

Local Students Honored at Annual SkillsUSA Workforce Development Event

Atlanta, Ga. (Grassroots News-wire) July 2, 2025 - The following local students were recognized at the 2025 SkillsUSA Championships, held in Atlanta, on June 25-26 with a certificate of accomplishment. More than 6,500 students competed at the national showcase of career and technical education. The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world and covers 1.79 million square feet, equivalent to 31 football fields or 41 acres.

First place state winners were invited to the event to demonstrate their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills in

114 hands-on occupational and leadership competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking. Industry leaders from 850 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions planned and evaluated the contestants against their standards for entry-level workers. More than 1,200 industry judges and technical committee members participated this year.

All SkillsUSA Championships competitors were honored on Friday night, June 27 at the closing SkillsUSA Awards Session at State Farm Arena. As an indicator of pro-

ficiency, Skill Point Certificates were awarded to the national contestants who met a predetermined threshold contest score for their SkillsUSA event, demonstrating workplace readiness. Students can add this certificate to an employment portfolio.

The following local students are Skill Point Certificate recipients:

- * Francis VanMeter, from Elk garden and a student at South Branch Career & Technical Center (Petersburg), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in T-Shirt Design.
- * Francis VanMeter, from Elk garden and a student at South Branch Career & Technical Center (Petersburg), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Nail Care.
- * Hannah Bennett, from Mathias and a student at South Branch Career & Technical Center (Petersburg), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Pin Design.
- * Team C (consisting of Claire Ka-

posy, Miley Tingler, Allee Yakubow), from South Branch Career & Technical Center (Petersburg), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Promotional Bulletin Board.

* Madelyn Cook, from Petersburg and a student at South Branch Career & Technical Center (Petersburg), was awarded the middle school gold medal in Pin Design.

“More than 6,500 students from every state in the nation participated in the 2025 SkillsUSA Championships,” said SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis. “This showcase of career and technical educa-

tion demonstrates SkillsUSA at its finest. Our students, instructors and industry partners work together to ensure that every student excels. This program expands learning and career opportunities for our members.”

The SkillsUSA Championships event is held annually for students in middle school, high school or college/postsecondary programs as part of the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference. The national, nonprofit partnership of students, instructors and industry is a verified talent pipeline for America’s skilled workforce that is working to help solve the skills gap.

Heritage Weekend Preparations Underway Amid Volunteer Shortages and Funding Needs

By Hannah Heishman

The Moorefield Town Council met Tuesday, July 1. City Clerk Rick Freeman issued the oath of office to new mayor Scott Fawley. In turn, Fawley issued the oath to newly-elected and re-elected Jim Trommatter and Jason Fertig, respectively.

As the 72nd annual Heritage Weekend approaches in September, organizers and town officials are rallying community support for Hardy County’s only county-wide festival, seeking volunteers, sponsors, and renewed enthusi-

asm. “Heritage Weekend means a lot to me,” Fawley said, and reminisced briefly about attending events when he was a child.

“We’d like to see it return to what it once was,” said Kriston Strickler, who’s served on the Heritage Weekend committee for 20 years, and is currently the executive director.

The event, always the last full weekend in September, began as a tour of homes and gardens to fundraise for the public library. It has grown into a county-wide celebration of Hardy County’s rich history, complete with house tours, music, crafts, and reenactments.

Despite its enduring popularity, the festival faces challenges—including rising costs, aging volunteers, and dwindling participation.

“It takes funds, and it takes volunteers,” Fawley said, presenting a \$250 donation to Strickler, adding, “I make this donation from my heart.”

Running the festival costs approximately \$36,000 annually. The organization is actively seeking food and craft vendors, local artists to help draw structures for the tiles, and board members to help guide its future. Tile designs, screen-printed from pen-and-ink drawings onto ceramic, feature lo-

cal historic structures.

Toll Gate School, Jim Trommatter’s house, and the Higgins House Museum are expected to be open. Dodd Hall is the featured “tile house,” and a full slate of music and activities is planned throughout the weekend.

Organizers are also seeking to revive the presence of historical reenactors, though funding has become more difficult. “We usually have three reenactors at \$150 each, but with History Alive funding cut, it’s now \$250 each—plus transportation and lodging,” noted Strickler.

To contribute or inquire about



Moorefield’s newest council member, Jim Trommatter (left) was sworn in by Mayor Scott Fawley (right) at the Town Council meeting Tuesday, July 1.

volunteering, residents can call 304-530-0280, email heritage-weekend@hardynet.com or send donations to PO Box 1001, Moorefield, WV 26836.

Amy Greenwalt reported ongoing junk vehicle enforcement, with 39 vehicles currently tracked. More than 270 businesses have

renewed their licenses and around 98 known businesses have yet to comply.

Freeman said, “I appreciate the work Amy and Aaron (Crites) are doing; I can see it in the income.”

Brush day resulted in five truckloads collected. Preparation

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Hardy County Humane Society Issues Plea for Help to Area

Since the first of April, the Humane Society has received over 30 calls and messages to re-home animals or pick up feral cats. This is a very real need. There is no place to immediately take animals, so photographs and information must be posted with rescue programs and networks in the panhandle and northern Virginia. Only two, sometimes three board members, have done all of the work. A few have been placed. People are overwhelmed and exhausted. We cannot continue to work like this and must have the community’s help! Until the two teams below are set up and running, the Humane Society will not accept any more calls for animals that need to be re-homed or picked up. We will continue to work on those cases we have committed to until now. In the meantime, those who need animals placed can contact rescue programs in the panhandle and Northern Virginia. Here is how you can help.

Spread the word about the need for these teams.

Rescue and Placement Team We desperately need one or two people who will step forward to recruit and organize volunteers to oversee the placement of cats and dogs.

That will involve:

- Taking calls and messages from people who need to re-home or have cats and dogs placed.
- Adding HSHC to rescue networks, setting up contacts with shelters, and posting photos and information on those sites.
- Arrange for public showings of cats and dogs available for adoption. For example, on a Saturday afternoon, animals would be displayed for three hours at a location in town.
- Advertise photos and informa-

tion of animals for adoption in the Examiner and Press postings as well on the HSHC website and Facebook pages.

Foster Care Recruitment Team Like the first team, one or two leaders are needed to oversee this program. They work closely with the Rescue Team leader(s) coordinating placements in foster homes and adoptive homes.

Promote the need for foster and adoptive homes in the Potomac Valley.

Send out applications to those interested in taking cats and dogs.

Two volunteers are already in place to evaluate applicants. Assign the volunteers to check out the homes.

Recruit volunteers to take food,

litter, supplies to foster parents, and to transport animals to veterinarians when needed.

Being a Foster Parent

In most cases, kittens or pups need somewhere safe to stay for a couple of weeks while a placement is found. It may include the mother. More time is needed to place older cats and dogs, so they usually need a longer placement. HSHC will pay for food, litter, and necessary medical expenses. Training will be provided. This is a crucial part of handling the overpopulation of animals in our communities.

Please send an email to hshcw24@gmail.com if you can lead one of the two teams or have an interest in fostering. Thank you.



The Hardy County Humane Society is looking for more volunteer help. This locally hand made quilt was auctioned off at their recent “Woofstock” fundraising and community awareness event

Governor Patrick Morrisey Announces New Purple Alert Program

Charleston, W.Va. – Today, Governor Patrick Morrisey announced the launch of the state’s new Purple Alert system through the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security and State Police. Governor Morrisey invites media outlets and the general public to participate in the new alert system designed to help locate missing individuals with cognitive impairments more efficiently.

“Purple Alerts empower local law enforcement to respond quickly when individuals with cognitive impairments go missing,” said Governor Patrick Morrisey. “This new alert system will strengthen community safety through clear co-

ordination and swift action.”

“This initiative is a critical step toward protecting some of our most vulnerable citizens,” said Doug Buffington, Acting Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security. “With the launch of the new program, we invite members of the media and all West Virginians to participate in sharing these alerts and helping ensure safe return of missing persons.”

A Purple Alert is activated by the State Police when there is a missing person report for a person with a cognitive impairment and there is a belief that the person is in danger, that the person’s location is un-

known and that the person is unable to return home on their own. Once a Purple Alert is activated, the West Virginia State Police will issue a press release with a detailed description of the missing person and the circumstances. Alerts may also be shared via social media and media outlets.

The Purple Alert Program will be in addition to the state’s other alert programs, such as the Amber Alerts, which are utilized to notify the public about missing and abducted children who are believed to be in imminent danger. For more information, contact the West Virginia State Police at 304-746-2100 or online at www.wvsp.gov.

Hardy County Economic and Population Numbers Revealed in Updated Census Profile

By Stephen Smoot

Over the past month, the United States Census Bureau has released updated state and local profiles, as well as data sets. These numbers help to illustrate economic and population trends in Hardy County, as opposed to across the state and the nation as a whole.

It should be noted that the United States Census Bureau uses medians in some of its statistics. This is the midpoint number of a dataset, not an average of all numbers together.

In 2020, the United States Census Bureau counted 14,699 individuals in Hardy County and just under 1.8 million across West Virginia. When broken down to sets of four years of life, Hardy County followed the state. Hardy County’s median age falls at 47.3 compared to the state’s at 42.8.

That said, county numbers and state numbers alike show that the four year span with the highest number of people in it is residents between the ages of 60 and 64.

The population of foreign born in Hardy County came in at just under

1.5 percent, many of those likely Pilgrims workers and their families. This compares to 1.8 percent in the Mountain State, but nearly 15 percent nationwide. A little more than 96 percent speak English at home with three percent speaking Spanish. About .7 speak another language, but as Hardy County Schools reports, that includes Haitian dialects, Guatemalan tribal languages, and others spoken by foreign born workers and their families.

Of those foreign-born in Hardy

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EDITORIAL

Water and Excrement

By Stephen Smoot

In 2015, incoming Congressman Alex Mooney appointed retired Charleston businessman Fred Joseph as his District Director and myself as Eastern Panhandle Regional Director.

From Mr. Joseph, I learned a valuable piece of wisdom about government and politics. He said “Good government starts with water and ‘excrement.’” Now the retired Marine used an earthier term than excrement, but most readers will get the gist.

Mr. Joseph’s point was that most people depend most fundamentally on having systems in place that efficiently deliver water to a residence or business and also take human and other forms of waste away. His broader ideal lay in the fact that a hierarchy of needs exists in the public, both individually and collectively, and that government needs to get the fundamentals right before anything else.

As long as he served in that role, he went faithfully to municipal and county government meetings, public service districts, and elsewhere to track down problems and to make sure they were aware of how the Congressional office could help. After learning from a West Virginia University expert that “straight pipes” (direct piping of human and other waste from a structure to a nearby stream) are the Mountain State’s most serious pollution problem, Mr. Joseph made it a personal crusade to ensure that households in the Second Congressional District with that problem, almost always economically disadvantaged, understood where they could get help to remedy it.

In 1943, the eminent American psychologist Abraham Maslow crafted a visual representation of a “Hierarchy of Needs.” It lists a series of human needs from the most fundamental and important at the base to the least fundamental at the summit.

