizza and Provisions

BEST NEW RESTAURANT
(OPENED 2023-2024)

The Inn at Lost River

BEST BED & BREAKFAST/INN



SILVER

Farms Work Wonders

BEST PLACE TO WORK

Lost & Found Pizza and Provisions

BEST PIZZA

The Lost River General Store & Cafe

BEST COFFEE SHOP
BEST HOT DOG
BEST SANDWICH

Wardensville Garden Market

BEST SPECIALTY FOOD MARKETPLACE

COMMUNITY CHAMPION

POTOMAC HIGHLANDS REGION

Michele Mouré-Reeves

HARDY COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

BRONZE

Farms Work Wonders

BEST CHARITY/NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Mack's Bingo Bakery

BEST BAKERY

REGIONAL

BEST IN THE POTOMAC HIGHLANDS

Mack's Bingo Bakery

BAKERY

Mack's Bingo Kitchen

CASUAL DINING

Guesthouse Lost River

FINE DINING

*Courtesy West Virginia Living Magazine



EAST HARDY

Senior Basketball(B) Schedule

Events				
1	12/11/24	6:00PM	A-	PENDLETON COUNTY
2	12/14/24	12:00PM	A-	POCAHONTAS COUNTY
3	12/17/24	7:00PM	A-	PAW PAW
4	12/19/24	7:00PM	H-	HARMAN
5	12/27/24	TBA PM	A-	SNOWBALL CLASSIC
6	12/28/24	TBA PM	A-	SNOWBALL CLASSIC
7	12/30/24	5:45PM	A-	TUCKER COUNTY
8	01/03/25	6:00PM	A-	PETERSBURG
9	01/07/25	7:00PM	A-	UNION
10	01/10/25	6:00PM	H-	TUCKER COUNTY
11	01/15/25	7:00PM	H-	PAW PAW
12	01/17/25	6:00PM	H-	PENDLETON COUNTY
13	01/18/25	5:00PM	A-	PVC SKILLS COMPETITION @ HAMPSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL
14	01/24/25	6:00PM	H-	TYGARTS VALLEY MIDDLE/SENIOR HIGH
15	01/28/25	6:00PM	A-	CLAY-BATTELLE
16	01/30/25	12:15PM	A-	NORTHERN GARRETT, MD H.S.
17	01/31/25	6:00PM	H-	PETERSBURG
18	02/04/25	7:00PM	H-	UNION
19	02/07/25	6:00PM	A-	TYGARTS VALLEY MIDDLE/SENIOR HIGH
20	02/11/25	6:00PM	H-	NORTHERN GARRETT, MD H.S.
21	02/12/25	7:00PM	A-	HARMAN
22	02/13/25	6:00PM	H-	FRANKFORT
23	02/18/25	5:45PM	H-	POCAHONTAS COUNTY
wins: 0 lost: 0 ties: 0				

EAST HARDY

Senior Basketball(G) Schedule

Events				
1	12/12/24	6:00PM	H-	PETERSBURG
2	12/14/24	5:30PM	A-	RITCHIE COUNTY
3	12/17/24	6:00PM	H-	PENDLETON COUNTY
4	12/19/24	6:00PM	H-	HARMAN
5	12/27/24	4:30PM	A-	ROBERT C. BYRD (RCB TOURNAMENT)
6	12/28/24	11:45AM	A-	RCB TOURNAMENT
7	01/02/25	6:00PM	H-	TUCKER COUNTY
8	01/07/25	6:00PM	H-	FRANKFORT
9	01/08/25	7:00PM	A-	UNION
10	01/11/25	1:00PM	A-	TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
11	01/14/25	6:00PM	A-	MOOREFIELD
12	01/17/25	7:00PM	A-	FRANKFORT
13	01/18/25	5:00PM	A-	PVC SKILLS COMPETITION @ HAMPSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL
14	01/21/25	6:00PM	A-	NORTHERN GARRETT, MD H.S.
15	01/23/25	6:00PM	A-	PENDLETON COUNTY
16	01/28/25	5:45PM	A-	TUCKER COUNTY
17	02/05/25	7:00PM	H-	UNION
18	02/07/25	6:00PM	H-	TYGARTS VALLEY MIDDLE/SENIOR HIGH
19	02/10/25	6:00PM	H-	NORTHERN GARRETT, MD H.S.
20	02/12/25	6:00PM	A-	HARMAN
21	02/14/25	6:00PM	H-	TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
22	02/17/25	6:00PM	A-	HAMPSHIRE
23	02/19/25	6:00PM	A-	TYGARTS VALLEY MIDDLE/SENIOR HIGH
wins: 0 lost: 0 ties: 0				

