



MOOREFIELD EXAMINER

Established 1845

AND HARDY COUNTY NEWS

USPS 362-300

VOLUME 134 • NUMBER 7

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

\$1.50

Wardensville Town Council Reviews Water and Sewer Situation

By Steve Pendleton

The Wardensville Town Council convened in regular session on Monday, February 9, 2026, at the Visitor's Center. Present were Mayor Besty Orndoff-Sayers; Council members Charlotte Bowman, Serena Kay Cline, Michael Funkhouser, Ed Klinovski, Erich Atkinson, Public Works Supervisor; Connie Miller, office staff.

The meeting opened with

prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council approved the minutes from the meeting of December 8, 2025, and the payment of bills.

The meeting began with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council approved minutes from the January meeting and authorized bills to be paid.

After Betsy Orndoff-Sayer opened the floor for public comments, Courtney Malone expressed opposition to comments being disallowed on the town's

Facebook page. The elimination of comments began in October after a pattern of inappropriate, non-productive messages were posted. Ms. Malone indicated that she would continue to protest the decision until comments were again permitted on the site. The mayor noted that citizens may call or drop by the town office to express their concerns.

Mayor's Report

Mayor's Report – February 9, 2026 # 3

The community remains on a

Boil Water notice. We have requested a hearing with the WV Bureau of Public Health to request the lifting of the Boil Water Notice. The boil water is a precautionary warning. We have filed a response to the Public Service Commission regarding Shanna Miller's filing of a formal complaint. We are in the process of responding to the news.

Sanitary Survey's Significant Finding. I would like to point out that our previous Sanitary Sur-

continued on page 5



Commissioners approve HCEAA building for second early voting location HCCOA achieves financial stability

By Hannah Heishman

The Hardy County Commission held a regular monthly meeting on Feb. 3. Students from Hardy County FFA attended the meeting.

Commissioner David Workman attended by telephone.

Office of Emergency Management and 911 Director Paul Lewis reported there were no communications issues during a winter storm. He said calls took longer due to icy roads, but that all first responders did an excellent job.

Bergton responded to a sledging accident on Crab Run in Hardy County, as a result of a new memorandum of understanding (MOU), which took three years to finalize.

"It's producing results," said Commission president Steven Schetrom.

Roger Vacovsky presented Hardy County Emergency Ambulance Authority's financial information. He said their income was below projection for January, so they also "ratcheted back expenses."

West Hardy EMS treasurer Billie Biddle agreed that January was slow, adding that it's normal.

Vacovsky and Biddle discussed mutual aid calls; West Hardy was dispatched for four calls in HCEAA's area, and was canceled for three of them.

Vacovsky noted that two of the

mutual aid calls were during a 90-minute period with five calls.

Bill Ours, Hardy County Health Department and president of the Committee on Aging, said the dialysis center has a single patient enrolled until the State assesses them as ready to accept all patients.

If someone is receiving dialysis, they can request transfer back to the Hardy County center.

Ours said that once it's ready, there are 13 patients signed up from the Keyser dialysis center and an additional 10 who will receive treatment at home.

He said many citizens are experiencing Covid and the flu, and expressed concern that, "measles is all around us."

"We're seeing diseases we haven't seen in a while," he said. "Follow the science and the history of what's protected our people."

Sheriff Steve Dawson said his deputies have been busy, with more than 200 calls in January.

At January's meeting Dawson told the Commission his office was assisting ICE; this month, he reported they'd arrested 10 illegal immigrants.

Deputy Brad Short's K9 is eight years old, and will retire in March. He is not planning to replace her. Dawson said Short will keep her.

County Clerk Loretta Humbertson told the Commission that

continued on page 4

Hardy County Primary Election Candidate Filings Set and Early Voting Locations Expanded

By Stephen Smoot

On Feb 4, West Virginia Secretary of State Kris Warner announced "more than 2,600 candidates filed to be part of West Virginia's May 12th primary election." The number totaled 2,661 with 2,047 filing for county and municipal offices and 614 for state.

Increasing numbers of town and city elections have synchronized with the county-held primaries after a state law mandating that. Municipalities that have not done so still have some years to implement that change, however. Wardensville's Town elections will be held in conjunction with the primary run by Hardy County on the same days and in normal county election polling locations.

"There is a lot of interest in seeking party nominations and election at the upcoming Primary Election. It's encouraging to see so many people who want

to become, or remain, public servants," shared Warner.

Additionally, those who favor early voting now have another option for polling. In its first meeting in February, the Hardy County Commission approved naming the Hardy County Emergency Ambulance Authority in Baker as an additional early voting location. The Commission released that the purpose lay in giving "Hardy County residents in the eastern part of the county a closer, more convenient place to cast their ballots."

Every candidate's Certificate of Announcement will be reviewed by State Secretary of State staff for accuracy. Candidates have until Feb 17 to officially withdraw from a race. After Feb 17, the State Secretary of State's office "will be able to certify the final list of candidates." Within 10 days of filing the Certificate of Announcement, candidates by law must file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement as well.

Candidates who filed in City of Wardensville election, on May 12 in conjunction with that of Hardy County, include Betsy Orndoff-Sayers for Mayor, Charlotte Bowman and Edward Klinovski for Town Council

For County Commission, the candidates are Sherri Hof of Capon, Justin M. Evans of Moorefield, and Michael P. Phillips from Old Fields, and Shawna M. Crites of Old Fields.

For Conservation Supervisor, the candidate is Ronald L. Miller running unopposed.

For Hardy County Clerk, the candidates are Loretta Humbertson and Trevor Southerly.

For Hardy County Prosecutor, the candidate is Robert Ryan

For Hardy County Board of Education, the candidates are Samantha Dennis of South Fork, Melvin F. Shook Jr. of Lost River, Daniel (D.J.) Taylor of Old Fields, Mark Ray of Old Fields, Dixie T. Bean of Old Fields, John Rosato of Lost River, Dallas

Wilkins of Lost River, Nathan R. Delawder of Lost River, Sara Mathis of Capon, and Ed A. Cole of Moorefield.

For West Virginia State Senate District 14, the candidates are Jason Armentrout of Keyser, Mark Harman of Petersburg, Mike Mampenny of Grafton and Jay Taylor of Grafton.

For West Virginia House of Delegates District 86, the candidates are Betsy Orndoff-Sayers and Steven Schetrom.

For United States Senate, the candidates are Rachel Fetty Anderson, Thornton Cooper, Jeffrey Kessler, Rio Phillips, Zachary Shrewsbury, Shelley Moore Capito, Alexander Gaaserud, Bryan McKinney, Janet McNulty, David Purkey, and Tom Willis.

For United States House of Representatives, the candidates are Ace Parsi, Stephanie Spears Tomani, Steven Wendelin, and Riley Moore.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE

Moorefield Examiner

www.moorefieldexaminer.com

West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council Announces Congressional Directed Spending Grant for "WV Freedom and Independence Project"

St. Albans, WV – The West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (WVSILC) is proud to announce the award of a Congressional Directed Spending Grant totaling \$1,980,000 to support the "WV Freedom and Independence Project." This significant funding will play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for individuals with disabilities throughout the state, promoting their independence and integration into the community.

The "WV Freedom and Independence Project" aims to deliver essential services and resources that empower individuals with disabilities to live independent-

ly and actively participate in all aspects of life. The grant will help fund a variety of initiatives, including accessible housing, transportation services, transitioning programs, and outreach efforts designed to educate and support West Virginians with disabilities and their families.

This allocation is part of a comprehensive initiative to improve access to accessible housing and transportation throughout West Virginia. Through collaboration with local organizations, community leaders, and advocates, the "WV Freedom and Independence Project" will create tailored solutions that address the unique challenges faced by indi-

viduals with disabilities across the state.

"We are incredibly grateful to Senator Capito and Senator Justice for their unwavering support, as well as to Congress for this generous funding," said Jerry Boyko, Executive Director of WVSILC. "This initiative empowers us to broaden our reach and enhance our programs, providing individuals with disabilities the tools they need to achieve their goals of independence and self-sufficiency. We are eager to work alongside partner organizations and communities across West Virginia to create lasting change for individuals with disabilities."

For more information about the "WV Freedom and Independence Project," please contact the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council

About the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (WVSILC)

WVSILC is dedicated to promoting independent living for individuals with disabilities and enhancing their quality of life through advocacy, education, and community involvement. Our mission is to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve their goals and participate fully in their communities.



FFA youth from Moorefield and East Hardy High Schools attended the Hardy County Commission meeting on Feb. 3. Photo by Peggy Moomaw, Hardy County PIO



GET IT IN DIGITAL
MOOREFIELDEXAMINER.COM
\$41 PER YEAR

WEDNESDAY

CLOUDY
High
62



THURSDAY

SUNNY
High
66



FRIDAY

RAIN
High
64



EDITORIAL

By Stephen Smoot

Last week Jason Parsons, the President and CEO of Blue Ridge Care, penned an opinion piece published by the West Virginia Press Association. Virginia-based Blue Ridge Care provides health care services for the elderly who wish to remain in their home. Two of the services are for chronic health problems and also hospice services, available in many parts of West Virginia.

One option they offer, however, is not. That service is known as the Program for All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly, or PACE. The Medicare.gov website states that "PACE helps eligible older adults who need nursing home-level care meet their health care needs in the community, by giving them coordinated care and support services" in their home. It adds that "PACE covers all Medicare-and Medicaid-covered care and services."

Parsons shared a story of a Berkeley County daughter who once traveled almost daily to and from her mother's Winchester home. Her mother "lives alone, with diabetes, heart disease, and mobility challenges that make daily life difficult" and needed daily "help with medications, meals, and bathing." After being accepted into PACE, the last now receives these services plus "coordinated medical care, transportation, therapy, meals, and social support through one program."

Loosely stated, the program has many of the coordinated aspects of hospice programs but for seniors whose health conditions have started to make living at home difficult or dangerous. Hospice provides end-of-life care in the home or in specific facilities.

In March 2023, the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services released a report entitled "Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly in Rural America. It states that "the model was developed in the early 1970's by staff at On Lok Senior Services (a nonprofit corporation) in San Francisco to meet the LTSS needs of older adults who immigrated from Italy, China, and the Philippines." The report, intended as an information presentation to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, explains many of the problems that make PACE-type care a challenge for a state like West Virginia. The Mountain State's sparsely populated counties and also the mountain, hill, and hollow extended drive times create identified boundaries in providing these services.

"A 2021 study conducted by the University of Minnesota found that State Offices of Rural Health (SORHs) cited transportation as the greatest barrier to older adults successfully aging in place in rural areas," but not in the fashion most may think. Seniors with health care problems often have significant difficulties tolerating long vehicle rides.

