

Combined Community Effort the Catalyst For Successful MMS Track Rehabilitation

By Stephen Smoot

Track season, at least after the first few weeks, sees student-athletes sprinting, hurdling, leaping, and throwing under the warm springtime sun.

The weather for last week's ceremony of appreciation for the repairs of the track at Moorefield Middle School, temperatures just above freezing, icy winds, and driving rain, could not have provided more of a contrast.

The warm expressions of appreciation to the team effort that it took to make the day happen, however, added light to a dreary day.

Logan Moyers spoke at the event on behalf of the Moorefield Athletic Boosters, whose tireless efforts played a vital role in organizing support.

He shared that the nearly quarter of a century old track only offered a bare asphalt surface for the first six or seven years. Between six and seven years later, the track received a rubberized surface and was rededicated in memory of William Deal Hunt.

Once improved for the safety of runners, the track experienced heavy use. Besides the track competitions held there, the West Virginia National Guard and law

enforcement agencies used it for training. Also, it serves as a center for those trying to get healthier through exercise.

As Moyers described, fairly quickly, the heavy use of the surface rubbed off the rubberization in some areas. Some lanes could not be safely used and area schools started to decline invitations to meets there.

"Enough was enough," Moyers stated.

"The Boosters took the initiative to get the track resurfacing project off the ground," he then said. They met with Hardy



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Mr. Moore Goes to Washington



Riley Moore, who also served as West Virginia Treasurer and member of the House of Delegates from Jefferson County, took last Friday the oath of office for his new role as United States Representative for the First District. He is pictured here with wife Mina. Moore takes over the seat vacated by Alex Mooney

Public Health Officials Stress Low Risk to Humans From Avian Flu Outbreak, But Stress "Vigilance"

By Stephen Smoot

Despite the sporadic outbreaks of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 strain over the past year, the United States Centers for Disease Control on Christmas Eve shared that "the risk to the general public has not changed and remains low."

Over the past several months, the CDC has studied a Louisiana case where a farm worker contracted the virus. They determined that the virus in the patient mutated slightly after infection as it interacted with his body, but that the changes were not significant and "closely related to existing" strains that "could be used to make vaccines if needed."

Last May, the CDC issued guidance concerning the potential for humans to contract the virus. It read "infected birds shed avian influenza viruses through their saliva, mucous, and feces."

That said, other animals can contract the virus and transmit it. As the CDC states, "other animals infected with avian influenza viruses may have virus present in respiratory secretions, different organs, blood, or in other body fluids, including animal milk."

Jessica Hoover, a West Virginia University Extension Agent based in Pendleton County, urged that "if milk is unpasteurized, it can be transmitted through . . . raw milk" to humans. The CDC concurs, saying that "Anyone, even healthy adults, can get sick from drinking raw milk."

The virus can also transmit to humans through the eyes, nose, the mouth, or through inhaling it. The CDC states that "this can happen when virus is in the air (in droplets, small aerosol particles, or possibly dust)" A person can ingest the virus if it deposits on mucous membranes, if breathed in, "or possibly when a person touches something

contaminated by viruses and then touches their mouth, eyes, or nose."

The H5N1 strain emerged in 2020 with what the CDC calls "gene swapping" between viruses in domestic poultry and wild birds. Europe saw the strain initially and from there it spread across the Eastern Hemisphere. That year, five humans in China contracted the virus.

Wild foxes in Russia and the Baltic states were also discovered to have it in 2021. By the next year, it was blamed for the death of large numbers of sea lions on the Peru coast and was found in commercial turkeys in the United States.

Last month, the New England Journal of Medicine published an article on the increasing frequency of humans contracting H5N1. It states that "most case patients presented with conjunctivitis, almost half with fever, and a minority with mild respiratory symptoms."

The most severe case came in Canada with a 13 year old girl already experiencing asthma and obesity. She "presented with conjunctivitis and fever and had progression to respiratory failure."

Because of the rarity of such cases, as the NEJM states "the CDC still designates the risk of HPAI A (H5N1) to most Americans as low" and vaccines are available if the threat elevates. It goes on to say, however, that "a balance between enhanced vigilance and 'business as usual' is needed" because "the past weeks have seen more cases detected in more states as well as more persons with respiratory illness acquired through exposure to poultry or from an unknown source."

The CDC states that it is "watching the situation carefully and working with states to monitor people with animal exposures."



Old Christmas and Three Kings: Why January 6 Reigns Supreme Across Many Cultures

By Stephen Smoot

On the twelfth day of Christmas, a true love gave her beloved a gift. Whatever it was, she presented it on Jan. 6.

The modern world focuses on Dec. 25 as the day to celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ. Individuals and families celebrate their faith while children young

and old playfully reenact the Santa Claus rituals of leaving out cookies and milk. The recognized holiday season lasts through the modern Saturnalia of New Year's Eve. By New Year's Day, many have boxed up the decorations, taken down the tree, and moved on.

Outside of the commercial holiday calendar, however, Chris-

tians in a broad spectrum of cultures still see Jan. 6 as one of the most important of religious days, but for quite different reasons.

On the Christian calendar, Jan. 6 is called Epiphany, which means in Greek "appearance." On this day, the Magi came from the East to visit Christ and deliver gifts. Many cultures have

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This Nativity scene in Puerto Rico is one example of a way in which people of Spanish heritage celebrate and honor Three Kings Day, known in parts of West Virginia traditionally as "Old Christmas."

West Virginia Department of Agriculture Issues Guidance In Response to Area Avian Flu Discovery

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, a backyard flock of chickens in Pocahontas County tested positive for the virus called Highly Pathogenic Avian Flu, specifically the H5N1 strain that has caused concern throughout the country.

This represents the second case discovered in West Virginia. Another backyard flock in Kanawha County contained the initial case for the Mountain State last February.

Jessica Hoover, a West Virginia University Extension agent based in Pendleton County, shared that most likely, the backyard flock contracted the virus from wild birds.

Beth Southern, Communications Director for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, stated in a release yesterday that "the diagnosis was made following a field investigation, sample collection, and testing at WVDA's Animal Health NAHLN lab in Moorefield."

NAHLN stands for "National Animal Health Laboratory

Network." It is part of a United States Department of Agriculture "network of animal disease diagnostic laboratories that provides ongoing surveillance, responds quickly to disease events, communicates diagnostic outcomes to decision makers, and has the capability and capacity to meet diagnostic needs during animal disease outbreaks."

The WVDA, following its emergency action plan, immediately placed "the affected premises" under quarantine and "depopulated" the birds "to prevent disease spread." These measures "help to ensure the safety and integrity of the commercial food supply."

Officials from the WVDA also notified industry partners, West Virginia State health officials, and Commonwealth of Virginia agricultural officials. The State will continue to follow established protocols, "ensuring the protection of the industry."

WVDA officials also shared a list of precautions that poultry owners should follow to protect their own birds, as well as those of surrounding growers.

These include:

- Limit, monitor, and record any movement of people, vehicles, or animals on or off the farm.
- Permit only essential workers and vehicles to enter the farm.
- Avoid visiting other poultry farms or unnecessary travel off the farm.
- Disinfect equipment, vehicles, footwear, and other items in contact with flocks.
- Keep flocks away from wild or migratory birds, especially waterfowl.
- Isolate any ill animals and contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Poultry owners should report unusual death loss, a drop in egg production, or any sick domestic birds to WVDA's Animal Health Division at 304-558-2214.
- As Southern explains, "Avian influenza is an airborne respiratory virus that spreads easily among chickens through nasal and eye secretions, as well as manure. The virus also infects a wide variety of other birds, including wild migratory water

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EDITORIAL

Time to Roll Back One of the Worst Policy Decisions in US History

By Stephen Smoot

A half-century ago a brazen, but unknown, reporter for a local New York City ABC affiliate made a journalistic choice that would end a long held policy concerning the mentally ill and, at the same time, rocket his career to a star status that he still enjoys today.

Geraldo Rivera, with help from disgusted facility doctors, smuggled himself and a cameraman under the fence of the Willowbrook State School. Not a psychiatric hospital per se, it became the home of up to 6,000 adults and children with varying levels of disabilities.

“Children, naked on the floor and smeared with their own feces . . .” was how Rivera opened the television report, naked and half clothed children wandering in the dark like zombies, fearful and wailing.

Bracketed with powerful cultural expressions about residential mental health facilities from the 1948 classic “The Snake Pit” to “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” in 1975, scandals and stories alike turned Americans against the ideal of residential psychiatric hospitals.

For the State of West Virginia, the flagship mental health residential facility operated in Weston. Originally called the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum when first conceived before the Civil War, it carried the less unattractive moniker of Weston State Hospital for most of its operational existence.

At its peak, it held 2,400 residential patients.

The prospect of experiencing haunted hallways and ghostly apparitions of the dead who cannot rest draws tourists to the gigantic structure - which resembles something of both a palace and a fortress.

The facility closed in 1994, part of a wave of such closures across the United States from the 1960s through the end of the century.

A federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration study showed that significant changes had occurred. From 1950 to 2010, the population of those in residential psychiatric and mental health facilities dropped from approximately 560,000 to 60,764 on April 30, 2010/

At the same time, however, the prison and jail population expanded considerably. The population of the nation almost doubled from 151 million in 1950 to 309 million in 2010. In those decades, the population of the incarcerated rose from a total of just over 171,000 men and women in 1950 to 1.6 million men and women in state and federal installations in 2010.

Additionally, last January, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development counted over 771,000 homeless across the United States, though that number is certainly higher.

Also, a 2022 survey by the National Institutes of Mental Health showed that perhaps 15.1 million Americans experience some sort of severe mental illness.

The residential psychiatric hospital system as it once existed had serious issues.

WBOY recently quoted historian Titus Swan about life inside the institution. He said that stories of people simply abandoned on the grounds rarely occurred. Instead “there was always due process involved, so it starts there.” He shared that the hospital had a mixed record of treatment, that many turned out differently than they went in, but some had a positive experience, while others definitely did not.

Patients came in for a number of reasons, the farther back one goes in its history, the stranger some of the ailments seem. Modern eyes might pick out combat trauma from “decoyed into the army” or “exposure in the army,” or depression from “death of sons in the war.” Others might show what would be called today obsessive and/or compulsive behaviors.

By the 20th century, Weston also took in chronic drug addicts.

A mixed record would offer light years more improvement over the prospects faced by those today who would have been in Weston - or most other facilities - 70 years ago.

When the old residential psychiatric facilities closed, the needs of the State and the desires of progressive-minded people coincided. State governments, who usually operated the hospitals, spent vast sums on them, even though they generally remained underfunded and understaffed. Progressive-minded individuals imagined that life could be better for most patients outside of walls that tended to institutionalize, rather than cure, patients.

States saw closing the hospitals as a way to save money with progressive-minded people believed that releasing the patients gave them a more compassionate fate.

Patients thus had to go out in the world to contend with both their mental health problems and also figuring out how to navigate what most would call a typical adult functioning world. Some could go to families for help and shelter, and this was seen as a viable replacement for residential care.

What really happened was that patients with severe illness and/or addictions went out into society with instructions on how to obtain treatment and a handful of pills. Their lives would be their own responsibility - or the responsibility of whatever family or friends would care for them.

Instead of getting care from loved ones or support from community resources, increasingly the most challenged cases ended up in jail or on the streets. If they disliked the effects

of their medication, they either went without or found illicit substances that may have helped with some problems, but brought many more dangers.

They also more often overwhelmed their family supports and created more issues affecting more people in this way. Family is rarely trained to provide expert care and, in too many cases, their resources were stretched to the limit even before taking on the responsibility of caring for someone with a serious illness.

Mental illness and drug addiction cases often form a Venn diagram with a great deal of overlap. The presence of one tends to make the other even more prevalent. Society tends to underestimate the ability of addicts to break their chains, even with strong support.

It’s time to rethink how America treats the chronically mentally ill and/or drug addicted. Compassion was lost long ago as the mentally ill and addicted gravitated from, in many cases, safe and secure facilities to prison, to the streets, to bad relationships where people take advantage, or even worse.

Many addicts and the mentally ill need structure that life in a free society cannot provide. Rules, structured schedules, a safe place to sleep, nutritious food, and treatment can help many live fulfilling lives within the boundaries imposed by their condition and the requirements of safety. The freedoms that others use to make choices everyday intimidate, rather than liberate, them.