MOOREFIELD

Boys Varsity Basketball Schedule

Events				
1	12/11/24	1:00PM	H-	HAMPSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL
2	12/13/24	7:30PM	A-	BRAXTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
3	12/14/24	12:00PM	A-	TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
4	12/19/24	7:30PM	A-	POCAHONTAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
5	12/27/24	6:00PM	A-	PENDLETON COUNTY HS
6	12/28/24			OPEN
7	01/03/25	7:30PM	A-	BERKELEY SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL
8	01/06/25	7:30PM	A-	PHILIP BARBOUR HIGH SCHOOL
9	01/08/25	7:30PM	A-	TUCKER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
10	01/15/25	7:30PM	H-	FRANKFORT HIGH SCHOOL
11	01/17/25	7:30PM	A-	PETERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL
12	01/20/25	1:30PM	H-	LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL-HARRISON
13	01/23/25	7:30PM	A-	KEYSER HIGH SCHOOL
14	01/31/25	7:30PM	H-	PENDLETON COUNTY HS
15	02/04/25	7:00PM	H-	POCAHONTAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
16	02/06/25	7:30PM	H-	TUCKER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
17	02/10/25	7:30PM	H-	PHILIP BARBOUR HIGH SCHOOL
18	02/12/25	7:30PM	H-	BERKELEY SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL
19	02/15/25	2:30PM	H-	DODDRIDGE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
20	02/19/25	6:00PM	A-	PENDLETON COUNTY HS
21	02/21/25	7:30PM	H-	PETERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL
22	02/25/25	7:30PM	A-	LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL-HARRISON
wins: 0 lost: 0 ties: 0				

MOOREFIELD

Coed Varsity Wrestling Schedule

Events				
1	12/06/24	BA	A-	HEDGESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL 0 -
2	12/07/24	BA	A-	HEDGESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL 0 -
3	12/13/24	BA	A-	LEWIS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL -
4	12/14/24	BA	A-	LEWIS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL -
5	12/20/24	BA	A-	JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL -
6	12/21/24	BA	A-	JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL -
7	01/04/25	BA	A-	EAST HARDY HIGH SCHOOL -
8	01/11/25			OPEN -
9	01/17/25	BA	A-	BRAXTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL -
10	01/18/25	BA	A-	BRAXTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL -
11	01/23/25	BA	A-	EAST HARDY HIGH SCHOOL -
12	01/25/25			OPEN -
13	01/31/25			OPEN -
14	02/01/25			OPEN -
15	02/21/25			OPEN -
16	02/22/25			OPEN -
17	03/06/25			OPEN -
18	03/07/25			OPEN -
19	03/08/25			OPEN -
wins: 0 lost: 0 ties: 2				

MOOREFIELD MIDDLE

Mid/Jr Basketball(G) Schedule

Events				
1	12/05/24	6:00PM	A-	PETERSBURG
2	12/10/24	5:00PM	H-	DAVIS THOMAS ELEMENTARY MIDDLE
3	12/12/24	6:00PM	A-	ROMNEY MIDDLE
4	12/16/24	6:00PM	A-	WARM SPRINGS MIDDLE
5	12/18/24	6:00PM	H-	CAPON BRIDGE MIDDLE
6	12/21/24	11:00AM	A-	JEFFERSON SHOWCASE
7	01/06/25	6:00PM	H-	WARM SPRINGS MIDDLE
8	01/09/25	6:00PM	H-	PETERSBURG
9	01/13/25	5:00PM	A-	DAVIS THOMAS ELEMENTARY MIDDLE
10	01/14/25	6:00PM	H-	GREEN BANK MIDDLE
11	01/16/25	5:00PM	A-	PENDLETON COUNTY
12	01/20/25	6:00PM	A-	TYGARTS VALLEY MIDDLE/SENIOR HIGH
13	01/23/25	6:00PM	H-	ROMNEY MIDDLE
14	01/27/25	6:00PM	H-	PENDLETON COUNTY
15	01/29/25	6:00PM	H-	EAST HARDY
16	01/30/25	6:00PM	A-	GREEN BANK MIDDLE
17	02/03/25	6:00PM	A-	EAST HARDY
18	02/04/25	6:00PM	H-	TYGARTS VALLEY MIDDLE/SENIOR HIGH
19	02/06/25	6:00PM	A-	ELKINS MIDDLE
20	02/10/25	6:00PM	A-	CAPON BRIDGE MIDDLE
21	02/13/25	6:00PM	H-	PVL PLAY-IN 7TH GRADE GAME
22	02/13/25	6:00PM	H-	PVL PLAY-IN 8TH GRADE GAME
23	02/17/25	6:00PM	A-	7TH GRADE PVL AT PENDELTON
24	02/18/25	6:00PM	A-	8TH GRADE PVL AT PENDLETON
25	02/20/25	6:00PM	A-	PVL CHAMPIONSHIPS AT PENDLETON
wins: 0 lost: 0 ties: 0				