Overcoming such problems to make PACE a viable option for West Virginia requires analyzing an urban model to see how it can adapt to the rural environment "Flexibility is needed for rural PACE organizations to maximize partnerships and resources. Additionally, the Committee thinks that there is potential for more partnership with existing safety net providers including Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Community Health Centers (CHCs), and Local Health Departments (LHDs)" West Virginia has a number of agencies and services, both professional and volunteer, that, if coordinated, could provide more help to caregivers,

Two Things

better care to patients, and improved outcomes from both a health care standpoint and possibly also the taxpayers' as well. It is well known that in most cases seniors living safely at home need a less costly slate of services than those in residential facilities.

Adopting PACE will provide immediate relief for rural volunteer rescue squads. Currently, many residents will call 911 for EMS assistance in moving a senior from his or residence to a car, or to take a senior to a doctor appointment. With rural EMS all over West Virginia operating with dangerously limited resources, in many cases these calls may leave a patient with a life-threatening emergency waiting for the first available transport.

The number of those providing care at home for beloved family is staggering, but not widely known because those who do so usually provide this care quietly within their own households. AARP estimates that 250,000 West Virginians provide unpaid senior care in their homes, accounting for approximately \$3 billion that taxpayers would otherwise cover.

It is quite possible that an investment in rural-appropriate PACE services could keep more seniors at home where they usually live longer and happier lives, while also lowering the barrier for families who want to care for their senior loved ones with both compassion and safety. The State Legislature should take the next year to study the issue and, if it could work, run a bill that lays out a thoughtful and well considered program so West Virginia can join the many participating states offering this.

Another thing to discuss is Civil Asset Forfeiture.

One of the originators of the legal concept of Civil Asset Forfeiture, West Virginia Circuit Judge John Yoder, eventually became one of its biggest critics. Civil asset forfeiture, through a complex legal maneuver that Yoder helped to develop, allows for law enforcement to use the civil system to seize property of suspected drug criminals. The key word is suspected, not convicted, not even charged, but suspected. Often times the only "suspicious" action lies in carrying a large amount of cash on ones person.

Even the innocent find it difficult or almost impossible in some jurisdiction to recover their property.

Yoder and his colleagues developed CAF as a weapon against major drug cartels and American organized crime. It was meant to allow law enforcement to quickly dismantle an organization's capabilities. Yoder stated on Fox News before his untimely passing that he believed it would only be used against well-monied organizations, not poor suspects who had no wherewithal to protect themselves if not guilty of a crime.

The federal government also said in 1913 that the federal income tax would only apply to the top two percent of wage-earners.

In 2012, a number of Delegates from Berkeley and Morgan counties gathered to discuss with a panel their plans for the next Legislative session. They pledged to support repealing state laws that permitted CAF seizures, despite the opposition of law enforcement agencies whose budgets had come to rely on funds seized and never reclaimed. That movement fizzled, but Delegate Chuck Horst (R-Berkeley) has picked up the issue.

He sponsored House Bill 4049, which "ends civil forfeiture in West Virginia and replaces it with criminal forfeiture only." No property can be seized without a criminal conviction coming first. The bill would also mandate "prompt post-seizure hearings, allowing owners to quickly challenge unlawful seizures."

This also puts forfeitures under the highest standard of proof, "beyond a reasonable doubt" as opposed to "reasonable suspicion" or less reason to seize.

The current "act provides that ten percent of the forfeiture proceeds must be given to the prosecuting attorney's office that filed the forfeiture proceeding. The balance is placed in a law enforcement investigation fund to be used by the law enforcement agency that seized the forfeited property."

An interesting point to note, the West Virginia State Constitution, Article 12, Section Five, reads "the net proceeds of all forfeitures and fines accruing to this state under the laws thereof and by general taxation of persons and property or otherwise. It shall also provide for raising in each county or district, by the authority of the people thereof, such a proportion of the amount required for the support of free schools therein as shall be prescribed by general laws."

The section is entitled "Support of Free Schools." In other words, the verbiage of the State Constitution leaves little doubt that "forfeitures" go not to law enforcement, but to the school system.

Chief Justice Menis Ketchum echoed these concerns in a dissent on a State Supreme Court of Appeals case, Tricia Dean v. State of W. Va. and Jefferson Co. Sheriff's Dept. (Separate) 2012.

There is no doubt that too many law enforcement agencies around the nation rely on CAF to meet their budget. According to the Cardinal Institute, "between 2000 and 2019, West Virginia police agencies generated an additional \$70 million" from federal sharing of their seized asset caches. Jessica Dobrinsky of the Cardinal Institute, however, wrote that the policy "is an explicit denial of the fundamental American principle 'innocent into proven guilty'" and those caught in it "face a severe deprivation of due process."

West Virginia long ago had offices of "Justice of the Peace" as opposed to Magistrate. The old "J.P.s" received their pay out of fines collected, but the State Legislature eventually saw this set up as a conflict of interest that incentivized the minor judges to fine more and/or more often. CAF provides too much incentive to "police for profit." It's not that state and local agencies are necessarily abusing the system, but it's time to remove the potential for said abuse.

LANE COLUMN

What in the world is securitization?

The word "securitization" is one you're going to be hearing a lot more of if you pay attention to utility rates in West Virginia.

The word involves a method to spread the cost of an item over a period of time, rather than requiring the buyer to pay the entire price up front.

Think of it as a home mortgage. You buy a house for \$100,000,

but no one expects you to pay for that all at once.

Instead, you allocate those payments to be made on a monthly basis over a 20-year period. The monthly payment then is manageable. You don't get instant sticker shock.

The Legislature in 2023 passed a law to provide for this sort of stretched-out, gradual payments in rate cases through a system known as securitization.

The Public Service Commission, using that new law, recently

authorized a power company to come up with a securitization plan in a case in which the company was seeking a \$250 million rate increase.

The PSC reduced the rate request in August but told the company to come back to the PSC with a securitization plan that the Commission could use to stretch out the full impact of the rate increase over a number of years. And, as a result, rates may decrease.

Generally, securitization is

achieved by a company selling bonds to immediately recover its outlay. The ratepayers then pay additional amounts on their monthly bills to pay down and eventually dispose of the bonds.

To enhance its own expertise in this area, the Commission, in an order issued August 29, 2025 (Case No. 25-0310-E-PC), said it would hire an outside professional adviser to help it with this critical issue.

The amounts involved in this case are very large. They could

run to \$2.5 billion. They cover a number of issues for which the company is seeking recovery, such as storm damage, environmental controls at plants, fuel costs, and other important issues involved in keeping electricity-production plants operational.

In its order, the Commission noted it received more than 5,000 comments in one case and 200 in a separate case in which the customers asked for rate relief.

We said in the order, "The Commission believes that securi-

tization will provide the rate relief the customers seek."

This is not going to be an easy process. There is no magic silver bullet here.

The trade-off is a smaller power bill, but a bill that will be stretched into the future to cover the life of the bonds.

We are eager to learn what we can from the adviser we will hire. We are equally interested in trying to hold the line on what our ratepayers have to pay in their monthly bills.

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.

Feb. 18, 1843: Ritchie County was created from portions of Wood, Lewis and Harrison counties. The county was named for Virginia journalist and politician Thomas Ritchie.

Feb. 18, 1890: Ellison Mounts, a cousin to the Hatfield family, was hanged for murder, ending the Hatfield-McCoy Feud.

Feb. 18, 1969: Hundreds of

miners in Raleigh County went on strike over the issue of black lung. Within days, the walkout had spread throughout southern West Virginia.

Feb. 19, 1908: Orval Elijah Brown was born near Lizemores in Clay County. Brown, a free-spirited individual, gained notoriety as the "Clay County Wild Man" during the Great Depression for his untamed physical appearance, which included a flowing beard and the wearing of little more than a self-made loincloth.

Feb. 19, 1943: Author Homer

Hickam was born in Coalwood, McDowell County. Hickam's second book, Rocket Boys: A Memoir, was published in 1998 and became a runaway bestseller. It was adapted into the film October Sky.

Feb. 20, 1875: The legislature approved a bill to move the state capital from Charleston back to Wheeling.

Feb. 20, 1995: The legislature voted to make the Golden Delicious apple the official state fruit.

Feb. 21, 1895: Bluefield Colored Institute was established by the legislature to prepare Black West Virginians for the teaching profession. After several name changes, the school

became Bluefield State College in 1943 and achieved university status in 2022.

Feb. 21, 1913: Workers' compensation passed the legislature, modeled on the German system Governor Hatfield had studied in the Ruhr Valley coalfields.

Feb. 21, 1940: Governor Gaston Caperton was born in Charleston. In 1988, Caperton defeated incumbent Arch Moore to become the state's 31st governor.

Feb. 22, 1927: Longtime Agriculture Commissioner Gus R. Douglass was born in Mason County. Douglass, a Democrat, was first elected commissioner in 1964. Re-elected nine times, Douglass was the longest serv-

ing agricultural commissioner in the country.

Feb. 22, 2018: 33,000 schoolteachers and service personnel walked off the job over wages and health benefits. The strike drew national attention, and teachers in five other states organized work stoppages.

Feb. 23, 1867: Lincoln County was formed from Boone, Cabell, Kanawha and Putnam counties. The county was named for Abraham Lincoln.

Feb. 23, 1905: The first USS West Virginia was commissioned. The armored cruiser was renamed the USS Huntington in 1916 to allow the transfer of the original name to a newly authorized battleship.

Feb. 23, 1945: Harrison County native "Woody" Williams distinguished himself during the Battle of Iwo Jima by neutralizing seven concrete pillboxes. This act of heroism earned Williams the Medal of Honor.

Feb. 24, 1918: Judge Kenneth Keller "K. K." Hall was born at Greenview, Boone County. Hall spent 47 years on the state and federal benches.

Feb. 24, 1928: Doctor Donald L. Rasmussen was born in Colorado. After coming to work at Miners Memorial Hospital in Beckley, he became a driving force in the passage of state and federal black lung legislation.