They need the structure. They need safety and stability. They need the return of residential facilities as part of helping them find the right equilibrium in their lives.

Rebuilding the residential hospital system will impose a lot of cost. That said, millions of people homeless, in prison, committing crimes, enduring poor health, and a myriad of other problems that they cannot deal with also impose costs that taxpayers, one way or another, have to pay.

If the choice is made to return to this system, like repatriating illegal aliens, it will take time. Priorities should lay in bringing in those who have the lowest capability of function or pose the most threat to themselves and others. Then gradually expand capacity and resources until the need is met, a process that would likely take decades.

Fortunately, the State would have options. It could start with the former United States Navy Base at Sugar Grove in Pendleton County, currently owned by a private consortium looking for tenants.

States tried to do the right thing when they closed these hospitals and no one could predict the social disaster that would come of it. It’s time to address the problem by reversing course on residential psychiatric institutions.

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.

Jan. 8, 1866: William Gustavus Conley was born near Kingwood in Preston County. Conley was West Virginia’s 18th governor, serving from 1929 to 1933.

Jan. 8, 1919: The West Virginia legislature ratified the U.S. constitution’s 18th Amendment in the Senate, 26-0, and in the House, 81-3. West Virginia was the 21st state to ratify it. National prohibition went into effect under the Volstead Act on January 16, 1920.

Jan. 8, 1926: Comedian Soupy Sales was born Milton Supman. Raised in Huntington

and graduating from Marshall College (now University), he achieved fame as a wacky television personality.

Jan. 9, 1911: Louise McNeill was born on the family farm in Pocahontas County. She was appointed poet laureate by Governor Jay Rockefeller in 1979, holding that title until her death in 1993.

Jan. 9, 1986: The first instant “scratch” lottery tickets were sold in West Virginia. Voters had approved the lottery amendment to the state constitution two years before.

Jan. 9, 2014: Hazardous chemicals were discovered leaking into the Elk River, contaminating the water supply for a nine-county region.

Jan. 10, 1846: Wetzel County

was created from a part of Tyler County. It was named for Indian fighter Lewis Wetzel.

Jan. 10, 1860: Webster County was created from parts of Braxton, Nicholas, and Randolph counties. The county was named for Daniel Webster.

Jan. 10, 1923: Musician “Curly” Ray Cline was born in Baisden, Logan County. He was one of the most significant bluegrass fiddlers from West Virginia from 1938 until his retirement in 1993.

Jan. 10, 1925: Judge Elizabeth Virginia Hallanan was born in Charleston. She was West Virginia’s first female federal court judge.

Jan. 10, 1928: Gov. Howard Gore appointed Minnie Buckingham Harper to fill the

unexpired term of her husband, E. Howard Harper. She was the first Black woman to serve as a member of a state legislative body in the United States.

Jan. 10, 1940: The Pond Creek No. 1 mine at Bartley in McDowell County exploded. The blast killed 91 miners, with another 47 escaping. Rescue teams worked five days to retrieve the bodies, but found no additional miners alive.

Jan. 11, 1865: Confederate forces under General Rosser burned the covered bridge at Beverly. Bridge builder Lemuel Chenoweth rebuilt the damaged span in 1872-73.

Jan. 11, 1873: Dwight W. Morrow was born in Huntington. Morrow was a financier, diplomat and U.S. senator, representing

New Jersey.

Jan. 11, 1893: U.S. Senator Harley Martin Kilgore was born in rural Harrison County. Kilgore served as a senator from West Virginia from 1940 until his death in 1952.

Jan. 12, 1869: Newspaperman Herschel Coombs Ogden was born near Fairmont. In 1888, he relocated to Wheeling and entered the newspaper business.

Jan. 13, 1905: Joseph H. Diss Debar died in Philadelphia. A supporter of the movement to create West Virginia, Diss Debar was commissioned in 1863 to design the Great Seal of West Virginia.

Jan. 14, 1842: Marion County was established and named after Revolutionary War hero Francis Marion. Middletown was chosen

as the county seat, but the name was changed to Fairmont the following year.

Jan. 14, 1873: The first session of the Glenville Branch of the State Normal School began in the old Gilmer County courthouse. In 1943, the legislature changed the name to Glenville State College.

e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia is a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council. For more information contact the West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25301; (304) 346-8500; or visit e-WV at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

WELCOME TO 2025

By Charlotte R. Lane
Chairman Public Service
Commission of West Virginia

Welcome to the new year.

The future looks better for developments in West Virginia, with a change in administration taking place in Washington.

Our Commission has engaged in several battles over the past year with the Environmental Protection Agency. Those disagreements primarily involved proposed federal pollution regulations, many adversely affecting our coal-fired plants.

All of them ended up in court,

and we lost most, if not all, of the first rounds of arguments. Regardless of one’s stance on pollution controls, coal still remains a vital part of the energy makeup of West Virginia.

Our concern in each of these instances was that increasingly harsh rules, which in some cases included questionable solutions, would prematurely shut down our coal-fired electricity plants.

Those plants are the backbone of ensuring electric reliability.

These plants are essential for the regional electrical grid, of which we are a part, along with a dozen other states and the District of Columbia.

In many of these lawsuits, I gave sworn statements relating to the damage the EPA proposals will have on reliability.

I would like to reiterate that neither I nor our Commission is against permitting nontraditional energy sources to operate in West Virginia.

If you are not aware, our Commission has never turned down an alternative-energy source application. We welcome all applications, as I have said repeatedly.

America’s appetite for energy, particularly electricity, has always been robust, and every indication suggests that the need for additional energy will remain strong well into the future.

We need to ensure that we have a steady source for supplying

that energy, while also exploring any and all means of supply. No question, we should always be on the lookout for improving the systems we have.

So, I just wanted to say that I look forward to 2025 with you, and I hope, as does our Commission and all its staff, that this will be a good year for our state, our nation, our economy, and, most especially, for you.


MOOREFIELD EXAMINER

132 South Main Street, P.O. Box 380, Moorefield, West Virginia 26836
Phone: (304) 530-NEWS • Fax: (304) 530-6400 • www.HardyLive.com
Emails:
NEWS/EDITORIAL : news@moorefieldexaminer.com
DISPLAY ADVERTISING : moorefieldexaminer@gmail.com
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING : classifieds@moorefieldexaminer.com
LEGAL ADVERTISING : legals@moorefieldexaminer.com
CIRCULATION : frontdesk@mountainmedianews.com

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News

Justice Wooton to Serve as Chief Justice in 2025

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia today announced Justice William R. “Bill” Wooton has been designated to serve as chief justice during 2025.

“I am honored to be selected by my colleagues to serve as chief justice in the coming year and look

forward to this opportunity to lead our judicial branch,” Justice Wooton said. “West Virginia is unique in that we rotate our chief justice every year. I believe this helps strengthen our Court by allowing each of the five justices to share in the administrative work of the judicial branch while bringing our

own individual perspectives to its leadership.”

Elected in 2020 to a 12-year term which began Jan. 1, 2021, this will be Justice Wooton’s first year serving as chief justice. He succeeds current Chief Justice Tim Armstead, who served as chief justice in 2020 and 2024.

“I’m proud of what we accomplished in 2024, including our efforts to make magistrate court records more accessible by launching an online search portal as well as the work we began toward clarifying the role of guardians ad litem in abuse and neglect matters,” Chief Justice Armstead

said. “I know Justice Wooton will continue our Court’s commitment to transparency and accountability while also strengthening the public’s trust in our court system.”

In addition to Justice Wooton’s chief justice designation for 2025, the Court has also selected Justice Haley Bunn to serve as chief

justice in 2026. Justice Bunn will also serve as acting chief justice in 2025 when Chief Justice Wooton is unavailable.

“I’m grateful for this opportunity to serve the people of our state and look forward to working with Chief Justice Wooton throughout 2025,” Justice Bunn said.

West Virginia First Foundation Unveils New Brand Identity

New Year, New Brand: A Fresh Start for Hope and Recovery in West Virginia

WEST VIRGINIA (January 2, 2025) – West Virginia First Foundation (WVFF) is proud to announce the launch of its new brand identity - the ButterFFly - a powerful symbol of its commitment to hope and recovery for all West Virginians.

At the heart of the new brand is a redesigned logo that reflects WVFF’s mission, vision, and guiding principles. The logo features a monarch butterfly, West Virginia’s state butterfly, symbolizing transformation, resilience, and renewal. The butterfly’s wings are designed to subtly

form the shape of two “F’s” for First Foundation, reinforcing the organization’s identity.

Traditionally orange, the monarch butterfly in the WVFF logo has been reimagined in purple, with the purple gradually overtaking the orange. Purple is the designated color for overdose and recovery awareness, making it a fitting choice to represent WVFF’s focus on healing and hope.

“As the orange of the monarch gives way to purple, it mirrors the transformation we envision for West Virginia: a journey of

healing, renewal, and progress,” said Jonathan Board, Executive Director of West Virginia First Foundation. “This brand is more than just a logo; it tells a story of strength, resilience, and hope, while serving as a repository of wisdom for West Virginia—honoring where we’ve been and laying the foundation for a healthier, stronger future.”

The Foundation’s new tagline, “Transforming Lives, Inspiring Hope,” captures the essence of its mission. It represents the hope WVFF offers today and the lasting change it is working

to create for future generations. Just as the butterfly undergoes a metamorphosis, WVFF fosters transformation in the lives of individuals and families, laying the foundation for a stronger, more resilient West Virginia.

“This new brand finally gives us a flag to rally around, a symbol we can carry as we work together to address one of the greatest challenges our state has ever faced,” said Matthew Harvey, Chairman of the Board. “With the monarch butterfly at its core, our branding represents

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West Virginia First Foundation

Pilgrim’s Fresh Complex Senior Team Member Spotlight - Mike Hall

Mike Hall started his 40-year career with the company on December 27, 1984 when it was Rockingham Coop. His first job at the plant was in a small Breast Debone department with only seven or eight employees. The department was later moved to Broadway, VA. After working in debone he worked in the Cut up department for a short time until the roof fell in the Cut up area. He volunteered to help to repair the roof and since then he has been officially a Maintenance employee. Mike said he likes working in the Maintenance department, it keeps him busy performing a variety of tasks and does not get repetitive during the day.

I asked Mike what has changed

since he started working for the company and he said almost everything is different now compared to then. The size of the plant is much bigger, the number of birds we process has increased a lot since about 120 per minute when he started. However, the work that Maintenance does is basically the same as when he started in the department, which is repairing and replacing equipment. Just the equipment changes now and then.

When Mike and I talked about his supervisors and managers over the years, he said he got along with all of them. He did mention he liked working with June Weese, Bill Liller, Ronnie Sherman and his current supervisor Mark Miller.

Mike and I talked about a very memorable event that sticks in many people minds, the flood of 1985. He was working in Maintenance at the time and came in to work to help clean up the plant. He remembers seeing several cars spread out in the field behind the plant that the flood swept away from other places.

What does Mike do when he isn’t repairing the equipment at the plant? He likes to hunt and fish, and spend time with his family, which includes four grandkids.

I asked Mike what the future holds for him and he said retirement is not too far off. When he does retire, he wants to take a break for the first year to just relax

and unwind. He wants to spend more time with the family and grandkids. He knows that they will be excited to do a lot more fishing with him!

Thank you, Mike, for your dedication, hard work and loyalty to our Company. We Appreciate You!

About Pilgrim’s

Pilgrim’s employs more than 56,000 people and operates protein processing plants and prepared-foods facilities in 14 states, Puerto Rico, Mexico, the U.K. and continental Europe. The Company’s primary distribution is through retailers and foodservice distributors. For more information, please visit www.pilgrims.com.



Eastern recognizes Hardy County students for fall 24 semester honors

Multiple Hardy County residents achieved academic honors during the Fall 2024 semester at Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

Earning President’s List honors, which requires completing 12 or more credit hours this fall with a 4.0 grade point average, were county residents Chloe Barr, Nathaniel Davy, Amber Delawder, Dessanne Harkless, Lillianna Johnson, Noah Merritt,

Nicolas Pearce, John Riggelman, Trevor Smith, Bethany Wolfe, and Aleigha Wyman.