EAST HARDY

Mid/Jr Basketball(B) Schedule

Events				
1	12/02/24	6:00PM	H-	SIGNAL KNOB MIDDLE (SCRIMMAGE)
2	Cancelled	6:00PM	H-	WARM SPRINGS MIDDLE
3	12/09/24	6:00PM	H-	CAPON BRIDGE MIDDLE
4	12/10/24	6:00PM	H-	PENDLETON COUNTY
5	12/16/24	6:00PM	H-	ROMNEY MIDDLE
6	12/17/24	6:00PM	A-	PAW PAW (8TH ONLY)
7	12/19/24	6:00PM	H-	WARM SPRINGS MIDDLE
8	01/07/25	6:00PM	A-	UNION (8TH ONLY)
9	01/14/25	6:00PM	A-	PENDLETON COUNTY
10	01/15/25	6:00PM	H-	PAW PAW @ EHHS (8TH ONLY)
11	01/16/25	6:00PM	H-	MOOREFIELD MIDDLE
12	01/16/25	6:00PM	A-	WARM SPRINGS MIDDLE
13	01/21/25	5:00 PM	A-	J. FRANK HILLIYARD (8TH ONLY)
14	01/23/25	6:00PM	H-	PETERSBURG
15	01/30/25	6:00PM	A-	CAPON BRIDGE MIDDLE
16	02/03/25	6:00PM	A-	ROMNEY MIDDLE
17	02/04/25	6:00PM	H-	UNION @ EHHS (8TH ONLY)
18	02/06/25	6:00PM	A-	PETERSBURG
19	02/13/25	6:00PM	A-	MOOREFIELD MIDDLE
20	02/18/25	5:00 PM	H-	J. FRANK HILLIYARD (8TH ONLY)
21	02/20/25	PM	A-	UNION TOURNAMENT (TBD)
22	02/22/25	PM	A-	UNION TOURNAMENT (TBD)
23	02/24/25	6:00PM	A-	7TH GRADE PVL @ MMS
24	02/25/25	6:00PM	A-	8TH GRADE PVL @ MMS
25	02/27/25	6:00PM	A-	PVL CHAMPIONSHIP @ MMS
wins: 0 lost: 0 ties: 0				

EAST HARDY

Mid/Jr Basketball(G) Schedule

Events				
1	11/25/24	6:00PM	A-	CHARLES TOWN MIDDLE (SCRIMMAGE)
2	12/11/24	6:00PM	H-	WARM SPRINGS MIDDLE
3	12/16/24	6:00PM	A-	ROMNEY MIDDLE
4	12/17/24	5:00 PM	H-	PENDLETON COUNTY
5	12/21/24	12:45PM	A-	JEFFERSON SHOWCASE (8TH ONLY)
6	01/06/25	6:00PM	H-	ROMNEY MIDDLE
7	01/08/25	6:00PM	A-	UNION
8	01/09/25	6:00PM	H-	CAPON BRIDGE MIDDLE
9	01/16/25	6:00PM	A-	WARM SPRINGS MIDDLE
10	01/20/25	6:00PM	A-	PETERSBURG
11	01/21/25	6:00PM	A-	J. FRANK HILLIYARD (8TH ONLY)
12	01/23/25	5:00PM	A-	PENDLETON COUNTY
13	01/27/25	6:00PM	A-	CAPON BRIDGE MIDDLE
14	01/29/25	6:00PM	A-	MOOREFIELD MIDDLE
15	02/03/25	6:00PM	H-	MOOREFIELD MIDDLE
16	02/05/25	6:00PM	H-	UNION
17	02/06/25	6:00PM	H-	PETERSBURG
18	02/17/25			OPEN
19	02/18/25	6:00PM	H-	J. FRANK HILLIYARD (8TH ONLY)
20	02/20/25			OPEN
21	02/22/25			OPEN
wins: 0 lost: 0 ties: 0				

East Hardy High School
Wrestling Schedule

December 12-13 A Max Horz Holiday Tournament in Berkeley Springs
December 13 A Keyser Kiwanis Tournament in Keyser
December 17 A Martinsburg Tri-match
December 18 H Southern Garrett
December 19 A Jefferson Girls/JV Mixer
December 20-21 A Jefferson Duals Tournament
January 4 H Baker Brawl Tournament
January 8 A Hampshire Tri-match
January 13 H Fort Hill
January 15 A Braxton County State