MOOREFIELD EXAMINER

132 South Main Street, P.O. Box 380, Moorefield, West Virginia 26836
Phone: (304) 530-NEWS - Fax: (304) 530-6400
www.moorefieldexaminer.com

Emails:

NEWS/EDITORIAL: news@moorefieldexaminer.com
DISPLAY ADVERTISING: moorefieldexaminer@gmail.com
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: classifieds@moorefieldexaminer.com
LEGAL ADVERTISING: legalads@mountainmedianews.com
CIRCULATION: frontdesk@mountainmedianews.com

The Moorefield Examiner is published weekly on Wednesday except between Christmas and New Years at 132 S. Main Street, Moorefield, West Virginia. Periodicals Postage is paid at Moorefield, West Virginia, 26836. USPS 362-300. Subscription Costs: \$35.00 per year tax included for Post Prices in Hardy County \$45.00 per year tax included for elsewhere in West Virginia. \$48.00 per year outside West Virginia. \$41.00 per year tax included for the Moorefield Examiner Online Edition.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
Mountain Media, LLC 860 North Court Street Lewisburg WV, 24901

THE EXAMINER IS THE DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF HARDY COUNTY

Member:



Publisher: Michael Showell
Publishers Emeritus: Hannah Heishman
Editor: Stephen Smoot
Advertising Manager: Ali Wall
Classifieds: Darryl Buning
Layout/Graphics: Dominique Allen
Sports Editor: Carl Holcomb

Kelson Thorne's latest work gracing the wall of Potomac Lanes in Moorefield is part of a greater vision for spreading inspirational public and privately owned art throughout the Potomac Highlands.



NEWS

W. Va Secretary of State Confers Jennings Randolph Award to EHHS

By Stephen Smoot

Eleven times between the end of World War II and the middle of the Vietnam War, United States Senator Jennings Randolph brought forth the bill that would start the process of a Constitutional amendment. With the slogan "if you're old enough for bullets, you're old enough for ballots," Randolph pushed hard lowering the voting age to 18.

And now East Hardy High School has taken its place in fulfilling Senator Randolph's vision.

"Jennings Randolph fought for 29 years to give 18 year olds the right to vote," said West Virginia Secretary of State Kris Warner.

The Secretary of State's office "in honor of Senator Randolph's determination to get young people involved in the voting process has created the Jennings Randolph Award. This award is given to high schools that have at least 85 percent of eligible students registered to vote."

The award has two tiers. A gold tier award goes to a school that registered 100 percent of 17 and 18 year olds eligible to vote in the next election relative to their registration date. East Hardy earned a silver tier, recognizing the still impressive registration of 85 percent of those eligible.

"We send the two seniors who are most active in registering voters to Charleston as "Honorary

Secretaries of State, shared Secretary Warner. From East Hardy, Silas Schetrom and Albert Lermineaux received special recognition at the State Capitol for their hard work and successful effort.

He stated that 21 high schools have earned Jennings Randolph Awards. Also, "17, 000 17, 18, and 19 year olds we now have registered to vote," stated Secretary Warner. Because county clerks oversee the local government election office, they are "always involved" in helping students get involved in registering voters.

Warner comes to each school to deliver the awards and congratulate those involved. While there, he speaks of the impor-

ance of clear and fair elections, but also answers questions. He stated that though he has never served as a teacher, he now understands the sense of accomplishment one feels "when you see the light switch on" and a young person understands.

The Secretary of State had an eventful week. On the way to delivering a similar award, then next honoring centurion businesses, Secretary Warner had a car accident near Judy Gap in Pendleton County. Emergency services responded quickly, but Warner did not require medical treatment before traveling on to Franklin.



Silas Schetrom and Albert Lermineaux are honored for being the two most active in registering eligible East Hardy students to vote.

Three of Coldwell Banker Premier's Leaders Named RISMedia 2026 Real Estate Newsmakers

Steve DuBrueler, Stephen Meadows, and Tristin Prince celebrated for their headline-making contributions to the real estate industry

February 11, 2026 - Coldwell Banker Premier is pleased to announce that three members of its leadership team have been selected as 2026 RISMedia Real Estate Newsmakers. Steve DuBrueler, Premier's Founder and CEO; Chief Operating Officer Stephen Meadows; and Digital Marketing Manager Tristin Prince are now part of an elite group of award-winners spotlighted for their newsworthy contributions to the real estate industry and their efforts to positively affect the consumers and communities they serve. The recognition highlights

Coldwell Banker Premier's growing influence across multiple facets of the real estate industry, from leadership and innovation to marketing and technology.

RISMedia is the leader in U.S. real estate news and information services. The 300+ 2026 Real Estate Newsmakers were peer-nominated and selected by the firm's executive and editorial teams. Winners are placed into the following categories: Influencers, Trailblazers, Futurists, Achievers, Crusaders and Luminaries.

"Through ongoing challenges

in 2025, from economic uncertainty to changing rules and regulations, our Newsmakers served as shining examples of what it takes to succeed, come what may," said RISMedia Founder and CEO John Featherston. "Our 2026 Real Estate Newsmakers demonstrated the dedication, ingenuity and integrity it takes to serve their companies, clients and communities at the highest level. They stand out as true professionals we all can look up to, and I extend my sincere congratulations to each and every one of them."

Doing Some Good with Love

By Amy Pancake, Associate Director/COO, Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation, apancake@ewvcf.org

It is February, aka Lovuary, the month to celebrate love (Valentine's Day) and the care of our hearts (American Heart Month) and in its honor, I feel uniquely honored—and compelled—to share a beautiful story during this month of cherished love. A story that continues to bear witness through the smiles and lives of those touched by gifts made in honor of a life that now lives on in others.

Recently, I had the privilege of sitting with a wonderful donor and friend who simply wanted to "do some good" for others in the name of their loved one. During our conversation, I began to draw a mental picture of "who" I believed this loved one to be.

This honored person valued family, generosity, education,

child and senior nutrition and wellness, and animal welfare... This honored person savored life, and making life easier for others.

At the conclusion of our conversation, over 20 different organizations were designated to benefit from the generosity of the donor advised fund in memory of their loved one. I was in awe of this act of remembrance—of honoring and being remembered—of blessing another in the name of a beloved life.

What if you could honor the life of someone you love by providing grants to organizations that mattered to them? What if your gift fed a senior citizen, supported a child's health or education, protected a cherished pet, or helped clean a stream at a local park?

Maybe you want to shout your honorees'; name from the mountaintop.

Maybe you prefer to be discreet.

Maybe you want your gift to be known—or to arrive as a quiet

surprise.

Through a donor-advised fund, the intention and actions of honoring and remembering are yours. As a donor, directing grants to the causes and organizations that matter most, and that best reflect the legacy you wish to honor can make a true and lasting impact.

Remembrance is not only about looking back—it is about shaping the good that continues forward. If during the month of love, or any month of the year, you want to learn more, please give me the honor of hearing and knowing your story, and the legacy you wish to place in our community.

Amy Pancake is the Associate Director and COO of the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation and can be reached at apancake@ewvcf.org or by calling 304-822-7200. For more information on the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation, visit www.ewvcf.org.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

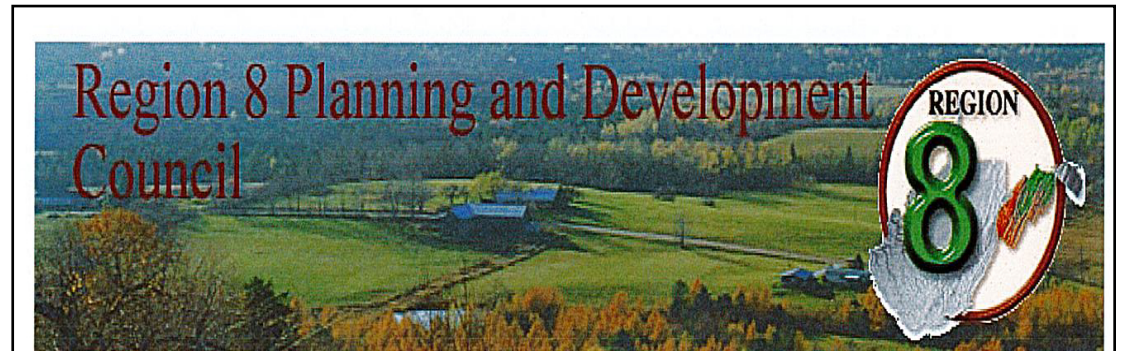
Petersburg High School English 11 Hosts Shoe Drive Fundraiser

The community is invited to clean out their closet for a shoe drive to raise funds for Petersburg High School English 11

Class. Donations of gently worn, used and new shoes will be accepted. The amount of money raised is determined by the total weight of the shoes collected.

All donated shoes will

be redistributed to micro-enterprise partners through Funds2Orgs, a for profit social enterprise, and used in developing nations for impoverished people to start their own businesses.



The Region 8 Planning and Development Council invites Potomac Highlands community leaders to participate in planning the region's future by helping the Council update its Regional Development Plan. The Council will host two planning meetings. The meetings will last approximately two hours. A light lunch will be provided.

Thursday, February 26, 2026
11:30 a.m.

Mullin's 1847 Restaurant
104 South Main Street
Moorefield, WV

RSVP by February 25, 2026

Tuesday March 3, 2026
11:30 a.m.

The Candlewyck Inn
65 South Mineral Street
Keyser, WV

RSVP by March 2, 2026

You may register by phone, fax, or e-mail

Contact: Carla Dent
Telephone: 304-257-2448 ext. 9241
Fax: 304-257-4958
E-mail: cdent@regioneight.org

Highlands Bankshares, Inc. Reports Year End Earnings And Declares Quarterly Dividend

Petersburg, WV - Highlands Bankshares, Inc. (OTC: HBSI) announced record earnings (unaudited) of \$5,905,000 for the year ended December 31, 2025. This represents an increase of 21.68% from the \$4,853,000 earned during 2024. On a per share basis,

net income was \$4.48 for 2025, compared to earnings of \$3.63 per share for the year ended December 31, 2024.

On February 10, 2026, the Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.47 per share to be paid on February 27, 2026, to all

shareholders of record as of February 21, 2026. Based upon the current market price and annualizing the dividends paid to shareholders this quarter, Highlands' current dividend yield is 4.32%.

Jack H. Walters, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the hold-

ing company, stated "We are extremely pleased to report financial results for 2025. The past year saw the company achieve record levels of net income, assets, and deposits. These impressive numbers would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of our local team

members who live and work right here in our communities and who demonstrate every day our commitment to serving people, building relationships and strengthening our local economies."

Highlands Bankshares, Inc. operates twelve banking locations in

West Virginia and Virginia through its two wholly owned subsidiary banks, The Grant County Bank and Capon Valley Bank, and offers insurance services through its wholly owned subsidiary HBI Life Insurance Company.

In Loving Memory Obituaries

Honoring the Lives of Those We Have Lost

To place an obituary in The Moorefield Examiner, contact us at:
moorefieldexaminer@gmail.com

OBITUARIES

◆◆◆◆◆ Curtiss Allen "Mouse" Kesner, Sr. ◆◆◆◆◆



It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Curtiss Allen "Mouse" Kesner, Sr., who left

us at the age of 83 on February 5, 2026, at Grant Memorial Hospital in Petersburg, WV. Born on September 18, 1942, in Dorcas, WV, Mouse was a cherished son of the late Goldie Arbutis Whetzel Kesner and Charlie Crites. He joins his brothers, Delmer, Thurman, Gerald, Lyle "Dick" Richard Kesner and Roger Pancake, along with his great-grandson, Caden Luther Vandevender Kesner, in eternal rest.