As an article on him from the School of Philosophy and Economic Science states in a biographical article on him:

“He originally proposed that the lower needs must be met in order

to pursue the higher needs but he later suggested that some people could pursue higher needs before the lower ones were met, for example, creative people may find themselves pursuing higher needs even if the lower needs were unmet, and also people dedicated to pursuing higher ideals could achieve self-actualization even if circumstances prevented them from fulfilling their lower needs.”

The pyramid’s hierarchy starts with physiological needs, then lists in order of importance safety needs, love and belonging, esteem, and self-actualization. The first four represent “deficiency needs” while the last serves as a “growth need.”

Good government must run by the same philosophy, that the needs of the people have a hierarchy of priorities. Government must lead with the most fundamental prioritized needs in action and should lead with them in messaging.

Different people may have different ideas on where different elements should rank on the hierarchy, but whatever order they come in, a list of priorities helps to guide the government’s limited resources of time and money into the most effective directions. Here is a suggestion for elected officials at any level.

First comes Mr. Joseph’s water and excrement. He made a point to visit the wastewater treatment plant built in Old Fields, learning about the modern filtering systems used there. Plant officials boasted that, once filtered, the wastewater returning to the South Branch was cleaner than the water in the river itself.

Many West Virginia communities rely on water and sewer infrastructure that, at least in part, dates back to the New Deal’s Works Progress Administration or before - meaning much of the networks of pipes date back 90 years or more. No community can accomplish anything without reliable water and sewer.

Next in order should be roads, then fire, EMS, and law enforce-

ment. The closure of a number of volunteer fire and EMS departments in the past several years serve as canaries in the coal mine that State officials seem mysteriously quiet in addressing.

After that public schools, agriculture, economic development, higher education, and cultural edification. Certainly many will have ideas on what else should go where, but the point is that having a guideline is key.

Governor Patrick Morrisey made a point in his first few months in office of highlighting a number of legislative and executive accomplishments that satisfied the political base, but left others confused.

There is something to be said for passing legislation that bans bad things like ranked choice voting or DEI related anything. While not much of that was present to begin with, the idea that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” applies to lawmaking as much as anything else. Leading off with them in action and messaging, however, left many wondering about priorities.

Frankly, Governor Morrisey serves in a hostile work environment. Almost all of the state’s media has hostility to him on an ideological and political basis. He also must contend with the prejudice of many west of Canaan Valley against leaders who come from the east of it.

Morrisey will get less than zero “breaks” in coverage and, as a result, needs to have the tightest focus on both action and messaging. The Governor, much like Arch Moore before him, will never win the affection, much less the approval, of most media outlets covering him, but can earn the respect of the people and their local leaders if he remains attuned to their fundamental needs even as he addresses the rest of his agenda.

On a lighter note, congratulations to the Governor and his family on the impending arrival of their grandchild! Regardless of anyone’s personal politics, this is a blessed gift from God to be celebrated.

My UNBASED OPINION

Unbased Revisited

By DAVID O. HEISHMAN



Unbased first published on July 8, 2015

Basketball. Buzzer beaters. Shots at the basket that drop just as time expires. Winning is based upon largest number of points scored within a set amount of time. Baseball. Runs scored in a set number of innings, which are alternate turns at offense and defense. There are no time limitations. Highest number of runs scored within the game framework wins. Volleyball. First team to score prescribed number of points, wins. Time is not a limiting factor. Sports. All have goals which must be reached before winners

are declared. Rules insure winners and losers. As far as I know there are no popular sports which go on interminably with no winners or losers. Without those parameters, winners and losers, enthusiasm for team or group activities soon dies. Society needs to learn that lesson and apply it in areas besides sports. Too much of America’s bureaucratic excess depends upon playing endless games without solid goals. No winners, no losers. No objective that can be reached with satisfaction. Income inequality. Somewhere there must be someone who earns precisely the right amount of money. Soon as Progressive politicians

find him/her we’ll have a shining goal. We’ll know exactly how much rich folks must give up in taxes. Conversely, we’ll know exactly how much we must bill the government for in order to reach that prescribed level. True income equality demands that hard number goal for which we all must strive. Chesapeake Bay. Water quality. Nutrient levels. Dead zones. What nutrient levels are proper for Bay waters? What are the numbers in parts per million for various identifiable nutrients. What is the verifiable level for which we strive? How will we know when we can ease pressure on capital expenditures to

achieve goals we’ve already met? Global warming. Several weeks ago I wrote about controlling Earth’s temperature. America has technical ability to change that temperature. Several other countries can do it too, but what is the goal? What is the temperature for which we shoot? Who gets to select the proper temperature and police it? Again, there’s no hard goal to achieve. No way to identify winner and loser. Greenhouse gas production. What is the precise level of atmospheric carbon dioxide we must not exceed? At what point must we turn off automobile ignitions and flip home electricity switches.

Who will decide who must first be inconvenienced or eliminated through energy withdrawal? Without solid logical verifiable goals, it’s too easy to move goal posts. Too many social issue goal posts are moved by bureaucrats who are hired by politicians. Bureaucrats don’t like goals met because their jobs might end if that happens. Ultimate competition. World War II. Hard objectives were defeat of Germany and Japan. We did that and came home winners. Since WW II, only one of several wars has had a clear objective. In Desert Storm, President George H.W. Bush led us to free Kuwait

from its invasion by Iraq. We sent forces of Saddam Hussein packing back to Baghdad and Bush brought us home. Korea, we held the 38th Parallel, but didn’t destroy the enemy’s will to fight. Vietnam. we fought till we just got tired and came home. Afghanistan and Iraq II and still fumbling along without a goal in sight. ISIS doesn’t even have a place we can conquer, so we’ll likely be chasing them around forever. Without goals and objectives to measure progress by, we’ll not know the satisfaction of jobs well done.

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. July 9, 1942: An explosion at the Pursglove No. 2 Mine at Scotts Run near Morgantown killed 20 men. It was one of three fatal accidents at the mining operation in an eight-month period. July 9, 1989: Treasurer A. James Manchin resigned after being impeached. With a stock market downturn in 1987, Manchin bore much of the blame when the state lost nearly \$300 million in investments for which he was responsible. July 10, 1769: Physician Jesse Bennet was born. He performed

the first successful caesarian section in America in 1794, on his own wife and without proper equipment and with no antiseptics. He later established a large practice in Mason County and served as an Army surgeon in the War of 1812. July 10, 1889: Author and historian Boyd B. Stutler was born in Gilmer County. He served as managing editor of the national American Legion magazine for 18 years and became one of the leading historians on West Virginia in the Civil War and John Brown’s Raid on Harpers Ferry. July 10, 1936: The temperature in Martinsburg reached 112 degrees. It tied the record for the state’s hottest recorded temperature, which had been set August

4, 1930, at Moorefield. July 11, 1861: The Battle of Rich Mountain was fought in Randolph County. Union troops under Gen. George McClellan defeated Confederate forces, helping to secure northwestern Virginia (now West Virginia) for the North. July 11, 1867: John Jacob Cornwell was born on a farm in Ritchie County. He served as the 15th governor of West Virginia. July 11, 1976: Gov. Arch Moore dedicated the West Virginia Culture Center. The facility was built to showcase the Mountain State’s artistic, cultural and historic heritage. July 12, 2003: The Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in downtown Charleston opened to the

public. It combines a modern performing arts center with a visual arts museum and an interactive science center. July 13, 1861: The Battle of Corricks Ford took place in Tucker County. Confederate Gen. Robert S. Garnett was killed. He was the first Confederate general killed in the Civil War. July 14, 1861: Union troops under Gen. Jacob Cox drove Confederate militia and cavalry out of town during the Battle of Barboursville. Union forces remained in control of Barboursville for the remainder of the war. July 14, 1900: Gangster William George “Big Bill” Lias was born in either Wheeling or Greece. From the 1920s until his death in 1970, he was well-

known as the leading organized crime figure in Wheeling. July 15, 1886: Congressman Cleveland Monroe “Cleve” Bailey was born on a farm in Pleasants County. He represented West Virginia’s third congressional district for eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1945–47 and 1949–63. July 15, 1915: The West Virginia Folklore Society was founded in Morgantown by John Harrington Cox, Robert Allen Armstrong, and Walter Barnes. July 15, 1988: Interstate 64 was completed when the final section between Sam Black Church and the West Virginia Turnpike was opened to traffic.



A. James Manchin’s colorful style made him a standout from a field of colorful 20th Century state politicians

MOOREFIELD EXAMINER

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This week, West Virginians didn’t just get sold out—we got steamrolled. Our U.S. Senators, Shelley Moore Capito and Jim Justice, and Congressman Riley Moore voted for the so-called “One Big Beautiful Bill,” which guts the very programs that keep Hardy County families fed, healthy, and afloat. Let’s be clear: over 28% of West Virginians—more than half a million people—rely on Medicaid or CHIP, including children, working parents, veterans, and older adults. In Moorefield and across the Potomac Highlands, where healthcare options are already scarce, these cuts will hit hard. Fewer providers, longer wait times, and more people left without basic care—it’s not just bad policy, it’s dangerous. The bill also slashes SNAP, which over 277,000 West Virginians depend on each month. That includes working families in Hardy, Grant, Pendleton, and Hampshire counties. These are the folks packing chickens at processing plants, tending farms, or running registers—people who work hard but still can’t make ends meet. SNAP doesn’t just help them—it fuels our local economy. Every dollar spent

at a grocery store here helps keep small-town businesses alive. And yet, while cutting food and healthcare assistance, this bill delivers massive tax breaks to billionaires and corporations, adding over \$3 trillion to the national debt in the process. That’s not fiscal discipline—it’s a slap in the face to West Virginians. Congressman Moore says he’s fighting for us. But his vote says otherwise. He sided with political donors over the very families who welcomed him into their communities. If he believes this bill helps West Virginia, he should come to Moorefield and explain to a nurse losing coverage or a grandmother raising her grandkids on SNAP why they had to sacrifice so someone in Palm Beach could get a tax cut. In one of the poorest, sickest states in America, we need leaders who fight for our dignity—not Wall Street handouts. Out here in Hardy County, there’s nothing “beautiful” about being left behind. Chandler Goule Lost City, WV Member Hardy County Democratic Committee



News

Moorefield Student Learns the World of Modern Telecommunications on DC Trip

MOOREFIELD, W.Va. (July 3, 2025): Moorefield High School student Josiah Whetzel had “a blast” during the Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., even as he developed a new appreciation for the challenges of providing broadband service in rural areas like Hardy County.

Many of today’s youth take Internet service for granted, but there still are many areas of the country and world that lack reliable service, especially at the speeds necessary to fully participate in modern society.

By visiting the Federal Communications Commission and talking with other rural youth from across

the United States, Whetzel realized just how different modern life would be without Internet, from maintaining contact with loved ones to public safety.

“You don’t even get to see what’s up in other countries since the news only covers so much,” he said. “That is why (rural providers) are very important, and new technology to help get alerts out there faster to help protect the people.”

Whetzel, sponsored by Hardy Telecommunications, spent June 2-6 in D.C. He was one of more than 100 students from all over the country. The trip involves visiting many of the city’s historic sites as well as learning about telecommu-

nications and the challenges faced by service providers in rural areas.

The students also heard about governmental processes and federal agencies that oversee the telecommunications industry. The students heard from FCC Chair Brendan Carr about serving rural areas.