Dual Qualifier
January 17-18 A Braxton County Tournament
January 23 H Moorefield
January 25 A Potomac Valley Conference Tournament at Frankfort
January 29 A Jefferson Quad
January 30-31 A Viking Smash in Petersburg
February 5 A East Fairmont
February 8 H Belle of the Brawl Tournament
February 22 A Region II Tournament
March 6-8 State Tournament in Huntington
March 8 Girls State Tournament in Huntington

MOOREFIELD

Girls Varsity Basketball Schedule

Events				
1	12/03/24	7:00PM	A-	BERKELEY SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL 0 - 0
2	12/06/24	6:00PM	A-	LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL-HARRISON 0 - 0
3	12/11/24	7:30PM	H-	POCAHONTAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL -
4	12/13/24	4:15PM	A-	ST. MARYS HIGH SCHOOL -
5	12/14/24	9:00AM	A-	RAVENSWOOD HS -
6	12/18/24	7:30PM	A-	KEYSER HIGH SCHOOL -
7	12/20/24	6:00PM	A-	PENDLETON COUNTY HS -
8	12/21/24			OPEN -
9	01/03/25	7:30PM	H-	TUCKER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL -
10	01/10/25	7:00PM	H-	PETERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL -
11	01/14/25	6:00PM	H-	EAST HARDY HIGH SCHOOL -
12	01/16/25	7:30PM	A-	PENDLETON COUNTY HS -
13	01/21/25	7:30PM	H-	HAMPSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL -
14	01/24/25	7:00PM	A-	PETERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL -
15	01/28/25	7:30PM	H-	FRANKFORT HIGH SCHOOL -
16	02/03/25	7:30PM	H-	PHILIP BARBOUR HIGH SCHOOL -
17	02/05/25	7:30PM	A-	POCAHONTAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL -
18	02/07/25	7:30PM	A-	FRANKFORT HIGH SCHOOL -
19	02/12/25	7:30PM	A-	PHILIP BARBOUR HIGH SCHOOL -
20	02/14/25	7:30PM	H-	PENDLETON COUNTY HS -
21	02/18/25	6:00PM	H-	LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL-HARRISON -
22	02/20/25	7:30PM	A-	TUCKER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL -
23	01/24/26			OPEN -
wins: 0 lost: 0 ties: 2				

MOOREFIELD MIDDLE

Mid/Jr Basketball(B) Schedule

Events				
1	12/04/24	6:00PM	H-	ROMNEY MIDDLE
2	12/09/24	6:00PM	A-	WARM SPRINGS MIDDLE
3	12/10/24	5:00PM	H-	DAVIS THOMAS ELEMENTARY MIDDLE
4	12/14/24	4:30PM	A-	JEFFERSON SHOWCASE VS HARPERS FERRY 8TH GRADE
5	12/17/24	6:00PM	H-	PENDLETON COUNTY
6	01/02/25	6:00PM	A-	PETERSBURG
7	01/07/25	6:00PM	H-	ELKINS MIDDLE
8	01/13/25	5:00PM	A-	DAVIS THOMAS ELEMENTARY MIDDLE
9	01/16/25	6:00PM	A-	EAST HARDY
10	01/21/25	6:00PM	A-	PAW PAW 1 GAME
11	01/22/25	6:00PM	H-	PETERSBURG
12	01/28/25	6:00PM	A-	CAPON BRIDGE MIDDLE
13	01/30/25	6:00PM	A-	PENDLETON COUNTY
14	02/01/25	2:00PM	A-	BLENNERHASSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL
15	02/03/25	6:00PM	H-	WARM SPRINGS MIDDLE
16	02/06/25	6:00PM	A-	ROMNEY MIDDLE
17	02/08/25	12:00PM	A-	CENTRAL PRESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
18	02/11/25	6:00PM	H-	CAPON BRIDGE MIDDLE
19	02/13/25	6:00PM	H-	EAST HARDY
20	02/20/25	6:00PM	H-	PVL PLAY-IN
21	02/24/25	6:00PM	H-	8TH GRADE PVL AT MMS
22	02/25/25	6:00PM	H-	7TH GRADE PVL AT MMS
23	02/27/25	6:00PM	H-	PVL CHAMPIONSHIP AT MMS
wins: 0 lost: 0 ties: 0				

EAST HARDY



EAST HARDY Middle School Wrestling Roster		
Jordan Hayden	8	6
Hunter Nelson	8	6
Brinn Childers	8	6
Cole Lantz	8	6
Brice Toulemelis	8	6
Junior Guerrero	8	6
Hayden Myers	8	6
Tessa Allen	8	6
Bella Twigg	8	6
Case Whetzel	7	6
Dominic Rossman		6
Maddie Heishman		6
Adonis Toulemelis		6
Clinton Nutter		6
Bear Poe		6
Ethan Gonzalez		6
Gionni Galindo		6
Isaac Judy		6
Eli Vandevander		6
Chase Rossman		6
Head Coach: JC Nutter		
Assistant Coach: TJ Van Meter		

third straight

continued from page 7

paint tough and can control the boards.