Mouse dedicated his life to the construction industry and carpentry, leaving a legacy in them that will not be forgotten. A true family man, he delighted in play-

ing cards, hunting, throwing horseshoes, and enjoying a good wrestling match or an old western on TV.

Surviving is his loving wife of 61 years, Jessie Linda Ratliff Kesner; sons, Curtis Kesner, Jr. & Stephanie of Moorefield, WV, Jesse (Pamela) Kesner of Purgitsville, WV, Chris (Kathy) Kesner of Rig, WV and Andrew (Tracy) Kesner of Old Fields, WV; thirteen grandchildren; fifteen great-grandchildren; a brother, Elwood (Faye) Kesner of Rig, WV; a sister, Evelyn Franz of Maysville, WV and numerous nieces and nephews.

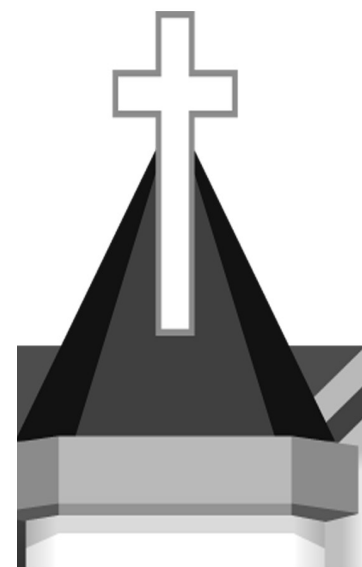
The family invites you to join them in celebrating Mouse's remarkable life at a funeral service being held on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 11:00 AM at the Fraley Funeral Home Chapel, located at 107 Washington Street. Pastors Lynn Rohrbaugh and D.J. Taylor will be leading the ceremonies, ensuring a fitting tribute for a man who brought joy to many. He will be laid to rest in Newhouse Cemetery when weather appropriate.

Friends and family will gather to remember Mouse from 4 - 7 PM on Wednesday, February 11, at the funeral home, where sto-

ries and laughter will flow freely in honor of his vibrant spirit. We encourage everyone to come share their memories, celebrate a life well-lived, and pay respects to a man who touched so many hearts.

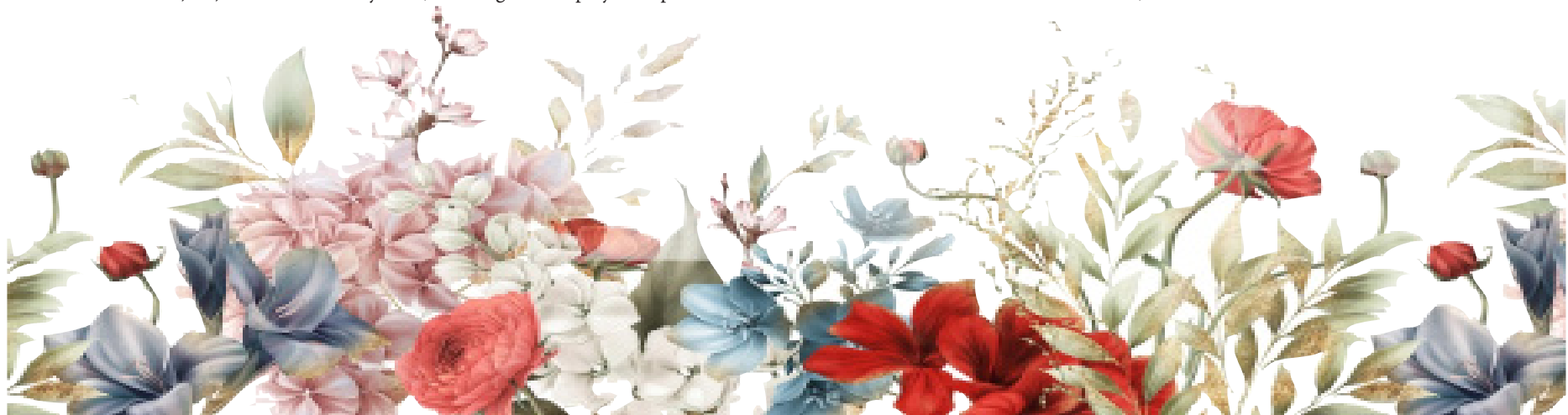
To offer condolences, share memories, or upload photos in honor of "Mouse's" extraordinary life, visit his Tribute Wall at www.fraleyfuneralhome.com and celebrate the impact he made on all those around him.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Fraley Funeral Home.



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.



Audien Hearing

The World's First Hearing Aids With Touchscreen Controls.

No tiny buttons. No apps. No prescriptions.

Call 866-327-9323 to get your 45-day risk free trial.

- ✓ Revolutionary technology with touchscreen control.
- ✓ Hearing modes for any environment.
- ✓ Multiple models to choose from.
- ✓ Portable charging case.
- ✓ 48-hour battery life.
- ✓ UV cleaning.
- ✓ Background noise cancellation.
- ✓ 45-day risk free trial.
- ✓ Proudly located in the U.S.A.
- ✓ Free shipping direct to your door.
- ✓ 1.5 million+ happy customers.
- ✓ Lifetime support.

Atom X

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel

Safety. Style. Stress-Free Installation.

CALL NOW 1.866.465.3017

SPECIAL OFFER
FREE Fixtures and FREE Shower Door

Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 3/31/26.

Commissioners approve HCEAA building

continued from page 1

citizen feedback warranted a second polling place for early voting, and suggested the HCEAA's building in Baker. The Commissioners approved her suggestion.

Early voting begins Apr. 28. It's 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the two Saturdays. The two available locations are the courthouse and HCEAA building, and any registered Hardy County voter can go to either location for early voting.

Voting can be electronic or with a paper ballot. Only voters registered Republican can vote on Republican ballots. As of publication, those registered for parties that do not have their own ballots can still choose to vote on the Democrat ballot.

For the General Election in November, there will be only one ballot that everyone will use, based on results from the Primary.

The County owns three military surplus field kitchens, currently stored at the Department of Highways shed. Lewis said a local church might be interested in them. Humbertson asked if the fire departments could use them, and Lewis said he'd check.

Mike Crites, executive director of the Hardy County Committee on Aging (HCCOA), said, "We are financially stable right now."

Crites said the staff has evaluated all programming, not just financially, but also determining whether it's meeting needs, and how best to move forward.

"I've learned a lot, I've got a lot more to learn," he said, adding they're providing more activities.

Ours, as HCCOA president, said, "Mike's been a huge asset. The new board is tremendous... Most people think of the (senior) center as a place for old people to eat, but now they're going to Buc-ees, to the Winchester Mall for shopping. It's come a long way."

Darren Taylor, executive director of the South Branch Valley Day Report Center serving Hardy, Hampshire and Pendleton Counties, requested Commission signatures on an MOU to continue their support.

The Commission approved signing the MOU.

The SBVDRC is an alternative

supervision for criminal court cases. Instead of sending people to jail, the judges can choose to send them to the DRC. It's cheaper for counties to send people to the DRC than it is to send them to jail.

The SBVDRC has saved more than \$1 million yearly for the past three years.

Taylor said last year the center had 280 clients. They already have 265 this year.

They provide education, parenting skills, life skills, relapse prevention, therapy and domestic violence intervention, among other things.

They received a \$250,000 grant to begin a juvenile services program.

"The goal is to see them now so we don't have to see them as adults," Taylor said.

Mallie Combs RDA. Farmland Preservation board to be filled. George Leatherman is president. Need to replace a director. Last contract ends end of March, wants to retire. Workman said they've met someone who does this work in Mineral and Hampshire. Part time position. Pretty significant work associated with it. Salary around \$20K/year, which last month was what the County made from Farmland Preservation. Will put a job description together, looking for someone to fill the space. Dick Gray has served without or with very minimal pay.

The Rural Development Authority executive director, Mallie Combs, asked the Commission to pay a \$1700 fuel oil bill for the Hamilton House warming center and emergency shelter.

Combs also asked if Commissioners would approve her request to manage the Hamilton House the same way the RDA manages their other properties, including not allowing snow to be pushed onto the property. The Commission approved.

"We always go back to the insurance, and if there's something that's a particular liability, we do not allow that," Combs said. A neighbor had asked permission to push snow onto the Hamilton House property.

National FFA Week is Feb. 21-28. FFA students from across the county attended the Commission meeting, bearing witness while also learning about how govern-

ment works. They presented the Commission with a proclamation, which was approved and signed.

Commissioners and meeting attendees alike supported the students' presence, and offered guidance as they return to their schools.

County Coordinator Wendy Branson reported there are currently 14 dogs at the pound. Dog warden Jim Shupe picked up 11 dogs in January; eight dogs went with Potomac Highlands Animal Rescue.

Branson presented a written response after a citizen posted a photograph of an overweight dog at the pound with frozen water. She said the dog did have access to shelter lined with bedding, and acknowledged the frozen drinking water. She reported the dog arrived in worse condition than it appeared in the photos.

She noted that the only dedicated income for the pound comes from citizens paying their dog taxes, which is \$6 per dog. Shupe's salary is \$15,000, and the total income from dog taxes in 2025 does not cover half of that.

This means there is already a funding gap before considering mileage, supplies and maintenance, and veterinary costs.

While some people do donate some items, most expenses fall on the County. And with even less money available now than there has been, the county is left trying to fund everything from emergency medical services to the dog pound.

She also reminded listeners that, officially, the pound is a holding facility for animals, not an animal rescue. The County is only required to keep dogs for five days; after that, dogs can be humanely euthanized at the County's discretion.

Shupe has avoided that for all but a very few, very unstable dogs.

"I encourage anyone who has a dog, please pay your dog taxes" in the County Assessor's office, Branson said.

Finally, she noted that, due to liability and the risk to animals and humans, No Trespassing signs are posted, cameras are in use, and anyone discovered to have gained unauthorized access

to the facility is subject to citations.

Schetrom said he'd like the Humane Society of Hardy County to help take some of the load: "We have to keep communication and coordination with the Humane Society."

Previously, HSHC members volunteered to help at the pound and offered to assist with funding. The County was unable to accept the donation, and liability created concerns for volunteers. Communications broke down.

The HSHC does not have a facility ready to accept animals. Their primary focus has been assisting with the County's feral cat population, although members assist other animals as needed.

Peggy Moomaw, Hardy County Public Information Officer, said the most popular posts on the County's social media pages involve the Sheriff's reports and closure notices.