The Youth Tour takes the students to many of the famous historical landmarks in D.C. The group toured the U.S. Capitol and visited the Lincoln Memorial, World War II Memorial, and Vietnam War Memorial during a night walking tour. During a visit to the Smithsonian Institution on the National Mall, Whetzel visited the Air and Space Museum and the Natural History

Museum. Students also visited congressional office buildings.

Several things made an impact on Whetzel.

“I liked (the Air and Space Museum), learning how we discovered aviation,” he said.

At the Natural History Museum, he enjoyed seeing “how nature works through its history of animals on earth.”

“The monuments were one of my favorites, walking through the remembrance of those who fought” in World War II, Vietnam, and Korea, he said.

Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier carried special weight.



Moorefield High School student Josiah Whetzel visits the U.S. Capitol during the 2025 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour.

Hardy County Commission Meeting Highlights Progress, Reappointments, and Budget Updates

By Hannah Heishman

The Hardy County Commission met July 1; Commission president with Steven Schetrom was absent. Commissioner “Jay” Fansler presided over the session, during which department heads and agency representatives delivered a range of operational and financial updates.

Public Safety & Emergency Services

OEM/911 Director Paul Lewis reported the Lost City tower has almost all SIRN equipment installed, and should be finished this month.

He said the Helmick Rock

tower was struck by lightning in June, which knocked out the circuit board to the generator and the County’s paging system particularly on the east side of the county. The generator is repaired, and technicians had the paging system repaired the same day.

Lewis reported agencies received the following number of calls:

WV Department of Natural Resources had 13 calls; the Hardy County Sheriff’s Office had 295; the Moorefield Police Department had 142, and the WV State Police had 60.

West Hardy EMS had 117 calls; HCEAA had 91; and War-

densville had 47.

Moorefield VFD had 36 calls; Capon Valley VFD had 14; and Mathias/Baker VFD had 12.

Lewis reported he’s not yet received information on 2025 grants, and that “most of that information” depends what happens with FEMA. Other grants depend on what the State receives, which depends on what they receive from the federal government.

He also said the county has not yet received funding from several approved grants, including the 2024 LEPC grant, for which all paperwork was mailed in December, “way before the closing deadline.”

Commissioner David Workman said a citizen talked to him about a pipe installed near the levee at the end of Welton Road that creates issues with drainage, and noted a lack of response from the town. Lewis said he would look into it.

Lewis also addressed recent severe weather reports, stating there is no evidence of a tornado touching down in the Old Fields area.

Roger Vacovsky, Operations Liaison for the Hardy County Emergency Ambulance Authority (HCEAA), provided a preliminary overview, noting the end of the fiscal year and the absence of finalized financial statements.

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As Region Celebrates All Things Poultry, Industry Rebounds From 2024 Pressures

By Stephen Smoot

“The poultry industry is doing well.”

And no one would have a better finger on the pulse of the poultry industry than the man who shared that, Ward Malcolm, president of the West Virginia Poultry Association. The WVPA represents much of the industry in West Virginia, particularly in its Potomac Highlands heartland.

A year ago, industry headlines rang out with warnings from the United States Department of Agriculture. A June 26, 2024 report from the USDA states that “the H5N1

strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is present in wild birds worldwide and is causing outbreaks in U.S. domestic birds and dairy cattle. Many other species are susceptible to this virus.”

Federal officials ramped up what the USDA called “the strongest influenza surveillance program in the world.”

The United States Centers for Disease Control, however, reported that while there had been “several recent human cases in U.S. dairy workers,” the “risk to the general public from these viruses remains

relatively low.”

These warnings came on the heels of USDA reports that the total live weight of federally inspected poultry had dipped from 6.05 billion pounds to 5.92 billion pounds between May 2023 and 2024. The number of young chickens during that span had declined one percent while that of mature chickens was down seven percent to 69.8 million pounds.

Turkey inspections had also dropped by nine percent from the previous May.

By November, USDA reports showed that the pound-

age of mature chickens had dropped to 53 million, down 17 percent from 12 months prior.

In January, a report from CBS News outlined the carnage caused by the bird flu, both in direct deaths from disease and the culling of poultry to check the spread. More than 20 million birds were lost to both causes in the final quarter of 2024 alone.

The report shared that “taxpayers will pick up the tab for the lost birds. To incentivize farmers to quickly report and stamp out the virus, a USDA

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WVU MEDICINE GRANT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL TO OPEN RAPID CARE CLINIC

WVU Medicine Grant Memorial Hospital (GMH) is pleased to announce work is underway to open a Rapid Care Walk-In Clinic in Petersburg.

In cooperation with the Grant County Commission, the former Halterman building has been added to the existing lease agreement between the County and GMH. This strategic collaboration between GMH and Grant County allows the hospital to provide expanded access to care, local job creation, and a strengthened healthcare infrastructure for the region that would not be possible otherwise.

Kevin Hagerty, President of the Grant County Commission, stated: “The county commission is extraordinarily excited to be a part of this project with Grant Memorial Hospital. We look forward to seeing the development of this facility and

having another wonderful asset within our community. We appreciate all of the hard work that was put into this effort by everyone involved.”

During the time that the hospital designs the space and makes the necessary renovations and improvements to eventually provide Rapid Care, Radiology, Lab, and other services, GMH will open a Rapid Care Clinic at 10 Valley View Street in Petersburg later this year.

On behalf of the Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority, Sherry Mongold, Executive Director, released the following statement: “The Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority is proud to announce its partnership with Grant Memorial Hospital. This collaboration marks a significant step forward in our mission to bring new jobs and services to our community.

We believe that healthcare is a vital part of our community, and the growth and local offerings in this sector are integral to our mission as a development authority. We look forward to the positive impact this partnership will have on the area.”

John Sylvia, President and CEO of Grant Memorial Hospital added “The hospital is grateful to the Development Authority and the County Commissioners for their efforts to ensure the residents of the area have access to needed healthcare services. It is relationships like these that allow the hospital to make a difference in the health of the region.”

Stay tuned for updates as these projects progress. WVU Medicine Grant Memorial Hospital looks forward to improving access to primary care services in a non-emergency healthcare setting.




Friends of Library Year 2024-2025 A HUGE THANK YOU!!

**Summer Reading Program begins
Spring Drive is Done**

**Our goal was \$2,000 ---
we received over \$4,300!**

Envelopes, stamps, printed cards,
photo art donated ...



All monies received go to earmarked goals –
To finalize purchase of Microfiche Reader
Support ongoing Childrens’ Programs

**PLEASE COME BY AND
ENJOY YOUR LIBRARY**

Summer is for Celebrating

Moorefield High School graduating senior Courtlynn Ault became the second ever recipient of the \$1,000 Lost River Pride Scholarship. Administered by the Hardy County Community Foundation the scholarship is awarded to one who has demonstrated support of and advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community in Eastern West Virginia.

Ault was presented with the scholarship award on Sat., June 21 at the Lost River Pride Festival. Attended by more than 500 people throughout the day, the event featured live music and other entertainment, food trucks, and more than 30 local vendors and helped raise more than \$7,000 to support students like Ault, the Mathias-Baker Volunteer Fire Co., and the Moorefield Jackbots.



Left to Right: Lost River Pride President Tim Savoy, MHS’s Courtlynn Ault, and Lost River Pride’s Vice President Nick Boffi.

OBITUARIES

Helen Loraine Sites



Helen Loraine Sites, age 96 of Petersburg, WV formerly of South Fork, WV passed away on Monday, June 30, 2025 at Grant

Rehabilitation and Care Center in Petersburg, WV.
Helen was born on December 11, 1928 in Farmington, WV and was a daughter of the late Leslie Henry Mahone and Lennie May King. In addition to her parents, Helen was preceded in death by her husband Vernon C. Sites in 2011; son-in-law, Herman Taylor, Jr. and three sisters. Helen was the last surviving member of her immediate family.
Helen is survived by one daughter, Brenda L. Taylor of Petersburg, WV and two grandsons,

Michael Taylor and wife Dana and Rodney Taylor and wife Misty and two great grandchildren, Brooke Alt and husband Malachi of Cabins, WV and Kevin Taylor of Athens, GA; two great-great granddaughters, Kimber Alt and Adalynn Alt. Also surviving several nieces and nephews.
Helen was a member of Moorefield Church of the Brethren.
The family will receive friends on Thursday, July 3, 2025 from 10 AM till time of service at 11 AM at Schaeffer Funeral Home in Petersburg.

A funeral service will begin at 11 AM in the chapel of Schaeffer Funeral Home with Pastor Russell Webster and Pastor Brad Taylor officiating. Burial will follow in Olivet Cemetery in Moorefield, WV.
Memorial donations may be made to Moorefield Church of the Brethren, Moorefield, WV 26836.
Online condolences www.schaefferfuneralhome.com

How Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Families and Businesses

(StatePoint) The United States is one of the only countries in the world that does not guarantee paid family and medical leave to workers, leaving millions of babies without the care they need in their earliest months of life.

Paid leave is associated with higher breastfeeding rates, regularly attended well-child visits with pediatricians, and other key markers of short- and long-term health for young children and adults. Plus, early relationships with parents and caregivers, specifically in the first three years of life, shape a child's brain development, laying the foundation for lifelong learning, health and well-being.

With less than a third of people in the United States having access to paid family and medical leave, many families are left without financial security during a critical time for child development. Access to paid family and medical leave is lowest among workers with the greatest needs, including those with lower incomes, without college degrees, and who work part time. The production,

transportation, construction, maintenance and service sectors have some of the lowest rates of access.

Advocates are bringing awareness to the many working parents and caregivers who are forced to sacrifice their jobs and savings when they need time off to bond with their young children or care for themselves or a sick or injured family member.

"All workers—regardless of location, education or job type—should have access to paid family and medical leave to provide the care and stability children and families need to thrive," says Emmett Avery, coalition manager for the Vermont Paid Leave Coalition, a statewide alliance advocating for the strong paid family and medical leave program in Vermont.

Interestingly, paid family and medical leave is not only good for families, real-world results show that it's also good for businesses and the economy. Access to paid leave benefits businesses by increasing employee productivity and morale,



improving employee retention, and reducing turnover costs, and states with paid leave programs see fewer families relying on public assistance, lowering costs for taxpayers.

"Paid family and medical leave is a commonsense policy that's supported by an overwhelming majority of voters and essential for infants and toddlers, families, businesses and the economy," says Dan O'Brien the policy director for Children First PA, a nonprofit organization that works to improve the lives of children in Pennsylvania and beyond. "Everyone can help push for policies that

give all working families the time they need to care for their loved ones without sacrificing their jobs or financial security."

If you believe all families deserve the time and support to care for loved ones without risking their jobs or financial security, advocates encourage you to act now. You can join the movement for paid family and medical leave at <https://ncit.org/take-action/paid-family-and-medical-leave-action/> and help push for policies that put children and caregivers first.

3 Seasonal Prep Tips to Help Homeowners Weather Summer Storms

(StatePoint) From unexpected downpours to damaging winds, homeowners should be prepared for emergency repairs when storms appear this summer.

A recent nationwide survey of 1,000 homeowners by T-Rex Tape, a leading maker of premium repair tapes, revealed that 100% of respondents have experienced damage requiring immediate attention following extreme weather events, with summer leading as the season with the most extreme weather events (37%).