Dean’s List recipients from Hardy County, earned for completing 9 or more credit hours this fall with at least a 3.5 grade point average, were Isaac Atkinson, Zachary Copeland, Aleena Dolly, April Dove, Makayla Dove, David Emmons, Mary Gruber, Carlee Haines, Seanna Heavner, Alexander Hernandez, Jorge Her-

nandez, Phillip Howell, Loretta Humbertson, Naomi Humbertson, Korbin Keplinger, Rachel Ketterman, Arabelle Maher, Margaret May, Destiny McWhorter, Chelsea Mills, Sunni Ometchinski, Tyler Payton, Britani Pearce, Samara Pyles, Kayla Quarles, Haven Ratcliff, Siddalee Rohrbach, Logan Sager, Emily See, Sadie Shields, Ayla Smith, Felix Soto-Cordero, Krista Strawderman, Josette Teets, Ida Thompson, Harmony Thorn, Brit-

tany Whittaker, Bobbi Wilkins, Savannah Wilkins, Caimy Williams, and Elizabeth Williams.

Merit List recipients, which requires completing 6 or more credit hours this fall with a 3.25 grade point average, were county residents Rachel Abreu, Skylar Alt, Mattia Auville, Kara Barb, Mariah Baublitz, James Bodkin, Vincent Brinks, Amelia Caldwell, Bethany Coon, Kelsey Davis, William Delawder, Dayoni Escobar-

Elias, Macie Gilhuys, Addison Kitzmiller, Caroline Kump, Raleigh Kuykendall, Brock Linville, Eli Mathias, Bryan May, Yvette Miller, Lian Mung, Marlana Pennington, Jamie Rayo-Ramirez, Maddox Richard, Barbara Robinson, Axton Runions, Macklin See, Hayes Sherman, Elektra Sions, Kaylee Turner, Caitlin Walters, Blair Weese, Madison Wilkins, and Monica Wilkins.

Eastern West Virginia Com-

munity and Technical College, based in Moorefield, serves six rural counties in West Virginia’s Potomac Highlands by offering affordable academic programs, including five online degrees, early enrollment courses for high school students, and a variety of flexible workforce training. Eastern is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. For more information, visit easternwv.edu or call 304-434-8000.

At The Library

At the Library January 1, 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 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 New fiction:

Memorials : a novel by Richard Chizmar

1983: Three students from a small college embark on a week-long road trip to film a documentary on roadside memorials for their American Studies class. The project starts out as a fun adventure with long stretches of empty road and nightly campfires where they begin to open up with one another. But as they venture deeper into the Appalachian backwoods, the atmosphere begins to darken. They notice more and more of the

memorials feature a strange, unsettling symbol hinting at a sinister secret. Paranoia sets in when it appears they are being followed. Their vehicle is tampered with overnight and some of the locals appear to be anything but welcoming. Before long, the students can’t help but wonder if these roadside deaths were really random accidents...or is something terrifying at work here?

The haunting of Ashburn House by Darcy Coates

Everyone knows about Ashburn House. They whisper its old owner went mad, and that restless ghosts still roam the halls. But when Adrienne inherits the crumbling old mansion, she only sees it as a lifeline...until night falls. As she uncovers more of the house’s secrets, Adrienne begins to believe the whispered rumors may be horrifyingly true. Chasing the threads of a decades-old mystery, Adrienne realizes she’s become the prey to something deeply unnatural and intensely resentful. She has no idea how to escape. Only one thing is

certain: Ashburn’s dead are not at rest.

Variation : a novel by Rebecca Yarros

Elite ballerina Allie Rousseau is no stranger to pressure. With her mother’s eyes always watching, perfection was expected, no matter the cost. But when an injury jeopardizes all she’s sacrificed for, Allie returns to her summer home to heal and recover. But the memories she’s tried to forget rush in and threaten to take her under. As a Coast Guard rescue swimmer, Hudson Ellis knows that hesitation can mean the difference between life and death. He’s always prided himself on being in the right place at the right time, especially when it came to Allie Rousseau--until the night he left for basic. After the biggest regret of his life, the secrets he keeps mean he can never be with the one woman he wants more than his next breath.

Ashes never lie by Lee Goldberg Vacant homes in a new housing development are erupting into flames in broad daylight with no apparent

cause. It’s a perplexing mystery for dogged arson investigator Walter Sharpe and his restless new partner Andrew Walker, an ex-US marshal who craves action. But as they puzzle over the blazes, another home miles away burns to the ground, leaving a man’s corpse in the ashes and homicide detectives Eve Ronin and Duncan Pavone demanding answers. The burn patterns and charred body tell Sharpe a bizarre story that only creates more questions for Eve. So the four detectives team up to find the answers.

The teacher by Freida McFadden

Something isn’t right at Caseham High School. Last year, the school was rocked by scandal: a teacher was accused of having an inappropriate relationship with a student. Now, Addie is a pariah and will do anything to get through the year. More than that, she’s desperate to keep the truth from coming to light. Eve, a colleague of the disgraced teacher, is horrified to find Addie in her class. She knows the girl can’t be trusted

and soon realizes she’s being watched--which is dangerous, considering she’s hiding something from her husband. But each has secrets about what happened last year. And someone in this school will do anything to keep them silent.

New Non-fiction

War by Bob Woodward

Woodward tells the behind-the-scenes story of three wars-Ukraine, the Middle East and the struggle for the American Presidency.

Haint country : dark folktales from the hills and hollers by Matthew R. Sparks

The hills of the Appalachian region hold secrets-dark, deep, varied, and mysterious. These secrets are often told in the form of eerie, hair-raising, and creepy folktales that reveal strange sightings and oddities, and they commonly serve as cautionary tales for eager and curious ears. These spine-tingling stories have been shared among family members and neighbors in eastern Kentucky for generations. This anthology explores ghosts or “haints,”

strange creatures or “boogers,” haunted locations or “stained earth,” uncanny happenings or “high strangeness,” and humorous Appalachian ghost encounters.

American scary : a history of horror, from Salem to Stephen King and beyond by Jeremy Dauber

Dauber takes readers to the startling origins of the horror genre in the United States, from the lingering influence of the European Gothic to the enslaved resurrection tales and the apocryphal chronicles of colonial settlers kidnapped by Native Americans.

Heal your gut, save your brain : the five pillars of enhancing your gut and optimizing your cognitive health by Partha Nandi

Nandi highlights the latest research on the gut-brain connection, gives you a clear protocol for maintaining brain health and slowing or reducing the effects of neurodegenerative diseases as you age.

Avian Flu Discovery

continued from page 1

fowl. HPAI has been detected in various species of mammals—presumably after the animals come into contact with infected wild birds.”

Last March, USDA scientists discovered an outbreak of the virus in dairy cattle that spread to 16 states. The National Institute of Health reported on New Years’ Eve that “the virus has been detected in dairy herds in three states over the past 30 days.”

Hoover stresses that dairy cattle remain vulnerable to this strain of avian influenza. She stated that “if milk is unpasteurized, it can be transmitted through . . . raw milk” and even transmit to humans. Hoover then stressed, however, that health officials continue to emphasize the low risk of transmission to humans.

Protecting flocks, especially

commercial flocks, must remain a priority - especially in areas such as Hardy and Pendleton counties with high flock populations. Ward Malcolm, from the West Virginia Poultry Association urged that “the only thing anyone can really say is biosecurity, biosecurity, biosecurity. Follow your procedures and avoid any contact with wild birds.”

He concurred with Hoover that “most of the spread of the disease is due to wild bird movements.”

“The WVDA acted swiftly to contain the disease and remains committed to collaborating with poultry owners to prevent its spread,” stated West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “As the state’s leading agricultural commodity, protecting the poultry industry is critical, and implementing emergency response plans is essential to safeguarding its future.”

West Virginia First Foundation

continued from page 3

the resilience and transformation that define our mission and our people.”

The power of WVFF’s new brand lies in its ability to convey an effective, unified message through compelling storytelling. This branding will amplify the Foundation’s voice and help it connect with West Virginians in a meaningful, enduring way. Over the next several weeks,

WVFF’s new branding will begin to roll out across its social media platforms, website, and other communications channels. For more information, visit wvfirst.org.

About West Virginia First Foundation: The West Virginia

First Foundation (WVFF) is a nonprofit organization established to address the opioid crisis and its lasting impact across the state. Created under the terms of the West Virginia First Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), WVFF was designed to receive and distribute opioid settlement funds. Guided by the principles outlined in the MOU, the Foundation operates as a private 501(c)(3) entity to support prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction efforts. Through strategic funding and community collaboration, WVFF is committed to creating sustainable solutions that improve the health and well-being of all West Virginians. For more information, visit wvfirst.org.

MMS Track Rehabilitation

continued from page 1

County Schools Superintendent Sheena Van Meter and Board of Education members to commence conversations about restoring the track to safe and effective use.

At first, the bill for the project was set at approximately \$200,000. The Boosters organization pledged to match community donations dollar for dollar, eventually that resulted in a

combined \$100,000 to pay for repairs.

The race at that point was still only half won, but the success of community fundraising inspired Pendleton Community Bank to step in and take the baton. They offered a no interest loan to cover the rest of the cost. Moyers called it “an offer too good not to pass up” and emphasized that PCB came to the Boosters with the of-



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Old Christmas and Three Kings

continued from page 1

their own version of Epiphany. The Eastern Orthodox Church, which started in Byzantine Constantinople and is still dominant in Russia and Eastern Europe, considers Jan. 6 as the baptismal date of Christ.

That date coincides with a completely unrelated historical phenomenon. Under Julius Caesar, experts created the calendar that the Western world used. Rome had relied on a calendar that grew more inaccurate and unwieldy over time. When he took over the failing Roman Republic, Caesar ordered the creation of a new calendar based on the Egyptian solar cycle model. Though much more accurate, it overcalculated by 11 minutes per year. After 1500 years, this put the calendar out of step by 10 days.

Pope Gregory XIII commissioned church astronomers to correct the error. They created the Gregorian calendar which is used across most of the world today, and Catholic Europe started using it in the 1580s. At this time, religious wars and divisions raged across Europe. German Protestants, adherents to the Church of England, Eastern Orthodox, and others who opposed the Roman Catholic Church refused to adopt the calendar at first. The British Empire did not adopt it until 1752, Russia not until 1917.

One of the best explanations of the changes over the years came from Benjamin Franklin’s Poor Richard’s Almanac. Under the name Richard Saunders, he wrote:

“Yet is the Gregorian Year far from being perfect, for we have

shewn, that, in four Centuries, the Julian Year gains three Days, one Hour, twenty Minutes: But it is only the three Days are kept out in the Gregorian Year; so that here is still an Excess of one Hour, twenty Minutes, in four Centuries; which in 72 Centuries will amount to a whole Day.”

In his understated style of advocacy, Franklin, who, ironically, was born on Jan. 6, points out that though still inaccurate, the Gregorian’s mistakes are spread more broadly over time. He also explained the history of the errors of the old Roman calendar as well.

Through the 1700s, American colonists spread slowly into the back country. An outpost, such as the early settlements in Old Fields, lay months from the centers of settlement and authority. Many of those who came to such rugged and remote places in the mid-1700s had no access to publications such as Poor Richard’s Almanac or the latest Acts of Parliament. Most cared little of what the British government did, so long as it left them alone in peace and helped to defend them when war from the French and their Indian allies came.

Adoption of the new calendar progressed slowly on the frontier and many continued to celebrate Christmas as it was set in the Julian calendar. Over time, even as people reconciled to the new model, they continued celebrating on Jan. 6. Many called it “Old Christmas,” others referred to it as “Little Christmas” or even “Green Christmas.” As late as the 1930s, however, several Appalachian areas and the Armenian Church still regarded Jan. 6 as the true date to celebrate the birth of Jesus. According to Da-

vid Hackett Fischer in his book “Albion’s Seed,” some North Carolina communities considered Dec. 25 a “man-made” Christmas holiday.