Humbertson reported she's trying to get youth involved in election processes.

The W.Va. Secretary of State's office hosted an I Voted sticker contest for 8th graders. No digital submissions were allowed, only hand-drawn. In Hardy County, Lelia Brafford was first place; Georgia Hahn was second place; and Brantley Crites took third place. Honorable mentions were Bella Linville, Kate Huffman and Case Whetzel.

Hardy County had 45 submissions. Brafford's submission will go to the regional competition.

Humbertson said the county is near 85% enrollment for voters, and that Moorefield High School was very close to getting 100% of those eligible to vote in the primary registered.

She's also hoping to find younger poll workers for the Primary and General elections.

The December 2025 jail bill was \$38,696.58.

The amount for farmland preservation was \$19,655.90.

The County Commission's next regular meeting is Tuesday, March 3 at 9 a.m. in their courthouse chambers. The meeting will be streamed on the County's Facebook page, where it will also be available to watch for about two months. The public is encouraged to attend or observe.

Monongahela National Forest announces seasonal hiring for upcoming recreation season

Elkins, W.Va., February 13, 2026 — The Monongahela National Forest is hiring seasonal employees for the upcoming recreation season and is encouraging local residents to apply.

“Seasonal employees are essential to keeping the Monongahela accessible and safe for our communities and visitors,” said Cynthia Sandeno, forest supervisor. “From maintaining campgrounds and trailheads to improving signage and responding to visitor needs, seasonal employees help ensure families can enjoy safe weekend camping trips, hik-

ers can confidently navigate our trails, and everyone has a positive experience on their public land.”

The Monongahela is recruiting for a variety of roles, including:

- Recreation and visitor services
- Trail and facility maintenance
- Timber sale preparation

These positions are in addition to seasonal fire hire events, already underway. Bringing on seasonal employees will help improve trails, campgrounds and facilities for safer, reliable and enjoyable recreation experiences for all.

“Seasonal jobs can be a first

step into a natural resources career, a way to build experience, or simply a chance to spend the summer working outside,” added Sandeno. “These jobs directly support the recreation access and outdoor traditions that matter so much here in West Virginia. We encourage anyone interested to apply.”

How to Apply

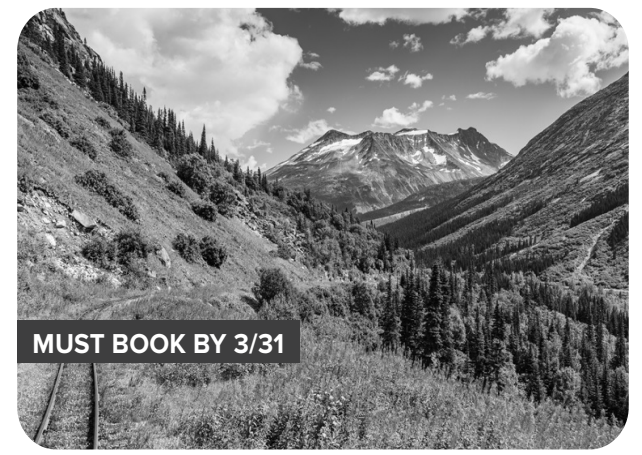
Applicants can view open job announcements and submit applications through USAJOBS.gov. Job announcements and descrip-

tions will be available beginning February 20, 2026.

Application periods, qualifications, and start dates vary by position. Applicants are encouraged to review job announcements carefully for deadlines and required materials.

Working for the Forest Service

To learn more about Forest Service careers, benefits and upcoming hiring events, visit fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/careers.



Grand Alaskan Cruise & Tour

12 DAYS INSIDE CABIN STARTING AT \$3,549 \$3,299*

BASED ON JUL 8, 2026 DEPARTURE

- Marvel at Alaska's natural beauty in Denali National Park
- Visit Alaska's the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Cruise Glacier Bay and Wrangell St. Elias National Park
- Travel through the legendary Inside Passage

CALL US: 1-833-649-1532

*Per person based on double occupancy & includes tax service/gov't fees. Ask your Travel Consultant for terms & conditions. Add-on airfare with transfers available for most major gateways.

THE OLD MASTER'S VIEWS

The men's basketball has been plagued all year by slow starts. Sometimes, they have been able to mount comeback, and other times they do not. They had yet another slow start at Cincinnati, finding themselves down 14-2 just over four minutes into the game, and spent most of the rest of the half trailing by a similar amount, with a 30-20 deficit. That margin grew to 14 points at the 16 minute mark. But over the next six minutes, WVU went on a 19-3 run, and took its first lead at 42-40 with just over 10 minutes remaining. From there, WVU was able to battle the Bearcats, and sealed things up in the last 2 minutes for a hard fought 59-54 win. Cincy had defended home-court over Iowa State and Baylor this season, so a road win – even an ugly one – is still a good win in the Big 12.

Against a Top 15 Texas Tech squad, WVU once again found itself down by double digits at halftime. They kept battling and closed the gap in the second half, but fell 70-63. Overall, this

wasn't as bad of a performance as it might have looked if you only glanced at the score. The difference in the game really boiled down to two stats: free throws (once again), and three-point shooting. Texas Tech was 11/13 from the charity stripe, while WVU once again was abysmal, barely shooting 50% with 13/23. The key difference in the game, however, was three point shooting. Tech was a blistering 13/24 (54%), including 8/11 (73%) in the first half.

Meanwhile, WVU was a horrible 2/22 (9%), and they missed all eight attempts in the second half. That meant Texas Tech outscored WVU from long range by 39-6. There's the ballgame for you.

After a great resume building win over Baylor, the women's team followed that up with a good road win over a sneaky good Colorado team, 61-55. They aren't ranked in the Top 25, but they are #41 in the Torvik women's rankings (similar to KenPom rankings), and beating

the #41 team on the road is very solid.

If they want to remain in contention to host opening round games in the NCAA tournament, WVU will absolutely need to take care of business against the lower ranked teams left on the schedule. That was the case when they played Arizona (who entered the game 2-9 in Big 12 play). And take care of business they did. The Wildcats did come out with plenty of fire and emotion, and actually held a lead in the opening minutes. But then WVU took control and pulled away. They outscored Arizona 27-9 in the second quarter and led 50-26 at halftime. They were never challenged in the second half and cruised to an 87-68 win.

The women have five regular season games left. Three of them (home and away against UCF, home against Cincy), should be double digit wins. The other two are a huge game at Top 15 TCU, which is followed up by a home game against Oklahoma State. They are #31 in the Torvik rank-

ings and if WVU has a letdown after the TCU game, it could be an upset loss.

Believe it or not, baseball season is here. The Mountaineers have very high hopes for this year, and get started with a three game series this weekend at Georgia Southern. The Eagles were picked seventh in the preseason Sun Belt Conference poll. WVU, on the other hand, was tabbed third in the Big 12, behind TCU and Arizona. That is its highest preseason poll position in the Big 12. Both TCU and Arizona are showing up in preseason Top 25 polls (TCU typically around 10, and Arizona in the 21-25 range). I've only seen WVU in one Top 25 poll (#21 for Baseball America). But the Mountaineers should break into the polls with a good start to the season.

Last year, they won the Clemson Regional, and advanced to the Super Regional. This year, the goal is obviously to get at least that far. And they would definitely like to host a regional this year instead of going on the

road. To do that, these early non-conference games will be important. They don't necessarily have to win every game, but you will have to win series, and pull off sweeps multiple times, if the opponent is not a tournament caliber team.

(This also includes midweek games). This should be an exciting season for baseball, and hopefully they will be able to accomplish their goals.

The Gymnastics team had a meet schedule at Iowa State last Friday, but on Thursday, the Cyclones had to cancel, due to a lack of healthy competitors (it wasn't made clear if the cause was injury, illness, or a combination of both). Apparently, WVU was at the Chicago airport already, and they were able to scramble to find an alternative. Northern Illinois was hosting Western Michigan already for a Friday night meet, and they were willing and able to welcome the Mountaineers for an impromptu Tri-meet. The result was a season high road score of 194.775,

including a season high 49.225 on floor. A shout out to Northern Illinois, Western Michigan, and the WVU folks for getting things done to add the Mountaineers to the meet with late notice. They return to the Coliseum this Saturday for a 6:00pm dual meet against Arizona State.

Notes: The men's game at UCF will be Saturday, Feb 14, with a 6:00pm start. It will be televised by FS1...The women have what should be a tune up game in Morgantown against UCF tonight (Wednesday Feb 11) at 7:00. It will be streamed on ESPN Plus... Their Top 20 showdown at TCU is set for Sunday Feb 15, with an 8:00pm tip. That will be televised by FS1...The golf team begins their spring season this weekend down in Gainesville, Florida. The field features three teams in the Top 12 (#5 Auburn, #10 Florida, #11 Oklahoma State), plus #22 Notre Dame.

Water and Sewer Situation

continued from page 1

veys did not show these findings. The bulk of the findings have to do with the operation of a filtration plant.

We do not have a filtration plant, nor are we installing one at this time.

Birds, Bugs, Blooms More: A Watercolor Sketchbook is the name of our first CALL art class for 2026. Kristin Colebank is the instructor and the class is filling up.

We received a termite inspection image showing the damaged areas in the cafeteria from Larry Smith with Extreme Pest Control. The report showed substantial termite damage. The architect noted that the brick veneer was not installed properly and that the issue with the roof that we are at the point that the building would cost more to rehabilitate, than building a new structure.

FEMA has requested additional information on the parking lot grant. We are working with the grant writer to respond to their questions.

Connie Miller, Holly Lockhart, John Sayers and myself attended the Auditor's Budget Training in Martinsburg in preparation of compiling the 26-27 Budget.

Staff are in the process of gathering information for the upcoming single audit in February.

Ferrari & Associates will be here on February 19th & 20th to do our audit.

Class II legal ads have been placed with the Moorefield Examiner for the for the pool demo and pool house renovation ads. The pre-bid for the pool demo and the pool house upgrade was held on February 4th

We had 4 companies to attend the pool demo and 2 companies to attend for the upgrade. Bids are due Thursday, February 12th by 10 am.

I have been asked to participate in the WV Arts in Our Communities Conference in Charleston.

I will be part of a panel on the Creative Aging for Lifelong Learning program.

The filing period for our Mu-

nicipal Election coming up in May closed on January 31st. Charlotte Bowman and Edward Kilnovski are running for the 2 Council seats and I am running for Mayor.

We received a lovely thank you card from the Wardensville Lion's Club thanking us for our participation in Christmas Joy.