Although nearly two-thirds of them (64%) report they're not fully prepared to make emergency fixes, all still attempted a DIY repair when it was needed. With the right tools and knowledge, quick action can help minimize damage and buy valuable time before professional repairs are possible.

To help homeowners manage emergency storm cleanup and repairs, Kerry Haugh, director of product marketing for T-Rex Brand, shares some proactive strategies:

Take Preventative Pre-

cautions

According to the survey, high winds (49%) topped the list of weather-related culprits, followed by falling limbs and roof damage (42%), clogged gutters (32%), and structural issues from debris (28%). Water leaks also frequently occur inside the home and affect a sizable number of homeowners (30%).

Haugh suggests that preventative maintenance is one of the most effective ways to reduce emergency damage. "Homeowners should regularly check roofs and siding for any signs of wear and ensure sump pumps and other plumbing fixtures are working and free of clogs," she explains. "It's also important to clean out gutters to ensure water flow and prevent backup that can cause problems."

Fill Your Toolbox

In urgent situations, some homeowners reported resorting to improvised, unreliable solutions like towels (39%), clothing (18%) or even newspapers (15%) to plug leaks. It's crucial to keep essential emergency repair supplies on hand in one easily ac-

cessible location. A standard toolkit should include useful items, such as hammers, nails, tarps, sealant and strong waterproof repair tape specifically designed to hold up under tough conditions.

"Extreme weather is inevitable, and having the right tools on hand can help safeguard the home," Haugh says. "While many households have traditional duct tape, waterproof and repair tape, such as T-Rex Waterproof and Repair Tape, is ideal for durable, post-storm repairs since it's specifically designed to adhere to wet or uneven surfaces until permanent repairs can be made."

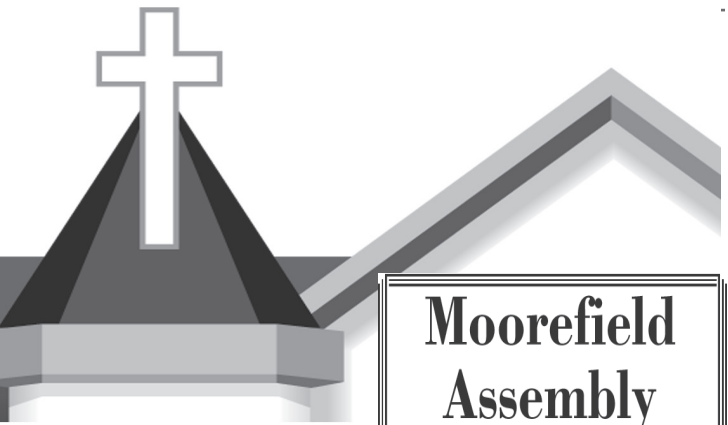
Formulated with Flex-to-Fit Technology, which uses a highly conformable UV acrylic adhesive that is repositionable, T-Rex Waterproof and Repair Tape instantly seals out water, air and moisture -- even under water. Plus, it stands up in temperatures ranging from -40 degrees F to 240 degrees F, providing all weather durability.

Make Quick, Post-Storm Repairs

Once it's safe to go outside, homeowners should

assess any risks and utilize items in their toolkit to help prevent damage in and outside the home, looking for any interior or exterior issues or leaks that could cause damage if not addressed. Haugh suggests using those key toolbox items as an effective temporary solution.

"Most individuals expect a temporary repair to last a few hours to a few days, but more than 65% of homeowners were surprised by the strength and durability of products like waterproof tape when addressing storm-related



Church Services

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

WALNUT GROVE Church of the Brethren
Rt. 55 East, Moorefield just before Corridor H exit
Pastor DJ Taylor
304-434-2465 304-257-7930
Everyone Welcome!
Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Church Service 11 a.m.

Moorefield Assembly of God
139 CHIPLEY LANE
MOOREFIELD WV 26836
304-538-6055
SUNDAY MORNING - 10:00AM
CHRIST DISCIPLES
SUNDAY EVENING
RADIO PROGRAM:
103.7 FM 7:30 - 9:00PM
FACEBOOK:
@MOOREFIELDASSEMBLYOFGOD
FAITH HOPE LOVE
Wade Armentrout, Pastor
EVERYONE WELCOME



WV POULTRY KIDDIE PARADE
JULY 12, 2025
START TIME: 10:00 AM (MOOREFIELD BINGO HALL)
END POINT AT MOOREFIELD TOWN PARK.
*VENDORS, FARMERS MARKET, FOOD TRUCKS, MAGIC SHOW, FACE PAINTING, BOUNCY HOUSES, ETC

BBQ CHICKEN MEAL
The Capon Valley Volunteer Fire Company is doing a BBQ Chicken on July 12 at the fire company grounds in Wardensville.
Chicken will be start selling around 9am weather pending. All Proceeds benefit the Capon Valley Volunteer Fire Company.

leaks," she states. "We've learned waterproof and repair tape should be included among other DIY repair staples, like a hammer and nails."

For more information about T-Rex Tape, visit <https://www.trextape.com/why-t-rex>.

With the right tools in your toolbox, homeowners can stay prepared to weather winds, rain and other extreme conditions this summer.



Hardy County Commission Meeting

continued from page 3

HCEAA's quarterly board meeting is set for July 9. Vacovsky acknowledged ongoing budgetary strain across EMS agencies and highlighted efforts to strengthen EMS staffing, especially in West Hardy, where crews have performed "spectacular work" despite resource limitations.

Bill Ours, Administrator of the Hardy County Health Department, announced the department has officially moved out of its previous location. He requested — and received — Commission approval to reappoint Nicole Keller to a five-year term. The Commission also approved a previously discussed \$25 fee for fulfilling environmental records requests related to wells, due to the time-intensive nature of the work.

Ours also updated the Commission on discussions with Fresenius Medical Care regarding a potential dialysis center, noting positive feedback from a recent engineering assessment.

Ours 'switched hats' and praised the County's support of the golf course and celebrated the recent opening of the Twisted Iron, a new full-service restaurant offering breakfast, lunch, and dinner in the clubhouse, and open to the public.



continued from page 4

"Our design leans into whimsy, using a lot of things you'd have around the house, combined with other, typical, set-design elements," she said. "We wanted every aspect – from costumes to props, to set pieces – to feel like it was made by people who love this world and want to share its joy."

Imboden's love for the show certainly comes across in her enthusiasm, one shared by the cast.

"What I love is that SpongeBob has this great attitude that every day is going to be the best day ever, and that's exactly how I want to live," said Brett Reel who

Sheriff Steve Dawson reported that the Hardy County Sheriff's Office ended the fiscal year \$40,000 under budget. He provided annual call statistics: HCSO responded to 3,279 calls, compared to 1,900 from Moorefield Police, 474 from WV State Police, and 161 from DNR.

He recognized and officially commended Deputy A. Vance for heroic actions in rescuing a victim from a burning vehicle and properly identifying hazardous materials at the scene to 911 dispatchers.

Continued & New Business

The Commission discussed replacing expiring AED batteries, with over 40 units across the county due for replacement between August and January. The Hardy County Training Center, operated through West Hardy EMS, requested \$8,302 in assistance. Commissioners asked County Coordinator Wendy Branson about USDA grant assistance. She instead noted potential for Congressional direct funding, as the USDA grants that have purchased equipment for first response, including police cruisers, are no longer available.

Several board reappointments were approved: Hardy County Rural Develop-

ment Authority: Elwood Williams, Robert Williams and Greg Greenwalt were reappointed through June 2028, executive director Mallie Combs praised the board as "excellent."

Hardy County Planning Commission: Reappointed Roger Saville and Robert Williams.

Hardy County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA): Daniel Aylor and Barry Conaty were reappointed for three-year terms.

Additional approvals included: a letter of support for the Community Education Group for grant application; and a contract renewal for the Assessor's Office, funded by the Assessor Evaluation Fund.

Branson also updated the Commission on various county initiatives:

The pound took in 13 dogs, including a pregnant hound that gave birth to six puppies. PHAR accepted 10 of the animals. There are 14 dogs at the pound.

Surveillance cameras for the dog pound have been ordered and will be installed once interior work is complete.

A proclamation was approved in support of Hardy County's continued participation in "Hardy County Goes Purple" for substance use awareness this September.

Branson enrolled in an ad-

vanced Grant Writing course through Marshall University from July 15 to September 12.

Additional Reports

Peggy Moomaw reported a \$1,700 quote for a second television in the Commission chambers; no motion was required due to the minimal expenditure. She also noted rescheduling of the Public Information Officer (PIO) training, now set for August 5-7 in Hampshire County.

The Commission renewed a contract with Global Science & Technologies for tech support.

The Commission approved a state budget revision to carry over funds for Fiscal Year 2026.

The May regional jail bill was reported at \$33,832.26.

Farmland Preservation reported \$13,091.10 in transfer tax collections for June. Notably, all related transfer taxes will now stay within the county moving forward.

The next Farmland Preservation Board meeting is scheduled for July 10.

The Commission meets again for the next regular meeting on August 5 at 9 a.m. in their courthouse chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.

All Things Poultry

continued from page 3

program pays producers for the eggs and poultry they cull."

That program, however, does "not pay for birds that died from HPAI."

Farmers were urged to "report sick birds immediately and begin the indemnity (payment) process quickly if you have an infected flock." The USDA handled "depopulation work" and farmers could receive payments within two to three weeks. Farmers could also receive payment for destruction of contaminated materials and "virus elimination activities."

Interestingly, farms participating in this also had to register with the Systems Awards Management system (SAM) as a federal contractor would.

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture has historically operated one of the most comprehensive biosecurity programs for poultry in the nation. As Malcolm explained, "luckily, West Virginia has had no problems, except for a couple of backyard flocks." A Kanawha County flock contracted it in 2024. It was also detected in a Pocahontas County flock in early 2025.

"Geese are probably an issue, Malcolm stated, adding that "they are migratory" and much more immune to the effects of the virus while carrying it. This is likely because long-term consistent exposure helped them to develop stronger immune responses to the virus.

He described some of the robust protections used by farmers and processors to protect birds. Footwear and clothing must receive special attention, as one can track contaminated waste matter into an area with healthy birds. Poultry farmers also, especially during outbreaks, manage access to their property to prevent accidental contamination, even from delivery drivers.

While several other states experienced significant problems, the large poultry industry in the Mountain State has avoided outbreaks seen elsewhere.

From late March to May 1, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture even shut down public exhibitions and events related to poultry. "This is a serious threat to West Virginia's poultry industry which is the largest overall contributor to our state's animal industry economy – this action provides added safeguard," said West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt at the time. He added that "This nationwide outbreak has been ongoing since 2022, and we have worked closely with poultry industry stakeholders and our inter-agency partners to prepare for and respond when needed to a West Virginia outbreak."

The decline in nationwide numbers through the end of 2024 even led to political attacks on President Donald Trump as the price of eggs soared in his first few weeks in office. "Experts" cited by

publications such as the New York Post even predicted an all-time high of eggs at \$5 a carton by the end of the year. Had eggs continued to rise, this would have had an inflationary effect on a large number of food products that use eggs in their production process.

Media "experts," fortunately, are often wrong because they assume that the conditions affecting the issue will not change. Also fortunate, the normal biological process of reproduction kicked in to help solve the population problems.