Fischer also described the customs that followed settlers as they moved from the Scottish lowlands and north English highlands to the Appalachians. Old Christmas celebrations in mountain communities could be surprisingly ribald, closer to the conduct of old Saturnalia or modern New Year’s Eve. “There was a feast even in the poorest houses and bonfires at night with much gunplay and fireworks,” Fischer wrote. He also described the curious process of “stanging,” which was “a rough and sometimes violent ceremony in which a victim was hoisted on a long pole and forced to dangle until he brought himself free.”

Merry Christmas, indeed! Modern Old Christmas and Epiphany traditions have left behind the days of dangling selected individuals from poles. In West Virginia and elsewhere across the Appalachians more recently, Old Christmas since the 1800s is seen as the more serious and contemplative holiday compared to Dec. 25. Children received fruit and nuts in stockings or “treat totes” instead of presents. An entire mythology emerged around the day, including beliefs that elder bushes sprouted on Old Christmas but did not grow again until spring, that animals prayed to the Holy Spirit on the day, and that it was bad luck to loan anything out. Serenading and caroling were also at one time popular pastimes on Old Christmas. Many Spanish cultures celebrate Jan. 6 as Three Kings’ Day,

centering the holiday around festivities and gift giving. Each item given by the Magi to Christ symbolizes some part of the divine nature of Jesus. Children wait anxiously for the Magi on this day as they did Santa Claus 12 days prior. They leave shoes by the door and grass for the hungry camels that bring the Magi and their gifts.

Spain sees massive parades all over their country in honor of the holiday. That Kingdom’s people and Latin American cultures, such as Puerto Ricans, gather family around to teach the old traditions and celebrate togetherness.

Armenian Christian churches celebrate January 6 as the date of the baptizing of Christ by John the Baptist. Before the Divine Liturgy, Armenian Christians reenact the sacrament in a ritual called “Jurorhnek,” or “blessing of the waters.” First, they dip a cross into a container of water inside the church. Next, blessed oil from a dove shaped container is poured into the water, symbolizing the presence of the Holy Spirit. Finally, the congregation shares the water, which reminds all that participation in the acts of Christ remain essential for eternal life as described in the Bible.

The Amish, whose ancestors were dissenting Anabaptists driven from their German homes in the religious wars, fast until noon, then eat one large meal later in the day. Amish do not work or conduct business on Old Christmas.

Regardless of the reason, many cultures around the world extend the Christmas season into the New Year with unique traditions dating back centuries.





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OBITUARIES

Judy Florence Leatherman



Judy Florence Leatherman, age 78 of Fisher, WV, passed away Friday, December 20, 2024, at her daughter's residence. Born on December 15, 1946, in Moorefield, WV, she was the daughter of

the late Jesse Marshall Pratt and Hazel Ruth Whetzel Pratt. Her husband, Bobby Ray Leatherman preceded her in death October 2024. A son, John Pratt, a daughter, Amanda Imes, and a brother, Dennis R. Pratt also preceded her in death.

Judy dedicated her career in the poultry industry, at places like Hester Industries and Advantage Foods, and later gathering eggs at Misty Mountain Farm with her beloved husband, Bobby Ray, who preceded her in death just two months prior.

Surviving are her children, Ju-

Lola Rena Wolfe Crider



Lola Rena Wolfe Crider, age 90 of Moorefield, WV, passed away Sunday evening, December 29, 2024, at the Grant Rehabilitation and Care Center in Petersburg, WV. Born on March 21, 1934, on Wolfe Mountain, Bass, WV, she was the daughter of the late Melvin Paige Wolfe and Hazel Ruth Thomas Wolfe. She was preceded

in death by her husbands, Harlan Mayberry Crider in December 2000 and Charles Williams, Jr. in December 2016. Siblings, Warren H. Wolfe, Wayne M. Wolfe, Bruce H. Wolfe and Elizabeth Wolfe Whitener also preceded her in death.

Lola's life was a tapestry of love, warmth, and creativity. Throughout her life, Lola found joy in sewing and quilting, sharing her artistic talents with those around her. Her passion for gardening and canning filled her days with the beauty of nature and the warmth of home-cooked meals.

A devoted member of her community and church, Lola enjoyed helping others and formed lasting

friendships through her active participation. Traveling brought her immense joy, especially those delightful bus trips that carried her to new adventures and cherished memories.

Surviving are daughters, Susan Evans and Patricia Simmons; grandchildren, Rachel E. Schetrom, Rebekah D. McCullough, Amanda R. Hamilton, Donald H. Evans, David E. Evans and J. Adam Simmons; eight great-grandsons; three great-granddaughters and two sisters, Armada Wolfe Nosal of Nashville, TN and Judy Wolfe of Moorefield, WV.

Funeral services for Lola will be held at 3:00 PM on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at the Fraley

be held 1:00 PM Thursday, December 26, 2024, at the Hutter-Woerner Cemetery, Fisher, WV with Pastor D. J. Taylor and Dave Redman officiants. Interment will follow.

Join us in sharing stories, laughter, and memories as we celebrate the remarkable journey that was Judy Leatherman. To honor her life, please visit her Tribute Wall at www.fraleyfuneralhome.com to share your own memories, photos, and condolences. Let's come together to celebrate how Judy touched our lives and the love she shared with everyone around her.

Funeral Home Chapel, located at 107 Washington Street. Pastor Steven Schetrom will officiate the ceremony, celebrating Lola's beautiful life and the love she spread. Interment will follow at Asbury Church Cemetery on N River Road in Baker, WV. The family will welcome friends and loved ones from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM prior to the service, providing an opportunity for everyone to share their fond memories and heartfelt condolences.

To offer condolences, share memories, or upload photos in honor of Lola's extraordinary life, visit her Tribute Wall at www.fraleyfuneralhome.com and celebrate the impact she made on all those around her.

Mary Lou Fogle

Mary Lou Fogle, 68, of Winchester, VA, formerly of Lost River, WV, passed away on Saturday, December 21, 2024 at Jefferson Memorial Hospital, Ranson, WV.

Born on May 31, 1956 in Winchester, VA, she was the daughter of the late Ralph W. Fogle and Leta Marie (Shell) Fogle.

She had worked for 47 years

for Winchester Medical Center as a staffing coordinator. She was a member of the Mathias Church of the Brethren.

Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Teresa Parker.

She is survived by her brothers, Ralph L. Fogle of Middletown, VA and Howard W. Fogle

of Canton, Ohio along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, December 24, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. at McKee Funeral Home Chapel, Baker, WV with Pastor Roger Sager officiating. Interment will be in Greenwood Cemetery, Lost River, WV. The family will receive friends one

hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Greenwood Cemetery, c/o Debbie Branson, 192 Big Ridge Rd, Baker WV 26801.

All arrangements are being handled by McKee Funeral Home, Baker, WV.

Tommy Eugene Wratchford, Sr.



Tommy Eugene Wratchford, Sr. age 74 of Moorefield, WV, passed away Thursday afternoon,

January 2, 2025, at his residence. Born on October 28, 1950, in Moorefield, WV, he was the son of the late John Cleal Raymond Wratchford and Effie Lee Mayhew Wratchford. His wife, Veda Arbutus "Bootie" Wratchford preceded him in death in September 2011. A brother and three sisters also preceded him in death.

Tommy, known for his easy-going spirit and love for the open road, spent over 30 years as a truck driver, delivering goods and stories alike wherever his wheels took him. He lived life on his own terms, with a deep appreciation

for the great outdoors—hunting and fishing were among his favorite pastimes. In his downtime, he relished tinkering as a makeshift backyard mechanic, always ready to lend a helping hand to a neighbor in need.

Surviving is a daughter Melinda (James) Blaine of Moorefield, WV; two sons, Mark A. (Tammy) Wratchford and Tommy E. Wratchford, Jr. of Moorefield, WV; brothers, Raymond Wratchford, Jr. & Frank Wratchford of Moorefield, WV; sisters, Becky Alt, Lilly Cassell & Dami Carr of Moorefield, WV; nine grand-

children and twenty-two great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services will be conducted 2:00 PM Saturday, January 11, 2025, at the Fraley Funeral Home Chapel, 107 Washington Street with Pastor D. J. Taylor officiant. The family will receive friends from 12:00 PM (Noon) until the time of service.

To offer condolences, share memories, or upload photos in honor of Tommy's extraordinary life, visit his Tribute Wall at www.fraleyfuneralhome.com and celebrate the impact he made on all those around him.

West Virginia's Journey of Progress: Reflecting on the Past, Embracing the Future



By Senate President/Lieutenant Governor Craig P Blair

As I spent time reflecting during the holidays, I thought a great deal about how we never know what roads life will lead us down. When I was just a small business owner spending my days driving throughout the Eastern Panhandle, I didn't realize then that the voices of Hoppy Kercheval, Don Marsh, and Stephen Reed would inspire me. They'd light a fire in me that would lead me to take a different and most rewarding path in my life that would lead me from Berkeley County to our state Capitol and the House of Delegates and finish with four years as the President of the West Virginia Senate.

Their early influence shaped my approach to governance. When Don Marsh passed away, I realized the importance of hearing diverse perspectives. As a Delegate, then Senator, then later Senate President and Lieuten-

ant Governor, I took in as many perspectives as possible which gave me a data-driven edge that focused on real, measurable outcomes and longterm success.

In my time as a member of the West Virginia Legislature, we achieved significant milestones that at the time never seemed possible: reforming the broken and failing workers' compensation system, stabilizing our state-funded pensions, and eliminating the sales tax on food. However, the true accelerator of our success was my creation of the "flat-line budget."

That concept required a steadfast commitment to fiscal discipline that would enable us to fund our core services, encourage efficiencies when exposed, and allow for targeted, strategic economic development investments.

Though there may have been some doubters, the proof is in the results. We've eliminated our workers' compensation debt of \$4.2 billion. We've created one of the healthiest pension systems in the nation. We've built up a \$1.3 billion Rainy Day fund.

And, we've done all of this without sacrificing investment in the future.

In just the past decade alone, we've invested more than \$6 billion to road construction and \$2

billion toward making sure every area of our state has reliable, high-speed broadband internet – an absolute game changer in terms of unlocking economic growth and prosperity.

But that's not all! We've also provided more than \$1 billion in tax relief to West Virginians, including a 27.25% cut in personal income tax and the elimination of personal income tax on Social Security for seniors by the end of this year as well as a 100% refundable tax credit on automobiles. We've made education and education choice a priority with charter schools, microschools, and the Hope Scholarship. We've also supported higher education through the Promise Scholarship, and provided pay raises for teachers and state employees while keeping PEIA premiums stable.

We've not just focused on the numbers. We've also worked hard to strengthen West Virginia's strong conservative values. On social issues, we've managed to strike a necessary balance – banning abortion with exceptions for the life of the mother, rape, and incest, protecting girls' sports and protecting religious freedoms. As we move forward and continue with all we have done to move West Virginia into the 21st century, we know there will be challenges.

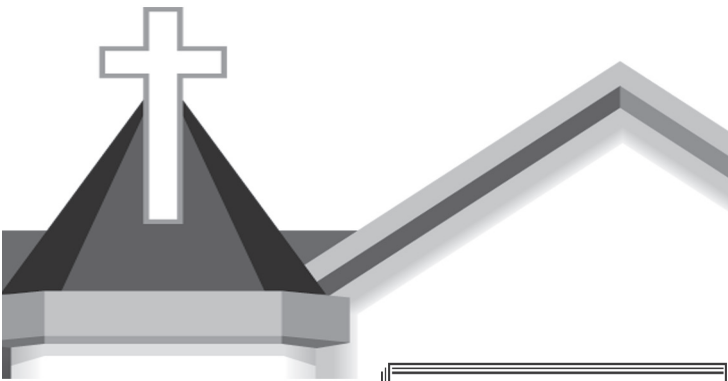
The Hope Scholarship, which

has opened the door to education choice for thousands of West Virginia families, will continue to grow and require more funding. We absolutely must stabilize PEIA for our hardworking public employees.

And, last, but in no way least, it's time to eliminate the personal property tax on equipment and machinery for all businesses. The elimination of that tax is a key to unlock our economic potential like we've never known. I've always said our future depends on moving at the speed of business, not speed of government.

By continuing to make quick, bold decisions and fostering a business-friendly environment, we can ensure West Virginia remains a place where people want to live, work, and raise a family. It has been the honor of my life to serve the people of West Virginia. I look back on my 20 years in the Legislature, especially my last four as Senate President, and I'm just so proud of this state and the progress that we've made together.