The community remains on a Boil Water notice. We have requested a hearing with the West Virginia Bureau of Public Health to request the lifting of the Boil Water Notice. The boil water is a precautionary warning. We have filed a response to the Public Service Commission regarding Shanna Miller's filing of a formal complaint. We are in the process of responding to the new Sanitary Survey's Significant Finding. I would like to note that our previous Sanitary Surveys did not show these findings. The bulk of the findings have to do with the operation of a filtration plant. We do not have a filtration plant, nor are we installing one at this time.

Birds, Bugs, Blooms More: A Watercolor Sketchbook is the name of our first CALL (Creative Art for Lifelong Learning) art class for 2026. Kristin Colebank is the instructor and the class is filling up.

We received a termite inspection image showing the damaged areas in the cafeteria from Larry Smith with Extreme Pest Control. The report showed substantial termite damage. The architect noted that the brick veneer was not installed properly and that the issue with the roof is at the point that the building would cost more to rehabilitate, than building a new structure.

FEMA has requested additional information on the parking lot grant. We are working with the grant writer to respond to their questions.

Connie Miller, Holly Lockhart, John Sayers and I attended the Auditor's Budget Training in Martinsburg in preparation of compiling the 26-27 Budget.

Staff are in the process of gathering information for the upcoming single audit in February. Ferrari & Associates will be here on February 19th & 20th to do our

audit.

Class II legal ads have been placed with the Moorefield Examiner for the for the pool demo and pool house renovation ads. The pre-bid for the pool demo and the pool house upgrade was held on February 4th. We had four companies to attend for the pool demo and two companies to attend for the upgrade. Bids are due Thursday, February 12th by 10 a.m.

I have been asked to participate in the West Virginia Arts in Our Communities Conference in Charleston. I will be part of a panel on the Creative Aging for Lifelong Learning program.

The filing period for our Municipal Election coming up in May closed on January 31st. Charlotte Bowman and Edward Kilnovski are running for the two Council seats and I am running for Mayor.

We received a lovely thank you card from the Wardensville Lion's Club thanking us for our participation in Christmas Joy.

Mayor's Report – February 9, 2026 # 3

The community remains on a Boil Water notice. We have requested a hearing with the WV Bureau of Public Health to request the lifting of the Boil Water Notice. The boil water is a precautionary warning. We have filed a response to the Public Service Commission regarding Shanna Miller's filing of a formal complaint. We are in the process of responding to the new Sanitary Survey's Significant Finding. I would like to note that our previous Sanitary Surveys did not show these findings. The bulk of the finding have to do with the operation of a filtration plant.

We do not have a filtration plant, nor are we installing one at this time.

Birds, Bugs, Blooms More: A Watercolor Sketchbook is the name of our first CALL art class for 2026. Kristin Colebank is the instructor and the class is filling up.

We received a termite inspection image showing the damaged areas in the cafeteria from Larry Smith with Extreme Pest Control. The report showed sub-

stantial termite damage. The architect noted that the brick veneer was not installed properly and that the issue with the roof that we are at the point that the building would cost more to rehabilitate, than building a new structure.

FEMA has requested additional information on the parking lot grant. We are working with the grant writer to respond to their questions.

Connie Miller, Holly Lockhart, John Sayers and myself attended the Auditor's Budget Training in Martinsburg in preparation of compiling the 26-27 Budget.

Staff are in the process of gathering information for the upcoming single audit in February.

Ferrari & Associates will be here on February 19th & 20th to do our audit.

Class II legal ads have been placed with the Moorefield Examiner for the for the pool demo and pool house renovation ads. The pre-bid for the pool demo and the pool house upgrade was held on February 4th. We had 4 companies to attend the pool demo and 2 companies to attend for the upgrade. Bids are due Thursday, February 12th by 10 am.

I have been asked to participate in the WV Arts in Our Communities Conference in Charleston.

I will be part of a panel on the Creative Aging for Lifelong Learning program.

The filing period for our Municipal Election coming up in May closed on January 31st. Charlotte Bowman and Edward Kilnovski are running for the 2 Council seats and I am running for Mayor.

We received a lovely thank you card from the Wardensville Lion's Club thanking us for our participation in Christmas Joy.

Public Works Report

Mr. Atkinson reported that two water pumps at the Pine Street station were so damaged by disposable wipes that it cost the town \$8,000 to replace both of them. The town has pleaded with residents not to flush these items. This blatant disregard for civic property has once again cost

citizens thousands of dollars (see photograph). A new generator for the lagoon arrived. Crews installed the electrical system today. The generator cost \$3,500. The new water plant start up has some issues. A new electrical box has been ordered to fix the problem. Councilman Greg Alderman notified Mr. Atkinson that the concrete around the drain at Carpenter and Main has begun falling apart. The Division of Highways has been contacted to make repairs. Councilman Ed Klinovski mentioned that he received text messages from two people indicating that the water boy was recently unusable. The screen had frozen due to extreme temperatures. The company will install a heater to prevent future incidents.

Unfinished Business

Council passed Resolutions 2026-03 and 2026-04 to draw down reimbursements for the new water and sewage treatment system. Wardensville continues to wait on an approval letter of intent from the United States Department of Agriculture for future funding. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is working with the town on the funding of the pool demo project. The pool is being filled with stone and other items. LCWF will not require compaction tests after the fill is completed. Twelve inches of topsoil will cover the fill with grass being sown over the area. A splash pad will be installed on that spot.

The results of a termite inspection on the old cafeteria building by Larry Smith have radically changed plan for the renovation project. Mr. Smith consulted an architect who determined that cost to repair the damage would be commensurate with brand new construction. It was recommended that the building be razed to the foundation. The mayor has proposed to construct three separate smaller buildings with separate entrances that can be linked to serve the purpose of the original renovation which includes a childcare center, fitness center, and public meeting space. USDA bonds are one option but those are quite expen-

sive in the end. A motion made and seconded that the design and construction must be within the town budget was passed by Council.

RK & K has a contract with Wardensville to monitor the new water system pumps during the construction of Corridor H around the town. The contract is set for five years plus two years afterward. With concern that highway construction may be delayed, Council voted to extend the contract an additional two years.

New Business

Council approved the Mayor's request to sign documents for the installation of well #5, which will be paid for the by WVDOH. The state committed \$1,000,000 for the project. Two bids were submitted with the lowest being \$920,000 and the highest, \$970,000. Council also sanctioned the posting to engage the lowest bid by a contractor for the pool demo and pool house project.

On first reading was Ordinance 26-01, a request to adopt the State building code and to update town building code. A motion and second was approved.

Last year Wardensville donated \$500 each to East Hardy High School and East Hardy Elementary in support of the Music in Schools project. WELD manager Chip Combs reached out to the town to offer a free radio spot in return for another donation to that program. After discussion, Council authorized a \$600 donation to both schools.

Announcements

A Girl Scout cookie sale is set for Sunday, February 8th from noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Community Center, ballfield side.

At the conclusion of regular business, the Council entered into an executive session. The meeting was adjourned following the session. The next meeting of the Wardensville Town Council is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2026, in the Visitors Center beginning at 6:30 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

J & D Enterprise specializing in tree and stump removal, brush cutting, land clean up, landscaping, pressure washing and gutter cleaning. Licensed and insured. Call for a free quote 304-851-1419.

SEPTIC TANKS Pumps and portable toilets rental. M & M Septic Service. Call 304-851-2037. TFN

BRYANS LAWN AND MAINTENANCE Service. Reasonable rates, quality work, and dependable service. Scheduling now for mowing and weed eating, hedging and mulching & pressure washing. Licensed and insured. Free estimates. Call 304-897-6752 or 304-490-9673.

HELP WANTED

Optometric/Medical Receptionist

Moorefield, WV
Experience preferred
Part-time
Exceptional customer service
Ability to multitask and remain organized
Proficiency with computers and scheduling systems
Drop resume off at Bosle Eye Care

Applications are being accepted for Ready Mix Truck drivers.

CDL required. Application may be picked up at any of our locations or downloaded from our website, www.fmi-us.com. Completed applications may be dropped off at any of our locations or mailed to Fairfax Materials, Inc., 8490 Garrett Highway, Oakland, MD 21550. Contact Marc Mauzy phone number (304) 749-8989. Fairfax Materials, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.

Capon Springs and Farms is accepting applications

for Housekeeping/Spring Cleaning for the 2026 season. Spring cleaning begins March 16. Duties include cleaning of guest rooms and public areas of the hotel in preparation for opening on April 24. Must be able to move in a full range of motion, lift up to 30 lbs., and be able to work in tight spaces or from heights. Background check required. Starting rate of pay for spring cleaning is \$12.50 per hour. Housekeeping rate of pay is \$6.50 per hour plus tips, after a short training period. Apply online at www.caponsprings.net/careers or call 304-874-3695 or email hr@caponsprings.net for an application.

MISC.

CARPET, VINYL, Laminates, and hardwood flooring of all types. C & P Carpets Plus, 108 South Fork Road. 304-538-6462. TFN

TO GIVE AWAY: FREE GOLD-EN RETRIEVER PUPPIES To Forever Homes due to relocating: 1 Male, 1 Female, Preferably email me first at: stephaniechristensen59@gmail.com before Text (352) 533-2411

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

HARVEST STORAGE: 5x10, 10x10, 10x20, over 100 storage units in town at 414 Magnolia Street. 304-350-2415 or 540-665-3832. TFN

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Advertise here.
304-530-6397

Carrier AQS ACTION AIR CONDITIONING

(304) 538-6005

- Heating
- Cooling
- Residential
- Commercial
- 24 hr. Service
- Maintenance Contracts

Air Quality Systems, Inc.
1407A US HWY 220N, Moorefield, WV
Licensed & Insured

Relationships HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PART OF OUR SERVICE PLAN.

PANHANDLE TECHNOLOGIES, LLC

- HEATING
- COOLING
- PLUMBING
- ELECTRICAL

304-530-7377

Financing Available

Judy's Mobile Homes, Inc.