Recent USDA reports show that populations have started to come back.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during May 2025 was 5.85 billion pounds, up from 5.39 billion pounds in November 2024. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.29 billion pounds, up from 4.83 billion in November.

The poundage of mature chickens by last May had reached 59.8 million pounds, still down 17 percent from the previous year, but an increase of about seven million pounds over that of November 2024.

That does not mean that the poultry industry in West Virginia still does not face significant headwinds.

"In our area, sad to say, a lot of older folks are closing down their poultry farms," shared Malcolm. He explained that "it's because the young folks don't want to do it. That's why they are going to larger farms" such as the large scale complex recently constructed in Old Fields. Many of those in the younger generation have decided to leave the area, despite the good opportunities for employment and careers in various fields that do exist in the Potomac Highlands.

These complexes also simplify the economies of scale, which lead to relatively lower costs of doing business.

The loss of these family operations, however, means that generations of knowledge capital passed on from parents to children, knowledge that has accumulated over time, is increasingly lost to posterity.

That said the two major poultry counties in the region, Pendleton and Hardy, continue to produce young people whose knowledge of poultry helps them to earn state and national awards. The hard work of 4H and the Future Farmers of America continue to educate both girls and boys to the point where their knowledge could make them leaders in the field.

Keeping those great minds in agriculture is the key to poultry's future.

As the area prepares for the family fun and festivity of the West Virginia Poultry Festival, the industry remains a powerful and prosperous foundation for the economy. Its traditions, however, face demographic and economic realities, however, that could pull it away from its deep traditions in the region.

SpongeBob Splashes onto the Stage at McCoys



plays SpongeBob.

Imboden says that the show's central themes of hope, com-

munity, and remaining true to yourself even when it feels like everything is falling apart will

leave audiences with full hearts and big smiles.

"I want people to remember how powerful positivity can be," she says.

"If we can offer audiences a night filled with laughter, color, and music that brings generations together all while sharing a powerful message? Well, that's the magic of theater."

And the magic of Bikini Bottom.

Tickets for the production are Adults - \$15.00 and Students - \$10.00. Performances are July 18, 19, 25, & 26 at 7pm and July 20 & 27 at 2pm at McCoy's Grand, 121 N. Main Street, Moorefield, WV. Tickets can be purchased at mccoysgrand.org.

The West Virginia First Foundation

continued from page 4

Woods briefed the Board on the Qualified Settlement Fund (QSF) and other emerging funding streams, reaffirming WVFF's commitment to transparent, responsible resource management. While the Foundation distributes 72.5 percent of the opioid-settlement dollars, 3 percent flows directly to the State of West Virginia and 24.5 percent goes straight to counties and municipalities. WVFF does not oversee how local governments spend that 24.5 percent; however, it is responsible for collecting and reporting those local expenditure figures from the local governments.

- Next Grant Cycle - Momentum Initiative Grant - Launching

September 22, 2025: The Board voted to approve the launch date for the Foundation's next round of funding. Application details will be announced in the coming months, with continued focus on accountability, impact, and equitable access across all six regions.

- Gap Funding Model Approved: The Board approved the Foundation's new Gap Funding Model presented by the New Horizons Committee to provide short-term loans to nonprofits and public entities awaiting state grant disbursements. This program helps ensure continuity of services during startup periods and reinforces WVFF's commitment to stability and impact across funded programs. Second Stop on the Hold the Line Tour

Following the meeting, WVFF will attend the second stop of its Hold the Line Tour, a site visit to Southern West Virginia Fellowship Home, an IOG-funded recovery program serving the Beckley region. The visit offers Board members a closer look at how opioid settlement funds are already making a difference on the ground and provides time for direct conversations with leadership and residents.

"Our work is moving from promise to practice, and with each visit, we're reminded that behind every number is a name, a story, a life," said Matthew Harvey, Chairman of the WVFF Board of Directors. "Whether we're learning from partners like Jobs & Hope or walking the

halls of Southern West Virginia Fellowship Home, the mission is clear: to help West Virginians reclaim their hope, find healing, and build a future that lasts."

"We've built meaningful momentum, and the energy across our six regions is undeniable," said Jonathan Board, WVFF Executive Director. "The next grant cycle, set to launch during National Recovery Month in September, will be here before we know it. We're committed to making each round stronger, more informed, and more impactful. As we hold the line against this epidemic, every step forward brings us closer to lasting change." For more information on WVFF, visit www.wvfirst.org.

2025 WV Poultry Queen Royalty



Queen - Madelyn Johnson

1st Runner Up - Bryce Miller

2nd Runner Up - Jocelyn Sherman

Miss Congeniality - Sydney Rumer



Teen Queen - Aubree Simmons

1st Runner Up - Mia Shriver

2nd Runner Up - Lelia Brafford



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Moorefield's Gracin Reel smashed a game tying two-run home run against Jefferson County in the Little League 10-12 Baseball District 6 Championship.

Hook, Line and Sinker - District 6 Championship: Moorefield's Reel casts tying dinger, but Jefferson County hooks district crown

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

Moorefield's Gracin Reel casted the game-tying two-run home run, but Jefferson County hooked the West Virginia 10-12 Baseball District 6 Championship with a 3-2 win at Brady Field in Moorefield.

Moorefield starting pitcher Payden Williams allowed a lead-off double by Jefferson County Bechnir Dupree, then countered with a strikeout against Paxton Thomas.

Jefferson County's Cole Willis responded by trading places smacking an RBI double for an initial 1-nil edge.

Williams induced a groundout by Trent Smetek back to himself and over to first baseman Easton Sions.

Jefferson County's Austin Corey launched a shot to center field where Moorefield's Dexten Eye



Moorefield center fielder Dexten Eye robbed a home run against Jefferson County in the Little League 10-12 Baseball District 6 Championship.

robbed a home run at the fence.

Jefferson County pitcher Brayden Kerns tossed a strikeout to Moorefield leadoff batter Kaden Flinn.

Williams lobbed a shot into left field, but the ball was caught.

Moorefield's Jason Klar ripped a double into center field before being stranded on a groundout by Reel.

Jefferson County went down in order during the top of the second inning as Moorefield left fielder Keegan Weatherholtz caught a fly ball, then Williams notched a dropped third strikeout thrown by catcher Jason Klar to Sions before retiring the side with a strikeout.

Moorefield went 1-2-3 on three consecutive strikeouts from Kerns to Sions, Keegan Weatherholtz and Eye.

During the third inning, Williams sandwiched a pair of strikeouts around a single by Kerns.

After a stolen base, Williams jammed Layton Carney into a pop-up caught by third baseman Gracin Reel.

Moorefield's Kipton Sneathen drew a walk, then Levi Rohrbaugh struck out.

Jake Funk hit a chopper back to the pitcher, but the throw was dropped by the first baseman for an error.

Kerns responded with a strikeout to Bobby Barr, then Flinn hit into a fielder's choice out at second base to end the frame.

Jefferson County faced two outs quickly in the fourth inning as Williams threw a strikeout to Dupree and jammed Thomas into a pop-up to Sneathen.

A two-out rally started as Willis drew a walk and stole second base.

Smetek put Jefferson County up 2-nil by hitting an RBI single and Willis beat the throw home, while Smetek advanced to second

base.

Smetek was stranded at third base as Williams recorded a strikeout.

Williams was thrown out at first base on a dropped third strike.

Moorefield's Klar hit a sharp grounder to the first baseman which ricocheted away and nobody covered the base on the error.

Reel stepped up and hammered a two-run home run off the end of his bat just clearing the fence to tie the championship at 2-all.

Kerns countered with a strikeout on Sions.

Weatherholtz smoked a single up the middle, then Eye reached base on a dropped third strike before both runners were stranded on a strikeout to Sneathen.

Jefferson County and Moorefield failed to get baserunners on the pond in the fifth inning as Kerns added two more strike-

outs to his resume and Williams notched one strikeout.

Williams was at his pitch limit walking Jefferson County's Ethan McCreery in the sixth inning and Kaden Flinn came in to pitch for Moorefield.

Kerns smashed an RBI double, but was tagged in a rundown attempting a triple as Jefferson County took a 3-2 advantage.

Flinn answered with a strikeout to Connor Craze, then Layton Carney singled and was stranded on a groundout fielded by Reel.

Moorefield had one more chance to rally, but Kerns garnered a strikeout to start the bottom of the sixth inning against Flinn.

Williams answered with a single sliced into left field, but Jefferson County turned a double play off the bat of Klar to catch the District 6 championship 3-2.

Martinsburg's early attack seals Moorefield fate for district runner-up

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

Martinsburg 10-12 Baseball sparked early fireworks on Independence Day with a 9-1 lead in the second inning before sealing Moorefield's fate in a 10-1 victory to claim the West Virginia Little League District 6 Tournament runner-up spot and state berth.

Moorefield opened the game with Kaden Flinn drawing a walk.

Payden Williams slapped a sharp grounder down the third base line for a single, but Martinsburg fired home to stop Flinn.

Jason Klar flew out to left field as Williams remained at first base.

A pickoff went awry as Williams stole around to home plate to give Moorefield a 1-nil lead.

Moorefield's Gracin Reel singled into center field prior to being stranded on a strikeout by Truett to Easton Sions.

Martinsburg commenced the first inning with a double by Asher into left field, then Jace smacked a double into center field and Dexter Eye's throw back prevented advancement from third base.

Martinsburg tied the game as Lincoln hit a sharp grounder to third base for an RBI single.

Martinsburg took a 2-1 lead as Truett recorded an RBI single into left field.

Bera added to the lead with an RBI single up the middle, then Owen notched an RBI groundout for a 4-1 advantage.

Flinn jammed Hunter into a pop=up, then Garrett singled on a pop fly landing just in front of home plate before the runners were stranded on a strikeout.

Moorefele went down in order in the second inning as Keegan Weatherholtz and Dexten Eye struck out before Kipton Sneathen flew out in left field.

Hudson ripped a double into left field for MARTinsburg, then Flinn issued two walks to load the bases.

Asher unleashed a two-run pro-



Moorefield catcher Jason Klar reached to make a tag against Martinsburg in the Little League 10-12 Baseball District 6 Tournament runner-up game at Brady Field.

ducing double with the latter run just avoiding the tag for a 6-1 lead.

Flinn jammed the next batter into a pop-up to Sneathen.

Lincoln plated two runs with the help of an error as the throw from Williams sailed above Sions at first base for an 8-1 score.

Truett hit an RBI groundout field by Williams to create a 9-1 lead and the inning came to a close on a catch by Eye.

Moorefield's Levi Rohrbaugh grounded out to begin the third inning, then Jake Funk drew a walk.

Bobby Barr hit into a double play as Moorefield came up empty.

Martinsburg was able to draw a pair of walks with two outs before stranding runners on a fly ball.

Klar was issued a free pass for Moorefield in the fourth inning with two outs before being left on the pond with a groundout.

Martinsburg's Elijah was hit by a pitch, then Baylor was thrown out on a dropped third strike with Elijah avoiding a double play at second base on a miscue.

Moorefield brought Gracin Reel to the mound, who induced a groundout.

Martinsburg extended the lead 10-1 as Jaces connected for an RBI single.

Reel issued a free pass before

ending the frame with a strikeout.