Our future is so bright, and I cannot wait to be a part of it. This isn't goodbye for me, my role will be different as a senior advisor for the LNE Group but my mission will be the same: Make West Virginia the absolute best place for businesses to succeed and our families will as well.



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Moorefield's Diego Taylor tangled up with Union's Braylon Ward for a jump ball during the Petersburg Holiday Tournament.

SPORTS

Yellow Jackets triumph over Union on buzzer beater in holiday consolation

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

A defensive battle came down to the wire as Moorefield's Cyrus Kump nailed the game winning buzzer beater putback giving the Yellow Jackets a 31-30 victory over the Tigers in the 64th annual Petersburg Holiday Tournament consolation game.

This was at one time the longest continuously running tournament in the Mountain State.

"It was a frustrating game for us. We didn't hit many shots, but we knew we could play defense and were holding them to a low number of points so we could have a shot at the end. Cyrus has been coming up big for us all year, so I wasn't surprised when he grabbed it in the end and put it back in. We probably got fouled five times before Diego came up with that ball, but he hustled

and played to the end. We had the play in to miss the second foul shot and Cyrus executed it," Moorefield coach Scott Stutler commented.

"[Petersburg Holiday Tournament] It is great to come here and everyone is against Moorefield. It is great for our kids to play in and a great crowd for both games on both nights. This gets your kids ready for the atmosphere down the road."

Union looked to have this game in the bag with a 29-26 lead with 44 seconds remaining on two foul shots by Jacob Wolfe.

A missed shot by the Yellow Jackets went off Union out of bounds to provide a second chance.

Moorefield's Jackson Helmick drained a game-tying perimeter bucket with 23 seconds to go.

Union's Eric Linkswiler made one of two free throws to regain

the lead with nine seconds left.

Linkswiler stole the ball, but Moorefield's Diego Taylor snatched the ball back and was immediately fouled with two seconds on the clock for a trip to the charity stripe.

Taylor would miss both attempts trailing by one point, however, Kump found a way to corral the carom and launch the ball into the hoop for the clutch game winning bucket as time expired, 31-30.

"The ball went up and I just went up and grabbed it and went back up and put it in. I mean, I didn't do what I needed to do all game to help the team, but I hit a shot when it mattered. It was obviously very exciting and the atmosphere in the gym was electric. It is a great feeling. It was a huge defensive battle. Both teams played great defense all night. We held a pretty good Union team to 30 points in four quarters. That was a great game," Moorefield's Cyrus Kump remarked.

Moorefield took the initial lead of the consolation game on a 3-pointer by Guyan Kahangirwe at 7:10.

Both teams hit the rim before Union's Hunter Gaither made a jumper after a rebound and assist from Linkswiler at 5:44.

Spanning the next two minutes, Moorefield's Kyle Molen created three steals and the Yellow Jackets failed to convert with a missed basket and two turnovers.

After a lane violation by the Tigers, Union's Corbin Streets made a steal setting up one free

throw by Braylon Ward to tie the game at 3:48.

Kump grabbed an offensive rebound, but the next shot missed and Linkswiler got the board.

Ward lost the ball tripping and falling down, then Kump scored on a putback putting Moorefield back on top 5-3 with 2:51 left in the first period.

The Tigers responded with a long range jumper by Wolfe.

Kahangirwe drilled a 3-pointer at 2:14 to put the Yellow Jackets up 8-5.

Gaither added two free throws on the following series for Union.

Linkswiler grabbed a defensive rebound which led to a basket by Streets as the Tigers regained the lead with 40 seconds left.

Kump hauled in an offensive rebound and dished to Molen for a basket with nine seconds to go as the Yellow Jackets regained the edge 10-9 to close out the frame as the Tigers hit the rim.

Wolfe opened the second period with a jumper giving Union the lead, then Jacob Haynes stole the ball and made a breakaway layup for a 13-10 score at 7:23.

There were chargers assessed on both sides of the floor, then Kump notched one free throw at 6:49.

There were a combined five missed field goals and a steal by Helmick over the next two minutes.

Kump made a layup as the Yellow Jackets tied the game at 13-all at 4:40.

Moorefield's Brady Vetter made a steal, but the ball was fumbled and Streets made a leap-



Moorefield's Kyle Molen fought to pry a rebound away from Union's Eric Linkswiler during the 64th Annual Petersburg Holiday Tournament consolation game.

Moorefield's Brady Vetter drew two Tigers defenders at the perimeter and made a pass to a teammate during the Petersburg Holiday Tournament consolation game.



ing save throwing the ball off the foot of Molen.

Linkswiler scored in the paint as the Tigers went back in front 15-13 at 3:24.

Union got a defensive rebound

Moorefield's Cyrus Kump launched the game winning buzzer beater shot over the Tigers during the Petersburg Holiday Tournament consolation game.



Tucker County remains unscathed cruising over Cougars

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

In a battle of Class A Top-3 boys basketball teams in Hambleton, No. 2 Tucker County stormed past No. 3 East Hardy 59-40 to remain the only undefeated team in the Mountain State closing out the year on December 30.

Tucker County's Trevan Bonner scored a game-high 20 points, while Garrett Wilfong contributed 13 points and Mikey Mitchell added ten points for three in double figures.

East Hardy was guided by Jordan Teets with 17 points and Gideon Good with 13 points.

"This was a big game. If we dropped this game, how big is Friday. We want to get this win first. We had it laid out and wanted to get through this week. This team hasn't had practice. We have had more games than practice. Hopefully the weather will let us practice. We have a lot to clean up, but I like our effort at times. You've got to be tough. They know us and we know them. We usually play three times a year, so we know it is going to be ugly. Both coaches know it is going to be ugly. Anytime we can get them



East Hardy's Evan Hamilton elevated for a jumper in the paint against the Mountain Lions in Hambleton.

and I am sure they feel the same when they can get us that it is a good win. We'll take it and re-evaluate," Tucker County coach Daniel Helmick stated.

The Mountain Lions pounced for an 8-1 lead in the first two and half minutes of the game which include three field goals and two blocked shots by Garrett Wilfong, while the Cougars missed four shots and had one free throw by Jordan Teets.

Gideon Good made a jumper in the paint as the Cougars looked to rally at the 4:52 mark, but Tucker County countered on the ensuing possession with a 3-pointer by Mikey Mitchell.

East Hardy responded with a perimeter bucket by Evan Hamilton to cut the deficit to 11-6 at 4:22.

The Mountain Lions missed two shots and the latter was rebounded by Good, then Wilfong

continued on page 9

East Hardy upset charge denied by Mountain Lions



East Hardy's Xavia Barber beat Tucker County's Raven Matthews to the rim for a layup in Baker.

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

East Hardy Girls Basketball gave No. 2 ranked Tucker County all it could bargain for with leads in the first and second half, but chilly ball handling and snowbird shots fired up the Mountain Lions to escape Baker with a 37-33 overtime victory to start off the new year last Thursday.

"We played good defense, that is best defense that I have seen

in a long time. We prepared for Raven [Matthews] in the middle and collapsed on her and took her out of the game. That's all we needed. We missed a couple snowbirds and that would have won the game. The foul at the end of regulation put them on the line, but other than that it was a pretty good game," East Hardy coach Calvin Mongold commented.

Two minutes into the game,

the Cougars pounced ahead 4-3 on a layup by Xavia Barber.

East Hardy's Chloe Miller stole the ball, but Tucker County's Addi Moats blocked the ensuing shot.

Miller drilled a perimeter basket to create a 7-3 lead at the 5:23 mark.

Mayah Gross drew a foul and added one free throw for the Mountain Lions on the next possession.

Both teams hit the rim, then a block by Miller developed into a walk by Tucker County.

Raven Matthews collected a defensive rebound and passed to Gross, who was fouled and made both free throws at 3:50.

Gross swiped the ball and Matthews made a putback tying the game at 2:50, 2-all.

Matthews blocked a shot and grabbed a defensive rebound moments later.

Gross was fouled on an offensive rebound and notched one free throw as the Mountain Lions regained the lead 8-7 at 2:06.

Gross blocked a shot and Barber made a save, then the Cougars missed a basket and Miller grabbed the carom and was fouled leading to missed opportunities on the line.

continued on page 9

Tucker County

continued from page 6

mitted two turnovers including steals by Vetter and Molen, while Moorefield hit the rim four times and the Tigers bricked two shots with Union holding a 15-13 edge at the break.

Kahangirwe commenced the second half with a 3-pointer to put the Yellow Jackets ahead 16-15.

Two minutes later after a couple turnovers, Ward made two free throws for Union to regain the lead.

Molen grabbed an offense rebound before a steal by Streets, then the Tigers committed an offensive foul on a screen.

Helmick drilled a 3-pointer for Moorefield to go up 19-17 at 4:28.

The Tigers tied the game on the following series with a basket by Gaither.

The nets were quiet for the next two minutes and change before a steal and layup by Union's Corbin Streets for a 21-19 edge at 1:45.

The Yellow Jackets buzzed back in front on trey from Vetter at 1:06, 22-21.

Union missed five shots in the final minute with Moorefield holding the edge entering the final stanza.

Union tied the game on a free throw by Ward at 7:11, but the Yellow Jackets responded with two free throws by Molen within eight seconds.

Vetter stole the ball, but Moorefield missed the ensuing opportunity.

The Tigers walked during a trap, then Kump scored with the help of a goaltending call as Moorefield took a 26-22 lead at 6:03.

This sequence caused a fan to go berserk and was ejected from the game which hasn't happened in

17 years at this holiday tournament so not so jolly good time.

Union's Ward recorded a layup, then Streets grabbed a defensive rebound and Linkswiler netted a jumper to tie the game at 26-all with 5:10 remaining.

Kump and Vetter made steals for the Yellow Jackets, but couldn't convert into points.

Union missed two field goals around a block by Kump, but Ward grabbed a board and passed to Streets who drew a foul and made one free throw for a 27-26 led with 2:57 left.

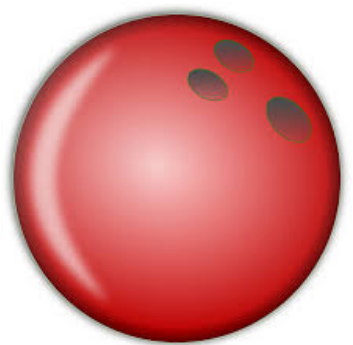
Wolfe stole the ball and the Tigers stalled the game before a carrying violation.

Moorefield hit the rim twice before losing the ball out of play with one minute to go.

Union took a 29-26 lead on the free throws, but the Yellow Jackets never gave up buzzing back to the win with the miraculous shot by Kump at the final horn 31-30 for the holiday consolation gift.



The Yellow Jackets celebrate the last second victory over Union during the 64th Annual Petersburg Holiday Tournament consolation game. Cyrus Kump made the game winning shot at the buzzer.