NEW & USED Homes
NEW Modular Homes
Affordable Housing for Everyone

- Large Parts Inventory
- Transporters

P.O. Box 377, U.S. Rt. 50 E
Shanks, WV 26751
304-496-7777

U.S. Rt. 220
Moorefield, WV 26836
304-538-7066

• SOLID WASTE HAULER

www.envircolnc.com
Online Bill Pay
EnvircoNews

Envirco

304-897-6060
800-235-4044

West Virginia Certified
Solid Waste Hauler
Serving Hardy & Grant counties since 1990

LUXURY CUSTOM CABINETMAKER

PEACOCK MANUFACTURING

IS HIRING

DAY SHIFT POSITIONS AVAILABLE

\$16 PER HOUR STARTING PAY

Day Shift (5:00am – 3:30pm)	Quarterly Attendance Bonus
Four Day Work Week	Paid Time Off after 90 Days
Employee Referral Bonus	Medical, Dental & Vision Benefits
Clean, Dry, Work Environment	401(k) Retirement Plan

PEACOCK MANUFACTURING COMPANY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

SHINGLETON

Contracting & Excavating

304-257-0570
WV 039173

Septic Systems Shale
Building Sites Roads
Land Clearing Ponds

West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

Featured in WVPA Newspapers Across West Virginia

HEALTH/MEDICAL

AUDIEN HEARING. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-866-327-9323

DONT LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-844-592-5113

PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 833-274-3943

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-405-3412 www.dental50plus.com/press #6258

INTERNET/TV

GET DISH SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-736-4350

CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS HOME INTERNET WITH EARTHLINK. Enjoy speeds from 5G and 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation,

and data plans up to 300 GB. Call 844-230-3640

MISCELLANEOUS

WANT TO FIRE YOUR BOSS IN 2026? For more information, go to www.TrueFreedomAtLast.com or call 931-207-1301

JACUZZI BATH REMODEL can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/27/26.) Call 1-866-465-3017 SUNSETTER. AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE AWNING! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-888-485-5756

CONSUMER CELLULAR - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-615-6411

WE BUY 8,000 CARS A WEEK. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-844-640-0583

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-901-2301 today to

schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

UP TO \$15,000.00 OF GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company-888-217-5559 or visit www.Life55plus.info/vw

SAFE STEP. NORTH AMERICAS #1 WALK-IN TUB. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-803-1282

NO MORE CLEANING OUT GUTTERS. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-844-295-2840 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

TRAVEL

YMT VACATIONS. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-833-649-1532

Place YOUR statewide ad today
Call the WV Press at (304) 342-1011



Art That Is Bigger Than the Artist

By Stephen Smoot

"Ars longa, vita brevis."

Lucius Annaeus Seneca, the Roman Empire poet and statesman, wrote a tract entitled "On the Shortness of Life," or, in Latin, "De Brevitate Vitae." Within the essay reminding readers to not waste one second of a brief existence on earth comes the phrase "Ars longa, vita brevis," or "Art is long, life is short."

Seneca attributes the quote originally to the Greek physician Hippocrates. In the estimation of the good doctor, the phrase equated "art" with one's work, saying life is short, but it takes a lifetime to master a craft. Others take the phrase to mean that while a man's life may be measured in mere decades, the impact of his art could extend for decades. For the most important artistic works, such as the Psalms in the Holy Bible, that impact lasts for millennia.

Closer to home, Petersburg artist and entrepreneur Kelson Thorne seeks to trod the path paved by both interpretations. He owns and operates Art Junkie LLC with a Facebook page featuring his work across the region and in other sections of the state.

Over the past few years, towns and cities of the Potomac Highlands have seen rich infusions of color, spectacle, area culture, and tradition gracing the sides of buildings. These murals represent

the effort of Thorne to bring to bold colors the aspects that make each of these unique places and people so special.

"As I've gotten older," he shared, "I've wanted to create something for the area, something that people can resonate with and be proud of." Many of his pieces have a dual purpose to both instill pride in the people for their community while showcasing the place's best and most interesting aspects to visitors.

Like many young people, Thorne moved away to pursue his art dreams and then had to return. He shared that "when I moved back, I thought my art career was over," but it was from the muses of people, the scenery, the history, and the culture of what was familiar to him all of his life that he drew, and draws, his inspiration.

His current project has slowly come to life over the past few weeks on the wall of Potomac Lanes. Where once a blank wall greeted bowling alley patrons, over time figures of law enforcement, fire fighters, and EMS slowly emerged. Determined expressions sternly face the danger of a wildfire billowing behind a fire engine.

This mural, and another in Petersburg depicting emergency responders, conveys vividly a powerful, yet recently created set of historical memories. In multiple recent years, the quick proliferation of fires in danger-

ous conditions brought out every emergency responder who could take up the fight to protect lives and property. Those men and women's hard and brave work is remembered in these unique works that will remain in place long after those alive at their creation has passed.

"People started to get into it," he related, adding that vision has expanded into providing other local artists opportunities to share their talent at South Side Depot in Petersburg and also bringing high school students into community projects.

A Thorne mural opens with a "scribble grid." He said with a laugh that "people think it looks like graffiti." Marks that appear random to the untrained eye actually help the artist to map out proportions as he or she use technology to help to translate their vision from a sketch to the surface selected for painting.

From there, the artist brings a vision that will last for generations into full living color. And that takes the story to the next iteration of "ars longa, vita brevis," that of the development of the master craftsman.

"Every project that I do, I take something away that I didn't know previously," Thorne explained. With every project, he seeks out ways to incorporate something new, whether it be a technique, technology, or some other facet. Thorne quantified that at least four percent of every new project will incorporate

something he has not done before.

One example lay in the mural he created at Pilgrims, now the largest mural by a single artist in the state of West Virginia. Thorne usually applies paint with brushes and other typical tools of the trade, but not this time. He used devices to precisely apply the paint, just one example of Thorne "adding tools to my toolbox."

"I like experimenting with new methods and building on what I already know," he stated, adding that the importance for him was "so I can continue to grow and challenge myself." He has eyeballed using ultraviolet project reflective paints on his next project to create different color effects.

Growth that comes from pushing himself has led to huge opportunities for himself and the region. In a partnership with Mon Forest Towns, West Virginia University, and the Pendleton County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Thorne will collaborate with aspiring high school artists to create public art out of canoes. Canoes painted to reflect area culture and history will be used as information booth kiosks in Seneca Rocks and Franklin.

Additionally, this spring he has put his brush into service for both the Potomac Highlands and the nation itself, participating in the America 250 mural creation event.

Hale Mini Honeybells
The once a year citrus sensation!

ONLY \$34.99
Reg. Price \$44.99
Special Limited Time Offer!

27% SAVINGS INCLUDING SHIPPING

Call 1-844-308-4327 to order item 2692X or Visit HaleGroves.com/H6YU52

* Only \$34.99 (reg. \$44.99) plus \$7.99 shipping and handling per pack to 48 contiguous states. Some restrictions may apply. Limit 5 boxes per customer.
IC: H6YU52

BAKER, WV

- * BARNS
- * HUNTING BLINDS
- * GREENHOUSES
- * PAVILIONS
- * GARAGES & CARPORTS
- * TINY HOMES
- * FIREWOOD HOUSING
- * FENCING

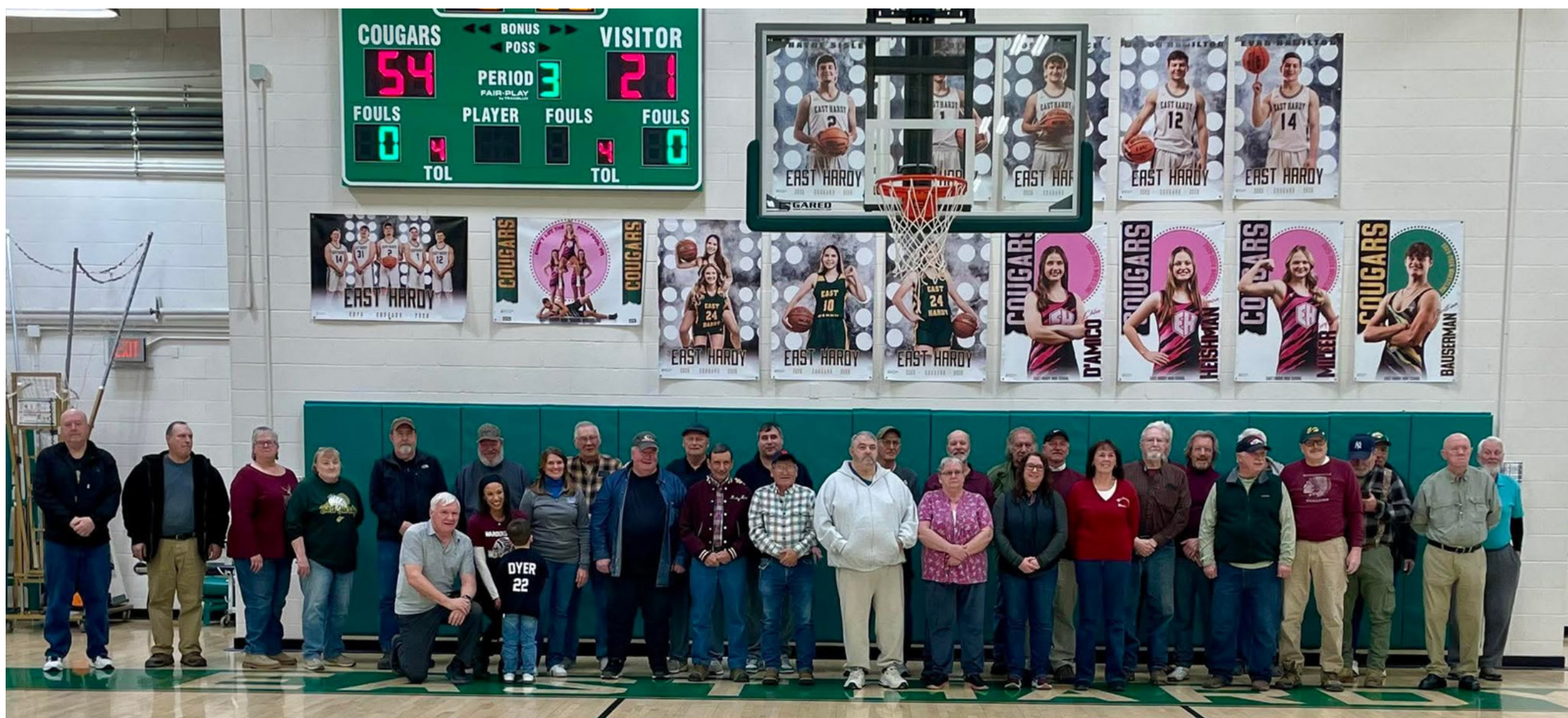
WWW.MSOUTBUILDINGS.COM

MOUNTAIN STATE OUTBUILDINGS, LLC

(304) 490-6703

Licensed & Insured
WV065244

HARDY COUNTY SPORTS



Wardensville honored in win over Pirates

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

East Hardy Boys Basketball transformed into the Wardensville Warriors and sank the Paw Paw Pirates ship 96-47.

The Cougars held a tribute night honoring Wardensville High School alumni and donned Warriors uniforms.

Wardensville High School along with Mathias High School consolidated in 1979 forming East Hardy High School.

There were 33 Wardensville

High School Girls and Boys Basketball alumni recognized during halftime.