Sions grounded out to start the fifth inning for Moorefield, then Weatherholtz flew out to the left fielder.

Eye tapped the ball back to the pitcher, but the first baseman was off the bag stretching for the ball on the single.

Eye was caught in a rundown to retire the side.

Moorefield's Payden Williams won a game of rock-paper-scissors with Flinn to determine who would play in center field as Eye came in to pitch.

Moorefield right fielder Jake Funk caught a fly ball, then Eye snatched a laser and had a huge smile on that second out.

Martinsburg responded with a single by Hunter, then Garrett reached base on an error as Flinn missed a scoop of a grounder.

Eye denied another run with a strikeout to close the inning.

Martinsburg sealed the 10-1 District 6 runner-up win as Truett pitched two strikeouts to Sneathen and Rohrbaugh before a sharp grounder by Funk was mishandled by the third baseman and recovered in time to make the throw to first base for the final out.

Marinsburg will join Jefferson County at the state tournament in Elkins.

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

Faith as small as a mustard seed moved Moorefield's Sunday worship into a song of praise with a 5-1 victory over Man in the second round of the West Virginia 10-12 Softball State Tournament in South Charleston for the Herd bracket division.

Moorefield's team gathered for prayer prior to the state tournament game and reaped the benefits of trust and guidance sowed during the game.

Moorefield was the District 6 champion and had a first round bye.

Man edged Nicholas 6-5 in the Herd bracket first round contest to face Moorefield.

Moorefield pitcher Rebecca Liller kept Man off-balanced with 10 strikeouts and allowed only two hits in the win.

Man commenced the game grabbing a 1-0 lead on an RBI single by Jerzee.

Liller got help on defense with a fielder's choice out thrown by Ally Landes, then finished off the side with two strikeouts.

Liller reached base on an error and scored on an RBI double by Naomi Markwood into left field as Moorefield tied the game in the bottom of the first inning.

Moorefield collected four runs in the third inning to create the final score of 5-1.

Moorefield's Avelyn Bean hopped on base as the pitcher's throw went awry with one out, then Aubrey Hose drew a walk.

The runners remained still on a pop-up to third base.

Liller hammered an inside-the-



Photo by Kim Linville

The Moorefield team prayed before the West Virginia Little League 10-12 Softball State Tournament opener held in South Charleston on Sunday.

park three-run home run launching the ball deep into center field for a 4-1 advantage.

Moorefield's Harper Hunt belted the ball into right field where it was mishandled and Hunt dashed around to home plate on the error for the 5-1 win.

Liller finished the game tossing back-to-back strikeouts.

Moorefield advanced to the Herd bracket finals to battle Ripley, who beat Sophia (15-2) and Ona Milton (4-2).

Fellow District 6 representative Hedgesville, lost to Logan 7-1 in the first round of the Mountaineer bracket, then rebounded with a shutout win over Trap Hill 14-nil for a rematch against Logan.



There will be an inaugural alumni baseball game this Friday in Petersburg between the Vikings and the Moorefield Yellow Jackets at 6:00 p.m. This is a fundraising event to support both high schools.



Moorefield Junior League Baseball rollercoaster state ride halted by Martinsburg in state championship game

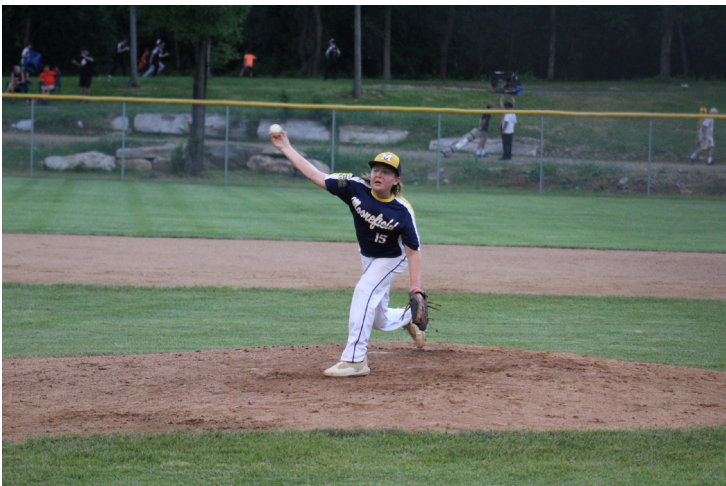
By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

Moorefield had a rollercoaster ride during the West Virginia Junior League Baseball State Tournament in Martinsburg. Moorefield Junior League erased an 8-0 deficit to narrowly scale past Princeton in the state tournament opener 10-9 before being stonewalled by Martinsburg 25-nil and continuing the ride into the elimination round. Moorefield emerged with an 8-3 win over Princeton to meet up with Martinsburg again in the championship before falling 12-2 to conclude the state tournament ride. Martinsburg Junior League returns to the Southeast Region Tournament representing West Virginia again. Moorefield trailed Princeton 8-0 in the second inning before putting on the rally caps in the opening round. Princeton's Lucas, Tunstalle, Harvey and Jenkins each garnered RBI doubles during that run. The Moorefield rally in the second inning started with two free

passes given to Keaton Watts and Eastyn Haines. Eli Kidwell notched an RBI groundout to third base to put Moorefield on the scoreboard, 8-1. Haines stole home to make it 8-2 prior to a strikeout to Will See. Moorefield's Weston Eye and Tyler Roy drew walks before being stranded on a pop-up by Zack Harvey. Princeton went down in order during the second inning on two groundouts sandwiching a strikeout thrown by Weston Eye. Moorefield's Hunter Wimer hit a bloop single into center field, then Brantley Crites flew out. Dakon Taylor drew a walk and the baserunners made a double steal. Moorefield's Jake Baldwin hammered a two-run producing double into center field to cut the deficit in half, 8-4. Watts drew a walk, then Baldwin advanced to third base on a wild pitch before Watts swiped second base. Kidwell ripped a two RBI double up the middle as Moorefield closed the gap 8-6 in the third inning and the inning came to a

close on a strikeout to See. Moorefield loaded the bases in the fourth inning with a single by Roy and walks to Harvey and Wimer. Taylor was issued a free pass with two outs to plate Roy for an 8-7 score and a groundout closed the frame. Moorefield tied the game in the fifth inning as Haines singled and scored on a wild pitch. Princeton went back on top in the sixth inning with an RBI single by Browning, 9-8. Crites drew a walk in the seventh inning and tied the game on a balk. Baldwin singled and made the winning run with the help of another balk, 10-9. Martinsburg shutout Moorefield 25-0 in the second round which included ten runs score in both the third and fourth innings. Martinsburg ace Cole allowed one hit with five strikeouts, while Deeds close the game with two strikeouts. Rosie led Martinsburg with three hits, four RBI's and two runs scored. Haines recorded the lone

Moorefield hit which was a double. Moorefield bounced back in the loser's bracket eliminating Princeton 8-3 to reach the championship. Princeton took the initial lead in the first inning on Harvey's RBI single. Moorefield tied the game in the third inning as Eye walked and Harvey singled before Wimer hit into a double play with Eye coming home. Moorefield's Dakon Taylor smashed a double in the fourth inning, then Baldwin walked before Watts put Moorefield ahead with an RBI single, 2-1. Kidwell notched an RBI groundout to extend the lead 3-1. See and Eye drew walks before being stranded on a strikeout. Moorefield loaded the bases in the fifth inning with walks thrice to Wimer, Crites and Taylor. Princeton's Lucas sandwiched strikeouts around a free pass to Watts plating Wimer. Crites and Taylor stole home to put Moorefield up 6-1. Princeton scored twice in the sixth inning and Moorefield an-



Moorefield's Will See pitched against Princeton during the opening round of the West Virginia Junior League Baseball State Tournament in Martinsburg.

swered with two runs on single by Baldwin for the final score of 8-3. Watts pitched six innings for Moorefield with six strikeouts and seven hits, while Baldwin pitched one inning with no hits. Martinsburg secured the state championship with a 12-2 win over Moorefield. Martinsburg built an 8-0 lead over the first two innings before hitting cruise control. Henderson pitched four strikeouts with one hit allowed for Martinsburg, while Deeds notched five strikeouts with two hits. Moorefield's Taylor pitched one strikeout and allowed six hits, while Baldwin pitched two strikeouts with two hits. Moorefield's Haines crushed an RBI double (Crites) in the fourth inning and Wimer added an RBI single (Kidwell) in the sixth inning for the two runs during the 12-2 title defeat to Martinsburg.

2025 Cumberland Times-News All-Area Baseball Team

By Alex Rychwalski
Cumberland Times-News

Northern, Frankfort and Allegany combined for 11 selections to the first team, and nine different schools were represented on the 2025 Cumberland Times-News All-Area baseball team. The squad was chosen at a meeting of the area's head coaches on Monday. Six coaches attended the meeting, and 12 nominated players to be considered. Senior-laden Northern, which finished with an area-best 18-3 record, led the way with five players named to the first team. Maryland Class 1A state champion Allegany and West Virginia Class AAA runner-up Frankfort slotted three players each, and East Hardy, Fort Hill and Southern tallied one each. Petersburg, Keyser and Mountain Ridge had players named to the second team.

First Team

Pitchers

A pair of award winners and the area's ERA champ made up the three-team pitching staff. Frankfort junior Lanson Orndorf, the Potomac Valley Conference Player of the Year and a Class AAA All-State first-teamer, was selected as Area Player of the Year. He makes the All-Area first team for a second time. The right-handed University of Charleston commit finished with a 7-3 record, two saves and a 2.85 ERA in 66 1/3 innings pitched. He struck out an area-best 76 and walked 14. Allegany sophomore right-hander Kohen Madden was voted Pitcher of the Year. His 1.40 ERA ranked third locally, and he went 5-1 with a save with 62 strikeouts to 21 walks in 50 innings of work. Northern junior right-hander Landon Yoder rounded out the staff. His 0.38 earned run average led the area for players who threw at least 30 innings. Yoder had a 6-0 record and allowed just two earned runs in 37 2/3 innings pitched, striking out 33 and walking five.

Catcher

Southern junior Reece Tasker is the first-team catcher after hitting safely 20 times in 50 at-bats for a .400 average with six doubles, one triple, two home runs, 12 RBIs and nine runs scored.

Infield

A pair of first basemen and a pair of shortstops were named to the first-team infield. Northern first baseman Wally Brands was the lone senior selected to the position group. Brands had a .405 average with four doubles, a home run, 23 RBIs and 29 runs. Brands, who made the first team as a sophomore and was second team last year, was admitted to the United States Naval Academy, where he will hope to continue his baseball career. Fellow Western Maryland Athletic Conference first baseman, Allegany's Kane Williams, lands on the top squad after establishing himself as one of the area's premier power hitters. The left-handed hitting sophomore batted .397 with four home runs, five triples, six doubles, 29 RBIs and 26 runs. It will be Williams' final season at Allegany, as he is transferring to Morgantown next year. Junior shortstops Evan Hamilton of East Hardy and Blake Jacobs of Frankfort make their second straight appearance on the top team. Hamilton, who captained the Class A All-State team for the state title-winning Cougars, batted .485 adding 10 doubles, nine triples, five home runs, 24 RBIs, 44 runs scored and 28 stolen bases in 29 games. Jacobs, a Class AAA All-Stater, hit .412 with 11 doubles, a triple, four homers, 33 RBIs, 45 runs and 20 stolen bases.