ODD COUPLES MIXED LEAGUE 12/17/2024

TEAM STANDINGS: Vetter's Guns & Ammo 52 – 20, Terminators 52 – 20, MMATFB 46 – 26, Split Happens 40 – 32, Empire Strikes 37 – 35, Country Cars & Trucks 35 – 37, WELD 35 – 37, Family Traditions I 24 – 48, Family Traditions II 23 – 49, Happy Bowlers 16 – 56;
HIGH GAME MEN (SCRATCH): Arron Faxon 237, Roger Earle 230, Troy McGreevy 230, Jon Hedrick 220;
(HANDICAP): Arron Faxon 252, Roger Earle 252, Trevor Wratchford 238, Troy McGreevy 236, Walter Barnes 236;
HIGH SERIES MEN (SCRATCH): Troy McGreevy 624, Arron Faxon 608, Jon Hedrick 593, Walter Barnes 589;
(HANDICAP): Walter Barnes 679, Trevor Wratchford 654, Arron Faxon 653, Jerry Propst 653;
HIGH AVERAGE (MEN): Cohan Kesner 209.17, Troy McGreevy 202.93, Jon Hedrick 199.09, Ed Wompler 197.31;
HIGH GAME WOMEN (SCRATCH): Carissa Michael 227, Dee Anna McDonald 1925, Denise McGreevy 186, Emily Stark 171;
(HANDICAP): Carissa Michael 245, Denise McGreevy 228, Suzie Berg 224, Dee Anna McDonald 221;
HIGH SERIES WOMEN (SCRATCH): Carissa Michael 609, Dee Anna McDonald 537, Denise McGreevy 504, Emily Stark 474;
(HANDICAP): Carissa Michael 663, Denise McGreevy 630, Dee Anna McDonald 624, Helen Bell 598;
HIGH AVERAGE (WOMEN): Carissa Michael 189.40, Sarah Earle 175.91, Dee Anna McDonald 173.52, Emily Stark 161.09;

THURSDAY NIGHT MENS LEAGUE 12/19/2024

TEAM STANDINGS: Balls Deep 44 – 24, Vetter's Mini Mart 41 – 27, Strikeforce 39 – 29, Vetter's Guns & Ammo 38 – 30, Chillmers 34 – 34, Petersburg Oil Company 34 – 34, Golden Lanes 33 – 35;
HIGH GAME (SCRATCH): Don Himelright 256, Jon Hedrick 243, Tyler Halterman 228, Eddie Baldwin 226, Gary Leatherman 221;
(HANDICAP): Don Himelright 274, Eddie Baldwin 271, Jon Hedrick 271, Eric Hartman 265, Jeremy Vetter 263;
HIGH SERIES (SCRATCH): Tyler Halterman 624, Eddie Baldwin 615, Floyd Shepard 596, Jon Hedrick 592, Evan Kesner 585;
(HANDICAP): Eddie Baldwin 750, Floyd Shepard 734, Eric Hartman 727, Tyler Halterman 699, Ethan Kesner 693;
HIGH AVERAGE: Cohan Kesner 216.65, Don Himelright 208.37, Tyler Halterman 203.27, Zachary Arbaugh 202.51, Gary Leatherman 200.04, Evan Kesner 199.96;

ODD COUPLES MIXED LEAGUE 12/10/2024

TEAM STANDINGS: Vetter's Guns & Ammo 50 – 18, Terminators 49 – 19, MMATFB 43 – 25, Split Happens 36 – 32, Empire Strikes 35 – 33, Country Cars & Trucks 35 – 33, WELD 33 – 35, Family Traditions I 22 – 46, Family Traditions II 22 – 46, Happy Bowlers 15 – 53;
HIGH GAME MEN (SCRATCH): Phil Crews 256, Arron Faxon 244, Cohan Kesner 234, Pete Luttrell 225;

(HANDICAP): Phil Crews 269, Pete Luttrell 260, Arron Faxon 258, Jerry Propst 245;
HIGH SERIES MEN (SCRATCH): Phil Crews 669, Cohan Kesner 649, Ed Wompler 608, Jon Hedrick 596;
(HANDICAP): Phil Crews 708, Eric Whetzel 684, Cohan Kesner 649, Ed Wompler 638;
HIGH AVERAGE (MEN): Cohan Kesner 210.39, Troy McGreevy 202.63, Jon Hedrick 199.18, Ed Wompler 198.00;
HIGH GAME WOMEN (SCRATCH): Dee Anna McDonald 202, Sarah Earle 189, Denise McGreevy 182, Ashley Wratchford 177;
(HANDICAP): Dee Anna McDonald 233, Denise McGreevy 224, Sarah Earle 217, Ashley Wratchford 217;
HIGH SERIES WOMEN (SCRATCH): Dee Anna McDonald 580, Carissa Michael 495, Ashley Wratchford 492, Denise McGreevy 488;
(HANDICAP): Dee Anna McDonald 673, Denise McGreevy 614, Ashley Wratchford 612, Jordan Ketterman 598;
HIGH AVERAGE (WOMEN): Carissa Michael 187.89, Sarah Earle 175.91, Dee Anna McDonald 173.20, Emily Stark 161.27;

THURSDAY NIGHT MENS LEAGUE 12/12/2024

TEAM STANDINGS: Balls Deep 41 – 23, Vetter's Mini Mart 39 – 25, Strikeforce 38 – 26, Vetter's Guns & Ammo 37 – 27, Chillmers 32 – 32, Petersburg Oil Company 30 – 34, Golden Lanes 30 – 34;
HIGH GAME (SCRATCH): Gary Leatherman 256, Cohan Kesner 255, Troy McGreevy 235, Jon Hedrick 234, Mike Smith 231;
(HANDICAP): Travis Cook 286, Gary Leatherman 283, Trace Miller 277, Troy McGreevy 271, Eddie Baldwin 270;
HIGH SERIES (SCRATCH): Gary Leatherman 674, Jon Hedrick 665, Tyler Halterman 631, Troy McGreevy 629, Mike Smith 619;
(HANDICAP): Trace Miller 780, Gary Leatherman 755, Ethan Kesner 752, Jon Hedrick 752, Travis Cook 751;
HIGH AVERAGE: Cohan Kesner 219.38, Don Himelright 209.77, Zachary Arbaugh 204.47, Tyler Halterman 202.98, Gary Leatherman 200.71, Evan Kesner 200.27;

ODD COUPLES MIXED LEAGUE 12/03/2024

TEAM STANDINGS: Vetter's Guns & Ammo 50 – 14, Terminators 45 – 19, MMATFB 40 – 24, Empire Strikes 34 – 30, Country Cars & Trucks 34 – 30, Split Happens 32 – 32, WELD 30 – 34, Family Traditions II 22 – 42, Family Traditions I 20 – 44, Happy Bowlers 13 – 51;
HIGH GAME MEN (SCRATCH): Larry Walp 244, Cihan Kesner 236, Arron Faxon 223, Tyler Halterman 215;
(HANDICAP): Larry Walp 260, Arron Faxon 237, Cohan Kesner 236, Travis Cook 236;
HIGH SERIES MEN (SCRATCH): Larry Walp 618, Cohan Kesner 603, Ed Wompler 586, Troy McGreevy 566;
(HANDICAP): Larry Walp 666, Trevor Wratchford 646, Travis Cook 630, Larry Ware 616, Ed Wompler 616;
HIGH AVERAGE (MEN): Cohan Kesner 210.02, Troy McGreevy 204.17, Jon Hedrick 199.21, Ed Wompler 197.69;
HIGH GAME WOMEN (SCRATCH): Ashley Wratchford 216, Sarah Earle 215, Emily Stark 212, Dee Anna McDonald

202;
(HANDICAP): Ashley Wratchford 256, Emily Stark 252, Sarah Earle 243, Dee Anna McDonald 233;
HIGH SERIES WOMEN (SCRATCH): Sarah Earle 561, Emily Stark 555, Dee Anna McDonald 548, Ashley Wratchford 480;
(HANDICAP): Emily Stark 675, Sarah Earle 645, Tonya Ours 644, Dee Anna McDonald 641;
HIGH AVERAGE (WOMEN): Carissa Michael 190.75, Sarah Earle 175.59, Dee Anna McDonald 171.94, Emily Stark 161.60;

THURSDAY NIGHT MENS LEAGUE 12/05/2024

TEAM STANDINGS: Vetter's Mini Mart 39 – 21, Balls Deep 37 – 23, Strikeforce 34 – 26, Vetter's Guns & Ammo 33 – 27, Chillmers 32 – 28, Golden Lanes 30 – 30, Petersburg Oil Company 26 – 34;
HIGH GAME (SCRATCH): Cohan Kesner 278, Andrew Kesner 260, Zachary Arbaugh 257, Jon Hedrick 243, Bradley Vetter 242;
(HANDICAP): Andrew Kesner 295, Cohan Kesner 287, Zachary Arbaugh 283, Jeremy Vetter 281, Jon Hedrick 274;
HIGH SERIES (SCRATCH): Andrew Kesner 726, Zachary Arbaugh 717, Cohan Kesner 674, Jon Hedrick 667, Bradley Vetter 646;
(HANDICAP): Andrew Kesner 831, Zachary Arbaugh 795, Jon Hedrick 760, Eric Hartman 739, Bradley Vetter 736;
HIGH AVERAGE: Cohan Kesner 220.67, Don Himelright 211.78, Zachary Arbaugh 205.18, Tyler Halterman 202.49, Evan Kesner 200.36, Gary Leatherman 199.00;

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

THE OLD MASTER

By JAY FISHER

If you weren't sure about Darian DeVries' coaching ability after the Bahamas tournament run, you should be there now. DeVries pulled off an accomplishment no other WVU coach has: he beat Kansas at Phog Allen Field House. WVU has had some good teams travel to Kansas, but they always came back with a loss (and usually a ridiculously lopsided free throw margin for the Jayhawks).

This year, it looked like it would be a tough Big 12 opener for the Mountaineers. First, their plane was delayed with mechanical issues. Then they were without two of their best players so far: Tucker DeVries (still out with his upper body injury), and Amani Hansberry (who hurt his ankle during

the previous game and was in a walking boot). And Kansas did get their share of favorable ref calls and had a large free throw advantage yet again. BUT... West Virginia jumped out to an early lead, and never trailed. Kansas staged a comeback in the second half, and managed to tie up the game with under 20 seconds to go. At this point many Mountaineer fans were braced for yet another heartbreaking loss at Kansas, but this time, WVU made a key free throw late, and held on for a 62-61 win.

They followed that up with a dominating 69-50 win over Oklahoma State in Morgantown. They led by an amazing 46-19 margin at the half, and cruised through the second half for the relatively easy win.

Things will be a lot tougher from here. For one, WVU is now a known quantity – teams will take WVU very seriously and are unlikely to look past the Mountaineers. Also, there are a lot of good teams in the Big 12. WVU hosted Arizona last night, who will want to avenge their overtime loss to WVU in the Bahamas (they are also playing better now than they were back then). Then they have to travel to Colorado to face a good Buffalo team, and deal with the altitude in Boulder. Then they have a pair of top 10 opponents: at Houston and hosting Iowa State. The Mountaineers are extremely unlikely to get through those four games undefeated, but solid performances in those games (and if

they split them 2-2) will be a very good sign.

I mentioned the altitude at Colorado for a reason, because it seemed to affect the women's team. They lost their first conference game of the season at Colorado. They led pretty comfortably at half time, but saw some of that lead slip away in the third quarter, and then fell apart in the fourth quarter. They did bounce back with a blowout win over UCF in their conference home opener and a double digit win over BYU, and remain solidly in the top 20 rankings.

The football team is filling out their coaching staff. Overall, the hires seem pretty good on paper. Two coaches: Blaine Stewart (who will be a receivers coach), and Chad Scott

(running backs) are staying on from Neal Brown's staff. Perhaps the most important hire is the defensive coordinator, and WVU managed to pry Zac Alley away from Oklahoma, where he was co-Defensive Coordinator. He is young but experienced, and did overlap with Rich Rodriguez at Jacksonville State. He believes in forcing turnovers and bringing pressure, which is something WVU has had issues with recently.

Notes: The upcoming men's basketball schedule: this Sunday (Jan 12) at Colorado, 3:00pm on ESPN Plus, at Houston on Wednesday Jan 15, 8:00pm on ESPN Plus... Home against Iowa State next Saturday (Jan 18) at 5:00pm on ESPN Plus, and home



against Arizona State next Tuesday (Jan 21), 9:00pm on CBS Sports Network... The #22 wrestling team is getting ready to face quite a gauntlet over the next few weeks: they have matches against #13 Iowa State (1/8), #18 Pitt (1/12), at #21 Oklahoma (1/17), at #3 Oklahoma State (1/19), at #19 Missouri (1/26), and #10 Northern Iowa (2/1). That is six straight matches against Top 25 teams... The gymnastics team opened its season with a win over Temple. They scored 193.6, in which they had three good events, and one bad one on balance beam. Once they get that squared away, they should be in good shape for a solid season.

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Now is the Time to Set Your Financial Resolutions for 2025



(StatePoint) January is a time for setting goals, new habits and fresh starts.

Here are five financial New Year's resolutions you can set for yourself, along with how a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® professional can help you achieve them:

Boost your financial IQ: Financial literacy is critical to building wealth. It will help you break bad habits and make better choices. From managing debt to investing, a CFP® professional can educate you on potential strategies for reaching your goals. When you work together to execute those strategies, you'll do so with a clear understanding.