Evan and Mason Hamilton, identical twin juniors, are a fast pair not allowing offenses to settle by snatching the ball away and can move fast into the paint for a basket proving to be the heart and soul of the team. Fellow junior Joseph Price is a crisp shooter and strong rebounder with a good defensive presence thwarting plays and each of these juniors can knock down the 3-pointer in a heartbeat.

East Hardy sophomore center Gideon Good turned this novice freshman season into a stellar campaign with inside shooting and rebounding grace and tall shot blocking skills.

East Hardy sophomore Aubrey McCullough provides a shooting finesse, while Dayton Dove a powerful inside aura, Kaden Barrett can round up the ball with accuracy and Trevor Roof provides lightning quick reaction on the floor with an all-round shooting range to keep teams in check.

The freshmen class has electric playmakers as Nehemiah Graham and Mason Wilkins have the

quickness and tenacity to change into the paint or stop and shoot a long range jumper, while Simon Combs and Angelo Loulis can make solid passes and drop outside shots and Gage Dove impacts the game in the paint with powerful defense.

To reach the goals at the end of the year, the Cougars need to be consistent and keep the tempo flowing.

“We have to play consistent basketball and improve our team defense. I want to teach the players the game and have fun doing it. I like to play fast and intense. We have great chemistry right now. All of them believe that the team can be one of the best we have had so they are all playing for each other and not selfishly,” Coach Hahn stated.

Defensive strategy is important by unitizing the right amount of pressure and cleaning the glass.

“We play on using pressure defense in different ways but our strategy might be different depending on who we are playing against. We are going to put a heavy emphasis on team rebounding. We expect Gideon to get a lot of attention from opposing teams so we will have to help him out and make sure we are all crashing the boards. Most high school teams don’t shoot the ball

very well so if we can limit their opportunities we can have some success,” Hahn noted.

East Hardy looks to make it rain from the perimeter line, but has the height for inside opportunities.

“We will still shoot the ball a lot from outside, however, Gideon has developed into a strong inside player so we will utilize him if teams try and run us off of the 3-pt line. We will utilize 1-2 forwards in the game at all times. We like playing physical with teams and in order to do that we have to put some size in there,” Hahn commented.

A crucial aspect of the team’s success will come from the bench efforts.

“Developing a bench is going to be key to our success. It’s a long season and we will most likely have illness and injury so other guys will have to step up depending on the night. We will spend a lot of time this season giving bench guys key minutes so that they are not shy when it is their time in the spotlight,” Hahn added.

The Cougars hit the road to start the season at Pendleton County this Wednesday, then journey to Pocahontas County on Saturday and out to Paw Paw on Tuesday.

East Hardy’s home opener will be against Harman on December 19.

The Cougars are playing in the Snowball Classic at Southern Garrett in Oakland, Maryland on December 27-28 which will have large Pennsylvania schools in the mix.

East Hardy will participate in a special game against Northern Garrett at Garrett College which will be featured on ESPN+ on January 30.

“We are playing Armstrong 5A school out of Pennsylvania and either Southern Garrett or Herford 5A Pennsylvania school in the Snowball Classic at Southern High School. They will certainly be a challenge for us. We will also be playing a mid day game against Northern High School at Garrett College it is a preliminary game in a Nike hosted ESPN+ high school event. Pocahontas County is back on our schedule this year as well,” Coach Hahn concluded.

There is a unique inaugural Potomac Valley Conference Skills Competition for the Cougars to test at Hampshire on January 18.

There will be no Hardy County clash with Moorefield this year, but East Hardy did add Pocahontas County back to the list which includes the regular season finale on February 15.

The Cougars face the usual PVC slate of Pendleton County, Pocahontas County, Paw Paw, Harman, Tucker County, Petersburg, Union, Tygarts Valley and Class AA Frankfort.

East Hardy has the map charted for the course to Charleston and will gain knowledge from each opponent this year to make a run back to Charleston.



Hardy County

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