Outfield

A trio of seniors return to the first-team outfield, though one, Allegany's Myles Bascelli, made the squad as a pitcher in 2024. Bascelli started slow but ended with a .317 average, tallying seven doubles, a triple, a home run, 13 RBIs, 32 runs scored and 12 stolen bases. The center fielder and lead-off man for the state titleist Campers, Bascelli likely possessed the strongest arm of an outfielder this season. Northern senior Luke Ross, the WestMAC Player of the Year, led all outfielders with a .435 batting average. He doubled six times and tripled once, driving in 15 runs, scoring 32 times himself and swiping 18 bases. Frankfort's Jacob Nething, who was Class AAA All-State first team, returns to the All-Area first team following a season in which he recorded a .390 average, nine doubles, three triples, two home runs, 35 RBIs and 34 runs.

Utility

The area batting champ and a senior who relinquished his starting catching spot to get another bat in the lineup made the squad as utility players. Fort Hill sophomore Bobby Brauer was tops locally with a .541 average to go along with five doubles, two triples, 12 RBIs, 20 runs scored and 18 stolen bases. Northern senior Liam Stewart started the season as a catcher but moved to second base to get Hunter Livengood's bat in the lineup. He finished with a .390 average, adding two doubles, 11 RBIs and 15 runs.

Designated Hitter

Northern sophomore Jake Chambers was picked as the first-team DH. He hit .350 with three doubles, a triple, a home run, 18 runs batted in and 18 runs scored.

Second Team

The second-team pitchers are Northern left-handed senior Robert Deatelhauser, Frankfort right-handed junior Jaxon Hare and Southern left-handed sophomore Cade Leader. Fort Hill sophomore Jake Rice is the second-team catcher. Three seniors made the second-team infield: Southern's Brayden Upole, Northern's Cole Folk and Petersburg's Peyton Tingler. Allegany sophomore Cole Ricker and Petersburg freshman Payton Metheny round out the unit. Northern seniors Devin McKenzie and Nick Riley and Southern senior Jared Haskiell are the second-team outfielders. Allegany senior Landyn Ansel, who is signed to Davis and Elkins, and Keyser junior Lucas Williamson received the nod as utility men. The designated hitters are Mountain Ridge sophomore John Delaney and East Hardy sophomore Garrett VanMeter.

Honorable Mention

Pitcher: Carson Bender (Fort Hill), Rhett Sensabaugh (Frankfort); Catcher: Justin Wakefield (Allegany), Hunter Harr (Keyser), Oliver Crites (Moorefield); Infield: Jackson Resh (Allegany), Mason Hamilton (East Hardy), Colt Resh (Fort Hill), Lane Lease (Frankfort), Brayden Hott (Hampshire), Cam Larkin (Keyser), Lukas Wolford (Petersburg), Ryan Bird (Southern); Outfield: Eli Imes (Allegany), Coye Resh (Fort Hill), Uriah Cutter (Frankfort), Channing Wilt (Hampshire), Mikey Mongold, Landon Tysinger (Keyser); Utility: Lucas Davy (Keyser).

Poultry Kiddie Parade

Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025 Time: 10:00 am

Location: Moorefield Bingo Hall to Moorefield Town Park

Please Circle One Category to take part in:

☐ Newborn to 2 Years Old

☐ Toddler (3-4 Years Old)

☐ Grades Pre K – 2

☐ Grades 3-5

☐ Middle School

Wheels (i.e. Bikes, Trikes, Wagons, Power Wheels but NO Motorized Vehicles)

** Grade will be the grade going into for the School Year 2025-2026

In consideration of my application being accepted, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, and executors, waive, release and forever discharge any and all rights and claims for damages which I may have or may hereafter accrue to me against the organizers, sponsors and beneficiaries of the event for any and all injuries suffered by me in said event. I attest and verify that I am physically fit and sufficiently trained for the completion of this event.

Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use my name, photographs, videotapes, recordings or any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose without compensation or remuneration.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Signature of Participant: _____

Signature of Parent: _____

For more information, contact the Hardy County Health and Wellness Center at (304) 538-7380

WV POULTRY ASSOCIATION

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JULY 12TH

10:00 AM

All current poultry festival crown holders and area royalty are invited to join the parade entries.

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MOBILE HOME lots for rent only (No Mobile Homes) at Cedar Manor Mobile Home Park in Petersburg, WV. Serious inquires may call 304-668-0730. tfn

STORAGE

OLD FIELDS Storage (Units 5x10) (10x10) (10x20). Located 4.5 Miles on Rt. 220 North of Moorefield. Call 304-538-3300. tfn

MTM STORAGE, 5x10 to 12x24. Rt. 55 East of Moorefield and South Fork Depot in Moorefield. Storage units, retail space, office space. 304-530-6707 tfn

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BRYANS LAWN and Maintenance needs help for weed eating. 304- 897-6752 or 304-490-9673. Tfn

LOST RIVER GRILL is hiring cooks for lunch and dinner shifts, Flexible hours, good pay. Contact Kevin. 410-340-2201.tfn

The Region VIII Solid Waste Authority is seeking applicants for a part-time Transfer Station Assistant. This position will require work at both our Northern and Southern Transfer Stations, near Petersburg and Romney, WV. Preference will be given to applicants with demonstrated experience in the operation and maintenance of mobile construction equipment such as wheel loaders and excavators. On-the-job training will be provided. The job requires a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week at \$17.00 per hour. Travel and Saturday work will be required. Please call 304-257-2644 for an application and further information. Applications are accepted until June 19, 2025. The Region VIII SWA is an equal opportunity employer.

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REUNION

Harry and Edna Combs Reunion July 13,2025 at 1pm Mathias Community Center BBQ Chicken will be supplied All paper products will be supplied Bring a covered dish and come enjoy time with family. Hope to see you there!!!7/19

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Farm Exemption & Assessment forms will be mailed this year. Please bring ALL forms with you to the Assessor's Office, mail forms in or complete on-line at hardycountyassessors.com by September 1st, 2025.

Failure to bring forms will result in NOT being able to signup for farm. Please get those forms back to Hardy County Assessor's Office at 204 Washington Street.

Questions, please call the office at 304-530-0202



PUBLIC NOTICES

DISTRICT LOST RIVER MAP 427 PARCEL 0055 0008 0000

You will take notice that ONLINE RESERVATION SPECIALISTS , the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No. 2023-C-000017** , located in LOST RIVER District, NE OF SHOEMAKER HOLLOW RD 1.635 AC AYERS 11-19-08 which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of AYERS SHIRLEY G LIFE TERRY D PYLES , and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARDY County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on June 12, 2024. ONLINE RESERVATION SPECIALISTS INC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after July 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before June 30, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 2738 .	\$299.10
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023-2744 .	\$195.16
Additional taxes with interest.	\$0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$212.95
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$827.84
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$51.16
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$1,586.21

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

If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total amount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand April 2, 2025

Christal G. Perry

Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of HARDY County, State of West Virginia

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

6/25,7/2,7/9

NOTICE OF TRUSTEES OF PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER CHURCH PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the Diocesan Trustees of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of West Virginia, will on or after July 16, 2025, convey, without consideration, to the Hardy County Historical Society, Inc., Moorefield, West Virginia, that certain tract or parcel of real estate situate in Moorefield Corporate District, Hardy County, West Virginia, more particularly bounded and described as follows, to-wit: All that certain tract or parcel of real estate situate at the intersection of Winchester Avenue and South Fork Road, in the Town of Moorefield, Moorefield Corporate District of Hardy County, West Virginia, together with parish house and any and all other improvements thereon and rights, interests, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anyway appertaining, and described in the prior deed in chain of title as containing "one rood, and five square poles," to which deed reference is hereby made for a more particular metes and bounds description of said real estate. Being all the same real estate conveyed by John J. Chipley and Sallie V. Chipley, his wife, unto John W. Inskeep, Hamilton Mc. S. Gamble and Joseph Sprigg, Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Moorefield, Hardy County, West Virginia, known as Emanuel Parish, by deed dated June 20, 1877, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Hardy County, West Virginia in Deed Book No. 32, at Page 96, to which deed reference is hereby made for all proper and pertinent purposes. This real estate is currently assessed by the Hardy County Assessor as Tax Map 3, Parcel 288, consisting of a lot measuring 185.46' x 127.9' x 226.9'. Dated this 1st day of July, 2025. Diocesan Trustees of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of West Virginia: Gat Caperton
Thomas Gilpin
David Kersey
John R. McGhee,
Steve Robey
Rt. Rev. Matthew D. Cowden, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

7/9,7/16

Fiduciary Notice

The Estate of Julian Frechtman is before the undersigned for First and Final Settlement.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2025.

Brian J. Vance
Fiduciary Commissioner

7/2,7/9

Fiduciary Notice

The Estate of Ok Tae Kim is before the undersigned for First and Final Settlement.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2025.

Brian J. Vance
Fiduciary Commissioner

7/2,7/9

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE is hereby given pursuant to and by virtue of the authority vested in the Substitute Trustee, Pill & Pill, PLLC, by that certain Deed of Trust dated May 28, 2010, of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Hardy County, West Virginia, in Book 255, at Page 110 and re-recorded in Book 255, at Page 618 executed by Borrower(s), Shawn Glen Simon, to Steven R. Hardman, the Trustee. At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 398 High Knob, Oldfields, WV 26845. Pill & Pill, PLLC were appointed as Substitute Trustees by APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE dated April 30, 2025, of record in the Clerk's Office in Book 358, Page 437. The borrower(s) defaulted under the Note and Deed of Trust and the Substitute Trustees have been instructed to foreclose under the Deed of Trust. Accordingly, the Substitute Trustees will sell the following described property to the highest bidder at the front door of the Courthouse of Hardy County, in Moorefield, West Virginia, on the following date:

July 17, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

All that certain tract or parcel of real estate, together with all rights, rights-of-ways, improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, and lying and being situate in Moorefield District, Hardy County, West Virginia, in what is known as "The Subdivision of Old Fields", and being designated as Lot Number 1 of Section 1, containing 5.37 acres, more or less, on a plat or map of said section made by Allen G. Clem, Licensed Land Surveyor No. 236, that is of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Hardy County, West Virginia, in Plat Book No. 1, at Page 19, Reference is now made to said plat or map for a more particular description of said real estate and for any and all pertinent purposes. Being the same property conveyed by Deed dated May 4, 2010 to Shawn Glenn Simon and recorded in Deed Book 314, at Page 431.

TERMS OF SALE:

1) The physical property will be conveyed in an "AS IS" physical condition by Deed containing express or implied, subject to the Internal Revenue Service right of redemption, all property taxes, prior Deeds, liens, reservations, encumbrances, restrictions, rights-of-ways, easements, covenants, conveyances and conditions of record in the Clerk's office or affecting the subject property.

2) The Purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the transfer taxes imposed by the West Virginia Code § 11-22-1.

3) The Beneficiary and/or the Servicer of the Deed of Trust and Note reserve the right to submit a bid for the property at sale.

4) The Trustee reserves the right to continue sale of the subject property from time to time by written or oral proclamation, which continuance shall be in the sole discretion of the Trustee.