Plan for the future: Because of compound interest, the right time to get serious about your investments and savings is always as soon as possible. If you've delayed this goal, make 2025 the year to open or increase your retirement account contributions. Your CFP® professional can make recommendations for what type of accounts to open. They can also help you calculate how much you need to contribute monthly to have the retirement you desire and to meet your other long-term goals.

Reduce your tax burden: It's not too early to begin planning for tax season. Work with your advisor to use tax-advantaged investments and deductions to keep more of your money next year.

Review your insurance policies: Figuring out whether you have the right types of insurance coverage in place and in the proper amounts can be tricky. Review your policies with your CFP® professional to better understand this important aspect of your overall financial plan.

Make a budget: Whether you're currently spending more than you earn or earning more than you spend, creating and adhering to a budget is the best way to get smart about your finances. If you're in a net deficit, you can look to your budget to identify where you can reasonably reduce expenses, or alternatively, boost your income. Your budget can also show where to direct any surplus.

You can find a CFP® professional by visiting LetsMakeAPlan.org.

This new year, let a financial advisor trained to examine every facet of your finances help you get your ducks in a row.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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.bids.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 943, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until February 11, 2025 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
011	2023160027	S316-259-15.75 00	STBG-0259 (211)D	RESURFACING WV 259-GROVER SMITH WV 259-GROVER SMITH COUNTY: HARDY

DBE GOAL: 6 % 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.bids.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.

12/25,1/8,1/15

Mountain Lions

continued from page 6

After a Tucker County turn-over, the Cougars failed to connect.

Tucker County's Sutton Pass netted bucket in the paint with 44 seconds left in the first period.

East Hardy answered with a layup from Brooklynn Tinnell.

Tinnell snatched a defensive rebound, but the Cougars lost the ball on an errant pass out of play.

Tucker County's Cortney Shaffer made a rebound and basket at the buzzer for a 12-9 edge.

Chloe Miller made two free throws for the Cougars at the 7:35 mark of the second period.

Brooklyn Miller hauled in a rebound, but stepped out of bounds on the baseline.

Tucker County's Maddy Helmick made an offensive rebound, but was tied up by Miller for a jump ball.

Tinnell drew a foul and sank both charity stripe buckets giving the Cougars the lead 13-12 at 6:44.

After a walk, East Hardy's Tinnell netted a layup to extend the lead 15-12.

Tucker County hit the rim four times, despite a steal by Helmick.

Tinnell was hammered in the paint and nailed both free shots for a 17-12 lead at 5:02.

A steal coming off a block by Chloe Miller setup a jumper by Tinnell for a 19-12 advantage at 4:13.

Tucker County's Moats notched two free throws cutting the deficit to 19-14 at 3:01.

East Hardy's Addison Armentrout collected an offensive carom and dished to Tinnell for a basket at 2:23. 21-14.

A steal by Regan Herron led to a breakaway layup at 2:02 for the Mountain Lions.

Chloe Miller drew a foul and made one foul shot at 1:29.

Tucker County responded with a 3-pointer by Herron, then Moats snatched a defensive rebound.

Herron drilled another trifecta with 25 seconds remaining in the first half tying the game at 22-all and Gross put an exclamation point on the half with a final second blocked shot.

Barber went to the free throw line on the opening series of the third period for the Cougars, but missed the shots and Tinnell swooped in for the carom and made the bucket at 7:45 to regain the lead.

Both teams missed field goals, then Tucker County's Moats made a putback to even the score



East Hardy's Brooklynn Tinnell made a baseline shot in between Tucker County's Cortney Shaffer and Mayah Gross.

at 6:52, 24-all.

The Cougars lost the ball out of bounds as Barber fell down, then Tucker County missed three shots before Gross finally added a putback to regain the lead 26-24 at 5:47.

Herron stole the ball, but hit the rim and Barber grabbed the board.

East Hardy passed around the key before it was disrupted with a steal by Helmick.

Tinnell knocked the ball loose, but was called for a foul.

Moats notched a jumper at 4:29 for a 28-24 lead.

There were a combined eight missed field goals, then back-to-back steals by Armentrout and Gross with the latter creating one free throw from Gross at 2:00.

Past collected a tipped rebound off the missed free throw and made the basket for a 31-24 lead with under two minutes left in the third frame.

Matthews made two blocked shots, but the second one had contact for a foul as Tinnell made two free throws for the Cougars with 57 seconds on the clock.

Armentrout tried to battle for a jump ball, but a foul was called as Matthews made one free two for a 32-26 lead.Both teams missed two field goals in the first two and a half minutes of the fourth period, then Tinnell made a layup for the Cougars at 5:30.

Tinnell stole the ball and made a breakaway bucket to cut the deficit to 32-30 with 5:06 left.

Barber took a dive for a loose ball and was tied up for a jump ball.

Tinnell grabbed a rebound then Herron blocked a shot.

Armentrout made a steal and the errant shots tempt went off the Mountain Lions.

Armentrout was called for a fourth foul, then Chloe Miller corralled a defensive rebound

Tinnell nailed a 3-pointe to put East Hardy ahead 33-32 with 3:45 to go.

East Hardy's Adyson Crider hauled in a defensive rebound,

then the Cougars walked.

A trap forced a timeout, then Tinnell made a steal and slowed the offense down.

Gross stole the ball, but missed the shot.

Moats swiped the ball and the ensuing attempt was blocked by Armentrout.

Tucker County missed five field goals and East Hardy missed a pair over the next minute and change, then a free throw by Herron tied the game with 18 seconds left in regulation.

Herron blocked a shot and Gross made a steal, then Armentrout crashed in for a steal leading to a jump ball with one second to go.

The initial arrow possession call was for the Cougars, but it was a mistake and given to Tucker County who missed the final shot of regulation tied at 33 points apiece.

Armentrout collected a defensive rebound on the first possession of overtime, then Matthews knocked the ball loose for a turnover collected by Isabella Kitzmiller.

Tucker County was called for a lane violation, then the Cougars walked.

The Mountain Lions lost the ball out of bounds, but a steal by Herron led to a jumper by Matthews for a 35-33 lead with 1:56 left in overtime.

Both teams missed a couple field goals before a jumper by Shaffer put Tucker County ahead 37-33 with 45 seconds remaining.

East Hardy hit the rim again and Shaffer made a save, but the pass was intercepted by Brooklynn Miller.

The Cougars missed the field goal and Tinnell scrambled for the rebound and a timeout with four seconds.

The Cougars found ice on the rim on one final shot and Herron hauled in the carom as the Mountain Lions won 37-33.

CLASS II LEGAL AD

Youth Services
Request for Proposals

The Region VII Workforce Development Board (WDB) has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Youth Services to execute the Policies and Procedures of the Region VII Workforce Development Board and the Local Elected Officials. The provision of qualified staffing is central to delivery of youth services. A vendor's conference for all interested proposers will be held on February 12, 2025 from 11:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. at the Region VII Workforce Development Board administrative office at 151 Robert C. Byrd Industrial Park Road, Suite 2, in Moorefield, WV. Interested parties can obtain a copy of the RFP beginning January 8, 2025 by contacting T.J. Van Meter, Executive Director, at the Region VII Workforce Development Board administrative office, at (304) 530-5258 or (304) 530-3917 or by visiting our website at www.wvregion7workforce.org. Proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 11, 2025. The Region VII WDB is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

12/25,1/08,

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF Hardy COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE:
The Marriage of:
Michelle Rivera and Alexis Rodriguez
Petitioner (First/Middle/Last) *Respondent (First/Middle/Last)*

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

THE OBJECT OF THIS SUIT IS TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE.
THIS IS A PUBLICATION BY CLASS II LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT.

To the Above-Named Respondent:

It appearing by affidavit filed in this action that Alexis Rodriguez
is a non-resident of the State of West Virginia or has an unknown address. It is hereby ordered that Alexis Rodriguez serve upon Hardy Co. Circuit Clerk.
(Check only one.) ☐ Petitioner ☐ Petitioner's Attorney ☒ Circuit Clerk's Office, whose address is 204 Washington St. Moorefield, WV 26836, West Virginia,
an Answer, including any related counterclaim or defense you may have to the Petition For Divorce filed in this action on or before February 21, 2025. If you fail to Answer the Petition for Divorce, a judgment may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk's Office.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court Family Circuit
Kelly J. Shockey
Clerk of the Court

1/8,1/15

Tucker County

continued from page 6

stole the ball leading to a layup from Bonner at 3:24.

Wilfong snatched a defensive board before losing the black out of bounds, but the Cougars walked seconds later.

Bonner nailed a jumper for Tucker County on the net series at 2:04.

After a Tucker County turn-over, Teets netted a jumper for the Cougars to close the gap 15-8 with 1:22 left in the first period.

East Hardy's Mason Hamilton had his knee buckle and fell during a defensive shift and would leave the game.

Tucker County's Cayden Arnold swiped the ball and made a breakaway layup to create a 17-8 lead with just under a minute to go.

Good corralled an offensive carom and made the putback for the Cougars.

Evan Hamilton hauled in a defensive rebound, but Tucker County denied the ensuing shot.

Wilfong hit a jumper with eight seconds left for a 19-10 lead to close the frame.

Wilfong blocked a shot early in the second period as the Mountain Lions kept East Hardy in check.

However, the Cougars weren't ready to fold with a diving steal by Teets and a layup moments later to slice the deficit to 19-12 at 6:48.

There were a combined eight missed shots over the next minute and change before East Hardy's Joseph Price scored in the paint off an assist by Teets at 5:01, 19-14.

Tucker County countered with a 3-pointer by Mitchell at 3:58.

Wilfong blocked a shot, then Trevor Roof and Good collected offensive rebounds for the Cougars with a putback by Good at 3:19

Mitchell made a basket driving to the hoop on the ensuing series for the Mountain Lions to go up 24-16.

After a charge by Teets, Evan Hamilton stole the ball before it was snatched back by Tucker County leading to a bucket from Bonner at 2:24 for a double digit lead 26-16.

Bonner added a pair of perimeter shots for the Mountain Lions in the final two minutes of the first half, while the Cougars got a baseline shot by Teets and a layup from Good with one second left.

Tucker County held a 34-20 advantage at the break.

"I thought we had a lot of energy and played with a lot of intensity. We just got dinged up early and that changed the game. I think that was the problem, they got a bit of a cushion and played more relaxed. We played with some pressure and instead of letting the offense come to us, we pressed too much. We should have settled down and ran our stuff to get good looks inside. I thought that was the difference in the game," East Hardy coach Chris Hahn remarked.

The third period started with

a missed shot by the Cougars, then Tucker County's Mikey Mitchell netted a layup.

East Hardy answered with a jumper by Teets at 7:21 for a 36-22 score.

Good blocked shots twice, then Wilfong made a leaping rebound save off a bricked shot.

After a score by Lambert, East Hardy got a layup from Teets at 6:03.

The Mountain Lions responded with a perimeter bucket by Sam Marks for a 41-24 lead at 5:50.

Good drew a foul on the next possession and made both free throws for the Cougars.

The Mountain Lions fumbled the ball out of bounds, then Teets scored inside the paint at 3:34.



East Hardy's Joseph Price leapt for a layup against Tucker County in Hambleton.

After a couple foul shots for Tucker County, East Hardy responded with a jumper by Teets to make it 43-30.

The Mountain Lions missed two shots before a block by Good, then Arnold stole the ball and Tucker County missed three more shots before a putback from Wilfong at 1:43.

Good was injured on a foul and timeout was called, then Good remained in the game making one foul shot at 1:28.

Good blocked two shots, then

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, January 8, 2025
Claim Deadline: Sunday, March 9, 2025

ESTATE NAME: EVA JANET WOLFE
CO EXECUTOR GREG C VANCE 101 DOGWOOD ST MOOREFIELD WV 26836-9527
CO EXECUTOR JEFF A VANCE 568 DEER TRAIL RD MOOREFIELD WV 26836-8136

ESTATE NAME: MICHAEL JOSEPH HORNYAK
EXECUTOR JESSE EDWIN HORNYAK 1159 JENKINS RUN RD MOOREFIELD WV 26836-8351

ESTATE NAME: WARREN A HARTHAUSEN SR
EXECUTRIX CHRISTY SNYDER 7497 US HWY 220 S MOOREFIELD WV 26836-8399
ATTORNEY NATHAN H WALTERS PO BOX 119 204 NORTH ELM STREET MOOREFIELD WV 26836-0119

ESTATE NAME: FRANKLIN DELANO QUATTRO
EXECUTRIX ALLISON A QUATTRO BLA-HUT 930 WINDRIVER DR SYKESVILLE MD 21784-5528

ESTATE NAME: BARBARA HARRIS CALL
EXECUTRIX NOVALE T FOWLER 236 HOPELESS LANE MOOREFIELD WV 26836-9063
ATTORNEY NATHAN H WALTERS WALTERS, HEISHMAN & VANCE, PLLC PO BOX 119 204 NORTH ELM STREET MOOREFIELD WV 26836-0119

ESTATE NAME: CHARLES EDWARD LOOK JR
EXECUTRIX LAUREL F LOOK 1259 TROUT RUN ROAD WARDENSVILLE WV 26851-8010

ESTATE NAME: MARJORIE LEONA FLINN
EXECUTOR GARY JEWELL 1580 PROTHER RD CASSATT SC 29032-9274

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 01/02/2025
Loretta L. Humbertson
Loretta L. Humbertson
Clerk of the Hardy County Commission
1/8,1/15



REGION VIII SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

NOTICE

Effective immediately all loads entering the Northern and Southern Transfer Stations are required to be tarped or netted.

This includes bagged trash. All loads not properly tarped or netted will be refused.



Potomac Highlands Environmental Project Coordinator

Region 8 Planning and Development Council is seeking a creative, results driven Project Coordinator to join our team to deliver community development projects within Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, and Pendleton counties of West Virginia.

The Potomac Highlands Environmental Project Coordinator position requires a bachelor's degree in public administration/business administration or a related field.

Also, an associate degree with related experience will be considered. Primary responsibilities will include the development of projects for local governments, grant writing, and reporting, specifically targeted to help reduce pollution of the Chesapeake Bay. Strong analytical, written, and oral skills are required. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Fringe benefits for the position include health insurance, retirement, vacation, and sick leave.

To see a job description go to
www.regioneight.org/employment Please submit your resume with a cover letter to Potomac Highlands Environmental Project Coordinator Position to Region 8 PDC, 131 Providence Lane, Petersburg, WV 26847 or mearle@regioneight.org
The Region 8 PDC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Bulldogs bash mats for Baker Brawl title

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

The Martinsburg Bulldogs went undefeated to claim the annual Baker Brawl wrestling tournament hosted by East Hardy High School last Saturday to unleash the new year.

East Hardy Cougars hosted five teams in the Baker Brawl, despite the overnight snowfall which prevented two teams from coming to Baker.

The Cougars welcomed Moorefield, Martinsburg, Petersburg, Pendleton County and Broadway (VA) for the Baker Brawl on a chilly day.

The wrestling squads of



East Hardy's Gracie Heishman put Pendleton County's Thunder Gill in a headlock during the 132-lb. match at the Baker Brawl.

East Hardy, Moorefield and Broadway each finished the Baker Brawl with 3-2 records.

Pendleton County Wrestling team in its inaugural season went 1-4 in the Baker Brawl, while veteran Petersburg Vikings rounded out the field at 0-5.

"I was worried we might not have the Baker Brawl and two teams couldn't make it with the weather they had. I was very impressed with everything today. I was impressed with the competition and the sportsmanship. We hope the weather would cooperate better next time. We have a lot

to work on as a team to get where we need to be, but I was impressed with their effort," East Hardy Wrestling coach Steven Miller noted.

East Hardy commenced the Baker Brawl with a victory over county rival Moorefield 46-34.

There will be a rematch for the Hardy Hammer on January 23 in front of the East Hardy student body for a special matinee match in Baker.

East Hardy's Aaron Barb (106) received a forfeit win against the Yellow Jackets to begin the Baker Brawl.

East Hardy's Jayden Funk (113) earned a first period pin at 0:34 over Moorefield's Leeanne Coon.

Moorefield's Javiar Acosta (120) garnered a first period pin at 0:02 over East Hardy's Eli Combs.

Moorefield's Jean Gonzalez (126) collected a first period pin 0:12 over East Hardy's Madilyn Funk.

Moorefield's Jhon Paul (132) won by a 17-4 decision over East Hardy's Gracie Heishman.

East Hardy's Morganne Miller (138) took a forfeit win due to a disqualification over Moorefield's Jordan Fields.

Moorefield's Drake Milner

(144) and Riley Pillus (150) each collected forfeit wins.

East Hardy's Cooper Eckard (157) notched a first period pin at 0:51 over Moorefield's Wyatt Shirk.

East Hardy's Shawn Bodkin (165) recorded a 9-nil decision over Moorefield's Dylan Colasessano.

East Hardy's Ryan Harman (175) garnered a second period pin at 1:08 over Moorefield's Caleb Flinn.

East Hardy's Eli Mathias (190) earned a first period pin at 1:24 over Moorefield's Dalton Alt.

Moorefield's E.J. Wyman (215) collected a first period pin at 0:28 over East Hardy's Maddox Richard.

East Hardy's Garrett Van Meter (285) finished the match with a first period pin at 1:18 over Moorefield's Aidan Jones.

"The Baker Brawl is a great tournament for our younger wrestlers to gain more experience. I will take the loss to East Hardy today, because I would rather win the Hardy Hammer," Moorefield Wrestling coach Rob Pillus remarked.

During the exhibition matches, Moorefield's Annie Barr edged East Hardy's Ol-



Moorefield's Jordan Fields stuck out his tongue, while flipping Broadway's Phillips during the 138-lb. match at the Baker Brawl.

ivia Loy in an 8-6 decision and East Hardy's Catie Mathias pinned Moorefield's LaTanya Redman in the second period at 1:13.

These are the Baker Brawl overall scoring results: Martinsburg 54, Moorefield 12; Martinsburg 69, Petersburg 12; Martinsburg 67, Broadway 12; Martinsburg 84, Pendleton County 0; Martinsburg 78, East Hardy 0; East Hardy 72, Pendleton County 3; East Har-

dy 54, Petersburg 27; Broadway 47, East Hardy 34; Moorefield 78, Pendleton County 6; Moorefield 46, Broadway 35; Moorefield 72, Petersburg 12; Broadway 47, Petersburg 11; Pendleton County 36, Petersburg 30; Broadway 65, Pendleton County 12.

The Baker Brawl has become a fun and rewarding tournament for the local wrestling community as it continues to grow in Hardy County.

Wildcats rally to knock out Moorefield in holiday tournament

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

The Yellow Jackets squandered a seven point lead with under four minutes remaining in the 64th Annual Petersburg Boys Basketball Holiday Tournament first round game as Pendleton County rallied to secure a 60-51 victory to advance to the championship.

"We needed to play defense. We didn't play defense or take care of the basketball. If we played hard it would come our way and it did. If finally came our way. [Petersburg Holiday Tournament] Thirty some years ago, I played in it. It has been going on for 64 years and is the oldest tournament in the state. It means a lot, because of the tradition. It is fun and great to see everybody out here. It is packed every year. I am not sure what I expected. We haven't played well and could have come up short. I am just glad that when the bus pulled in, in the middle of the fourth quarter that we were on it," Pendleton County coach Jeremy Bodkin remarked.

Moorefield's Cyrus Kump provided a 48-41 lead with a play in the paint with 4:17 remaining.

A steal by Pendleton County's Josiah Kimble and dish to Travis Owens for a layup sparked a 17-0 run by the Wildcats.

The Yellow Jackets came up empty, then Kimble drilled a 3-pointer for the Wildcats slicing the deficit to 48-46 with 3:16 to go.

Owens swiped the ball and found Kimble for a layup to tie the game with 2:55 left.

Pendleton County's Chase Owens stole the ball and scored on a breakaway layup to take a 50-48 lead at 2:42.

Henry Warner stole the ball and Travis Owens made a layup was the momentum continued for the Wildcats.

Warner swiped the ball again and netted a layup for a 54-48 lead with 1:56 remaining.

Chase Owens intercepted a pass, but the Wildcats missed their shot this time.

The Yellow Jackets hit the rim twice before Guyan Kahangirwe fouled out.

Moorefield's Brady Vetter stole the ball and the offense sputtered with two errant attempts.

Kimble notched four free throws in a span of 21 seconds sandwiching his own steal as Pendleton County took a 58-48 lead with 25 seconds to go.

Moorefield's Jackson Helmick nailed a 3-pointer with 13 seconds left to close the gap to 58-51.

Pressure by the Yellow Jackets forced a turnover, then Pendleton County's Chase pens stole the ball and netted a layup for the 60-51 win.

Pendleton County took a 12-8 lead on a 3-pointer by Josiah Kimble with 1:57 left in the first period.

Khangirwe nailed a perimeter bucket for the Yellow Jackets at 1:13 to close the gap, 13-11.

Both teams missed a couple baskets and had a turnover



Moorefield's Shawn Reed made a cut at the top of the key against the Wildcats in the Petersburg Holiday Tournament.

apiece to finish out the first frame.

The Wildcats hit the rim thrice in the opening minute of the second period, despite a steal by Ashton Kisamore.

Moorefield's Cyrus Kump made a free throw at 6:44, then Brady Vetter collected a defensive rebound.

Shawn Reed put the Yellow Jackets ahead 14-13 with a pair of charity stripe buckets at 6:14.

A block attempt by Kahangirwe turned into a foul with Kimble making one free two to tie the game at 5:05.

The Wildcats regained the lead on a putback by Kisamore at 5:04.

Reed tied the game at 16-all with a putback at 4:41.

Chase Owens and Cyrus Kump traded baskets with the game locked at 18-all with 3:01 left in the first half.

Kimble connected on a 3-pointer as Pendleton County went up 21-18 at 2:34.

Kump netted a jumper on the ensuing Moorefield possession at 2:14.

Kisamore added two free throws with 1:07 to go.

Kahangirwe corralled an offensive carom and made a jumper with 51 seconds left, 23-22.

Moorefield forced a turnover and took the lead on a bucket by Kump with 20 seconds remaining.

The Wildcats regained the lead on a layup by Travis Owens to close out the first half, 25-24.

"Pendleton, our defense was real solid. We don't have enough experience in those games and didn't handle the pressure in the end of the game. That was it. We played a really good 28 minutes, but had a really bad four minutes," Moorefield coach Scott Stutler noted.

Moorefield's Diego Taylor grabbed a defensive rebound to commence the third period which led to a jumper by Reed at 7:24 for the lead 26-25.

Pendleton County went back on top within 14 seconds on a shot from Chase Owens.

A couple missed shots and turnovers transpired over the next minute before Kimble notched two free throws for a 29-26 edge at 6:01.

The Yellow Jackets equalized the score on a 3-pointer drilled by Kahangirwe on the following series at 5:30.

Kisamore put the Wildcats up 31-29 at the 4:47 mark.

Moorefield responded for the lead as Kahangirwe knocked down a trifecta at 4:22, 32-31.

Kahangirwe stole the ball before there was an offensive foul and the Wildcats missed at the line.

Kahangirwe made a mid-range jumper at 3:25 to end the lead to 34-31.

Both teams committed turnovers, then Kisamore scored on a putback at 2:55.

Molen made a steal and passed to Taylor in the paint, who dished back to Molen for the basket for a 36-33 lead at 1:52.

Taylor sandwiched free throws around a steal by Molen within six seconds to put the Yellow Jackets ahead 38-33 with 1:22 left in the third period.

There was a dive for the ball and a jump ball, then a technical foul was called on the Wildcats coach and Moorefeld missed the free throws prior to an offensive foul.

Molen recorded a block and steal, but Chase Owens dashed down the court to make a block before a walk by the Yellow Jackets.

Owens notched a jumper with one second on the clock to cut the Moorefield lead down to 38-35 entering the final stanza.

Pendleton County steadily mounted a comeback with a flurry of shots coming in the last four minutes to emerge victorious 60-51 and would advance and win the championship the following day over the Vikings.



Moorefield's Guyan Kahangirwe corralled a rebound for a basket against Pendleton County during the 64th Annual Petersburg Holiday Tournament first round contest.



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