5) The Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the property to vacate said property, and any personal property and/or belongings remaining at the property after the foreclosure sale will be deemed to constitute ABANDONED PROPERTY AND WILL BE DISPOSED OF ACCORDINGLY.

6) The total purchase price is payable to the Trustee within thirty (30) days of the date of sale, with ten (10%) of the total purchase price payable to the Trustee at sale.

Pill & Pill, PLLC, Substitute Trustee

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

6/25/7/2,7/9

Moorefield Independence Day Parade shows pride for our country



TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in it by that certain Deed of Trust dated July 16, 2020, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Hardy County, West Virginia, in Deed of Trust Book 322, at Page 98, Jaime Lee Lewis did convey unto Randall R. Conrad, II, Trustee, certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Pill & Pill, PLLC as Substitute Trustee by a Substitution of Trustee recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office; and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by the secured party to foreclose thereunder, will offer for sale at public auction at the front door of the Hardy County Courthouse, in Moorefield, West Virginia, on July 17, 2025, at 10:32 AM

The following described real estate, with its improvements, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in the South Fork District, Hardy County, West Virginia, and more particularly described as follows: PARCEL ONE:

All that certain tract or parcel of real estate, together with all rights, rights-of-ways, improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate on the east side of Rig Road in South Fork District, Hardy County, West Virginia, originally containing 1 acre, more or less, and being more particularly described by metes and bounds description incorporated in that certain Deed to Raymond Yankey dated May 23, 1958, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Hardy County West Virginia, in Deed Book No. 92, at Page 113, to which reference is now made for a more particular description of said real estate and for any and all other pertinent purposes; LESS HOWEVER, 0.07 acres, more or less, conveyed from Arlie Secrist to Michael Snyder and Emmett Halterman, Trustees Of the Calvary Baptist Temple, by Deed dated March 8, 1989, and of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book No. 203, at Page 146; and LESS HOWEVER, 0.386 acres, more or less, conveyed from Sandra Bacon to the Trustees of the Calvary Baptist Temple by Deed dated May 15, 1998, and of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed. Book No. 247, at Page 578, leaving 0.54 acres, more or less.

The real estate is identified for tax assessment purposes in the Hardy County Assessor's Office on Tax Map 322, as Parcel 0037.

PARCEL TWO:

All that certain tract or parcel of real estate, together with all rights, rights-of-ways, improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging situate 1.53 miles southwest of Rig, on the east side of Rig Road, in South Fork District, Hardy County, West Virginia, designated as Tract 1, containing 0.0528 acres (2,303 square feet), more or less, and

being more particularly described by metes and bounds according to a Plat of Survey and Description of Survey prepared by Curtis E. Keplinger, Licensed Land Surveyor No. 518, of record in the Office of the Clerk Of the County Commission of Hardy County, West Virginia, in Deed Book No.163, at Page 113, to which reference is now made for a more particular description of said real estate and for any and all other pertinent purposes.

The real estate is identified for tax assessment purposes in the Hardy County Assessor's Office on Tax Map 322, as Parcel 0035.0008.

Being the same tracts or parcels of real estate conveyed unto Jaime Lee Lewis from South Branch Ventures, LLC, a West Virginia Limited Liability Company, by Deed dated July 16, 2020, to be recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Hardy County, West Virginia, prior to or contemporaneously with the recordation of this instrument. Reference is hereby made to the aforesaid deed and other documents therein referred to and same are incorporated herein, by reference, for any and all pertinent purposes.

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

At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have a mailing address of 5531 Rig Road, Rig, WV 26836.

AND BEING the same real estate which was conveyed to Jaime Lee Lewis, by Deed dated July 16, 2020, from South Branch Ventures, LLC, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Hardy County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 354, at Page 479.

The above-described property will be sold subject to any covenants, restrictions, easements, leases and conditions of record, and subject to any unpaid real estate taxes.

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

TERMS: Ten percent (10%) of the purchase price as a deposit with the balance due and payable within 30 days of the day of sale.

Jonathan L. Wertman, Authorized Signatory

P. O. Box 440, 85 Aikens Center, Martinsburg, WV 25404
Phone (304) 263-4971, Fax (304) 267-5840, e-mail: foreclosures@pillwvlaw.com

7/2,7/9,7/16

Hardy County Schools bestowed special sports awards to student-athletes

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

East Hardy High School and Moorefield High School bestowed prestigious awards to the student-athletes for their leadership, dedication, character and sportsmanship.

Moorefield Baseball coach Wade Armentrout presented the Josh Reider award to junior Oliver Crites for being the ultimate teammate showing respect and molding positivity out of criticism.

Moorefield Football coach Matt Altobello recognized senior Austin Wolfe with the Donnie Schell award for being a great teammate, willingness to do anything asked of him, motivated to excel and maintaining a positive attitude.

The Joe Sherman Award for an offensive lineman and track athlete was given to senior Ethan Eye by Coach Altobello.

This award recognizes the moral fiber and dedication of the dual-sport athlete in football and track.

The Moorefield High School Dennis Hill Athletic Director’s Award was presented to senior

Trace Pope by current A.D. Jared Wratchford.

Pope was honored for his growth, ability to overcome adversity, contribution to his teams and enthusiastic support of his classmates in respective sports.

Pope competed in football, wrestling and track.

“It means a lot, especially coming back from injuries to be able to go down to the state track meet and compete. I am honored to be given this award by Mr. Jared. It means a lot. I just want to thank God and Jared for this award. [Advice. Work hard and don’t take it for granted. It goes by quick. Trust in God,” Moorefield senior Trace Pope stated.

The Moorefield High School American Legion Scholar Athlete Awards were given to Elektra Sions and Lian Mung with presentation by principal Amanda Campbell.

This award honors the student-athletes with the highest grade point average.

The Outstanding Senior Girl Athlete of the Year trophy was presented to Seanna Heavner.

Heavner was a three-sport athlete competing in volleyball, girls basketball and softball.

““I was very honored. [Advice] Always work hard and do your best. My favorite memory is just being with my friends and making memories with them. I mad some of my best friends playing sports,” Moorefield Outstanding Senior Girl Athlete of the Year Seanna Heavner commented.

The Outstanding Senior Boy Athlete of the Year trophy was presented to Diego Taylor.

Taylor was a three-sport athlete competing in football, boys basketball and track.

Taylor will be competing in the inaugural track program at Potomac State College.

“It means a lot. It’s good to know how much work I put in with the injuries and everything I have gone through. I really pushed myself with all this work. It feels good to see people realize that. [Advice] Never give up and always try your best no matter what you go through. Never stop planning to be the best player you can be. [Potomac State College Track] I am very excited. I am going to work very hard this summer and off-season to get better and get faster to help the team the best way possible,” Moorefield Outstanding Senior Boy Athlete of the Year Diego Taylor noted.

The MHS M.A. Bean Award is the most prestigious award given to the student-athletes and this year’s recipient was Seanna Heavner.

Heavner was selected after being one of the finalists completing a written essay and voting by former M.A. Bean Award winners panel.

The MHS M. A. Bean Award honors the student-athlete for academic success, leadership, character and faith.

“It means a lot to me. It makes me really happy and I am proud of myself,” M.A. Bean Award recipient Seanna Heavner said.

East Hardy High School special awards started with the East Hardy Softball Jason Foltz Memorial Leadership Award presented to Jaylynn Combs for her leadership, dedication and constant smile with an uplifting spirit.

The East Hardy High School Ralph J. Bean Award was bestowed upon Chloe Miller and accepted by cousin Brooklyn Miller with the presentation by Kanawha County Circuit Court judge Carrie Webster.

Chloe Miller was recognized for her academic success, teamwork, leadership and character.

The Jamie Good Award was presented to senior Brooklynn Tinnell by Renee Reed and Dustin Orndorff.

This award recognizes Tinnell for her faith, teamwork, leadership and dedication.

Tinnell competed in volleyball, girls basketball and track.

Tinnell helped the volleyball team to a Class A state tournament runner-up finish and set the girls basketball career and single season scoring records.

“It means a lot to me. I am very blessed to be able to play

four years of sports here at East Hardy. I am grateful for my time at East Hardy and grateful to receive this award,” Jamie Good Award recipient Brooklynn Tinnell remarked.

Jamie Good was a founding member of the EHHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes who competed in volleyball and track, before tragically lost in a car accident during her high school career.

Orndorff was the first male recipient of the Jamie Good Award.

The Pete Vance Award recipient was senior Eli Mathias and presented by Jimmy Vance, son of the award namesake.

Pete Vance was the first athletic director in East Hardy High School history and this award recognizes Mathias for his competitiveness and dedication.

The EHHS Female Athlete of the Year Award was bestowed upon junior Morganne Miller.

Miller is a three-sport athlete competing in volleyball, wrestling and track.

Miller helped guide the volleyball team to a Class A

state runner-up finish, earned Potomac Valley Conference championship and third place medal in girls state wrestling and collected a seventh place state track shuttle hurdles medal.

The EHHS Male Athlete of the Year Award was given to sophomore Evan Hamilton.

Hamilton was a two-sport athlete competing in boys basketball and baseball.

Hamilton led East Hardy Baseball team to the Class A state championship for the first time in 38 years and honored as the Class A All-State Baseball captain, in addition to helping the boys basketball team finish in the state semifinals.

“It’s cool. I don’t know if it is anything else special than what everybody else feels, but it was fun. I give God the glory,” East Hardy Male Athlete of the Year Evan Hamilton remarked.

Hardy County sports teams have well-deserving student-athletes showing tremendous leadership, teamwork and dedication lifting teams to success on and off the field and court.



East Hardy High School Jamie Good Award: Brooklynn Tinnell (presented by Renee Reed and Dustin Orndorff)



East Hardy High School Female Athlete of the Year: Morganne Miller (presented by athletic director Devon Orndorff)



East Hardy High School Male Athlete of the Year: Evan Hamilton (presented by athletic director Devon Orndorff)



Moorefield High School Baseball Josh Reider Award: Oliver Crites (presented by coach Wade Armentrout)



Moorefield High School Joe Sherman Award (Football and Track): Ethan Eye (presented by football coach Matt Altobello)



East Hardy Softball Jason Foltz Memorial Leadership Award: Jaylynn Combs (presented by assistant coach Joey Strosnider)



Moorefield High School M.A. Bean Award: Seanna Heavner (presented by Beth See and athletic director Jared Wratchford)



Moorefield High School Senior Boy Athlete of the Year Award: Diego Taylor (presented by athletic director Jared Wratchford)



Moorefield High School Dennis Hill Athletic Directors Award: Trace Pope (presented by athletic director Jared Wratchford)



East Hardy High School Ralph J. Bean Award: Chloe Miller (Brooklyn Miller accepted award on Chloe Miller's behalf presented by Kanawha County Circuit Court Judge Carrie Webster)



East Hardy High School Pete Vance Award: Eli Mathias (presented by Jimmy Vance)



Moorefield High School Senior Athletes of the Year: Diego Taylor and Seanna Heavner



Moorefield High School M.A. Bean Award & Senior Girl Athlete of the Year Award: Seanna Heavner (presented by Jared Wratchford)



Moorefield High School American Legion Male Scholar Athlete of the Year Award: Lian Mung (presented by MHS principal Amanda Campbell)







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