The Wardensville Warriors alumni announced were: Branson Teets (1973), Jimmy Dyer (1967), Teddy Hott (1967), Rick Smith (1978), Dennis Miller (1976), Danny Combs (1971), Kathy Strawderman (EHHS), Donny Evans (EHHS), Anthony Orndorff (1976), Ed Ludwig (1962), David Brill (EHHS 1980), David Judy (1978), Charles Combs (1968), Connie Miller (EHHS), Rachel Schet-

rom (EHHS), Dave Coffman (1978), Dennis Brill (1970, WHS all-time leading scorer 1,265 points), Leon Mongold (1972), Irvin Teets (1973), Darrell Sine (EHHS), Gerald Smith (1961), Dave Miller (1975), Donna Dee (1978), Jerry Hahn (EHHS), Bonnie Miller (1975), Paula Wilkins Richard (1978), Clark Richard (1975), John Hawse (1965), John Hahn (1975), Ronnie Wilson (1975), Bill Westfall (1966), John Bowman (1970) and Bill Barney (1979).

The Wardensville High School

Boys Basketball all-time leading scorer was Dennis Brill with 1,265 points.

The Cougars turned into the Warriors and kept that scoring tradition growing on 96 points with four players netting double figures.

Wardensville was guided by Gideon Good with 21 points, followed by Evan Hamilton with 18 points (3's thrice), Aubrey McCullough with 17 points (two 3's) and Mason Hamilton contributed 13 points (two 3's).

The Warriors recorded 10 pe-

rimeter buckets as Shayne Sisler, Mason Wilkins and Gage Dove added one apiece.

Wardensville made 14-of-23 free throws

Paw Paw was led by Carder with 25 points (12 FT) and Paul with 16 points (3's thrice).

The Pirates garnered four 3-pointers and made 15-of-18 free throws.

Wardensville jumped out to a 24-15 advantage after one period of play with Gideon Good netting 10 of his team-best 21 points in that frame.

Wardensville built a 54-21 halftime lead as Evan Hamilton poured in 11 points and Aubrey McCullough added eight points.

The Warriors speared 18 third period points and 24 fourth period points en route to the 96-47 win.

Good paced Wardensville with six markers in the third period and Gage Dove guided the way in the fourth period with 9 points.

Wardensville Warriors could smile about one more win in their honor.

Moorefield remembers 1971 state semifinalists during win over Colts

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

The Yellow Jackets swarmed to a 58-50 victory over Philip Barbour in a special evening honoring the 1971 Moorefield Boys Basketball state tournament semifinal run.

The Yellow Jackets of 1971, with Bill Keller at the helm, took an undefeated regular season record (20-0) into the playoffs en route to the state tournament held at the newly christened WVU Coliseum in Morgantown.

Gauley Bridge edged Moorefield 58-56 in the state semifinals

as the Yellow Jackets fell short of the title game with an impressive 23-1 record.

The 1971 Moorefield team included: Herb Hawse, Larry Eye, Joe Fisher, George Hott, Bobby Keller, Jack Yankey, Burns Barr III, Wayne "Snuffy" Zirk, Lee Wesson, Albert Leatherman, and Carl "Corky" Whetzel. The Yellow Jackets head coach was Bill Keller and assistant coach was Charles Landes.

The current Hive dwellers were guided by Jackson Helmick with 20 points, followed by Cyrus Kump with 18 points and Edison Metheny with 10 points in the 58-50 win against the Colts.

"Always great to honor great teams of the past and have former players at the games. To only lose one game all year is something special," Moorefield Boys Basketball coach Scott Stutler commented.

Northfork defeated Gauley Bridge for the state championship as part of its eight consecutive title run.

The Yellow Jackets winning tradition keeps buzzing in the Hive with historic foundation built since the 1949 state championship and the 1971 team showed stellar growth continuing to this generation.

East Hardy Boys declaw Wildcats

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

A tail of two cats: Class A No. 6 East Hardy Boys Basketball grabbed the Class A No. 5 Wildcats by the tail for a swift 17-nil entrapment commencing the game in the Baker Den en route to a 57-28 declawing.

It was a full Den as the girls teams commenced this double-header and the noise was electrifying.

The Cougars rattled off five perimeter buckets during the opening run and finished with nine total to slash Pendleton County.

East Hardy (11-4) was led in scoring by Evan Hamilton with 20 points including four trifectas, followed by twin brother Mason Hamilton with 18 points and two beyond-the-arc baskets.

Defensively, the Cougars crafty defense kept Pendleton County stumbling with no player getting into single digits.

The Wildcats (11-4) were paced by Travis Owens with 8 markers and Chase Owens notched 7 points.

After turnovers in both direc-



Football Gauntlet: East Hardy's Joseph Price muscled through the Wildcats trap of Henry Warner and Chase Owens reminiscent of a running back.

tions, East Hardy's Gideon Good blocked a shot and the packed house went wild.

Evan Hamilton drilled a 3-pointer and the Cougars student section was on their feet on that initial lead.

Evan Hamilton swiped the ball, but missed the ensuing layup with Joseph Price snatching the carom keeping play alive and dishing out to Mason Hamilton knocking down a trey for a 6-nil

edge at 5:13.

The Cougars defense was relentless as Evan Hamilton stole the ball and passed to Mason Hamilton, who reciprocated with Price for a jumper.

The Wildcats hit the rim, then Evan Hamilton nailed a perimeter shot to extend the lead to 11-0 at 3:45.

East Hardy's full court press wreaked havoc as Trevor Roof in-

continued on page 8



Wagner and Yellow Jackets pierce Warriors

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

Constant chants of 'J-E-B' resonated throughout the Hive as the Yellow Jackets faithful showed their love and support for senior Jeb Wagner, who nailed a 3-pointer in the final stanza igniting the crowd and bench into a frenzy for a 77-40 domination over Pocahontas County.

Moorefield Boys Basketball senior Jeb Wagner has become an inspiration with his dedication to the team; coming to every practice, having the willingness to step up as a water boy providing liquid refreshment and encouragement on the bench to putting on the game jersey to compete on the hardwood showing his charisma and leadership in full spectacle.

Wagner may have taken the heart and spirit of the fans as the rest of the team complemented that passion with a dynamic scoring regiment.

"Jeb deserved that moment. He has been with us for four years and has been to every practice, every game and every trip. He deserved that moment. To make the three and for the crowd and our bench to go crazy, he



Moorefield senior Jeb Wagner launched a 3-pointer to cap off the rout against Pocahontas County.

deserved that. He is a big part of the team," Moorefield coach Scott Stutler remarked.

Yellow Jacket juniors Jackson Helmick and Cyrus Kump swarmed around Pocahontas County leading the attack with 20 points apiece, followed by senior Shawn Reed with 10 points.

"It was a good game to bounce back from last night. Our kids came out with energy and they were ready to play from the jump today. It was good to see. We have a big game on Friday. We

have had good defense all year, but we just need to learn to score the basketball like tonight. Jackson has been shooting well and Cyrus had a great game for us," Coach Stutler noted.

Unleashing the Hive mind, the Yellow Jackets mesmerized the Warriors buzzing out to a 23-4 lead entering the second period and put on the automatic pilot sign flying to a 47-20 halftime edge with a coast to the victory landing zone 77-40.

continued on page 8

Pendleton County Girls disrupt Cougars senior party

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

Gossip Time: There is no secret in Baker as East Hardy Girls Basketball senior night was commandeered and dismantled by the Wildcats 69-36.

Despite the bittersweet loss, East Hardy Girls Basketball seniors rose to the occasion in the final stanza catapulting a 14-0 run outscoring the Wildcats 14-9 in the frame.

Cougars senior Chloe Gue poured in a dozen points in the last frame including two perimeter buckets sandwiching two layups coming off a rebound and steal.

East Hardy senior Adyson Crider added a putback during that stretch.

The Cougars fans showed their excitement for the rally cutting the deficit to 60-36, but it was too little, too late and the Wildcats ended the win scoring 9

straight points.

Crider and Gue have proven to be leaders encouraging the underclassmen through a tumultuous season.

"The seniors mean a lot. I have known their families for a while. I'm so proud of them for continuing to play and develop not only as basketball player, but as a person. We have seen a lot of growth in them these last couple months. They have really stepped up at times this season being a leader to the younger ladies," East Hardy Girls Basketball coach Donny Evans remarked.

"I was very proud of us as a team throughout the season. We didn't quit and just kept playing and fighting throughout. It was good to see all the work and sacrifice these ladies have put in all season to see some of those fruits in the way we have improved."

The pregame senior ceremony was a nice tribute to these girls and how much they have meant

to the program.

The East Hardy Girls Basketball seniors Adyson Crider and Chloe Gue were given personalized basketballs and a hoop designed gift basket along with hugs from teammates and coaches.

Crider plans to attend James Madison University to study pre-law in pursuit of becoming a lawyer.

Gue plans to study child psychology at Shepherd University.

Both of these girls are members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Future Farmers of America clubs.

The Cougars also recognized senior cheerleader Lilly Melander.

Melander plans to earn a bachelor's degree in education at Sweet Briar College.

Melander is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Club, FFA and Yearbook.

Melander is a Grow Your Own

student and received the Sweet Briar College Davis Scholarship.

Melander competed for the Warren County High School Soccer team.

The rest of the Cougars Cheer seniors will be honored with the boys basketball team on Friday.

Pendleton County jumped out to a 9-0 lead as Tia Heavner scored the first four points and Jameigh Miller hit a triple within the first two minutes.

The Cougars graced the scoreboard at the 4:50 mark as Gue made two free throws.

The Wildcats kept the momentum going with an 11-0 run over the ensuing three minutes as Jessica Parker and Lexi Tingler garnered two field goals, while Heavner and Susan Vincell added two more jumpers.

Gue made a steal and drew a foul to add two markers with a minute left in the first period.

Charlee Hahn corralled a defensive rebound for the Cougars



East Hardy Girls Basketball and Cheer seniors were honored with a special ceremony: Chloe Gue (GBB), Adyson Crider (GBB) and Lilly Melander (Cheer).

and passed to Gue.

Gue was fouled heading to the hoop and notched two more points on the charity stripe for a 21-6 score with 35 seconds to spare.

Pendleton County's Lauren Williams was sent to the line adding one point, then Parker

stole the ball and netted a buzzer-beating layup for a 24-6 advantage.

Crider got the Cougars faithful screaming with a perimeter dagger just under a minute into the second stanza, 24-9.

Shayne Clutter added a Wild-

continued on page 9

Wagner and Yellow Jackets

continued from page 7

Pocahontas County was paced by Carter Vandevender with 12 points.

Helmick guided Moorefield with seven points in the opening frame which included one of his three perimeter shots of the night, followed by Reed with 6 points, Kump and freshman Edison Metheny with four markers each and junior Kail Greenwalt added a field goal.

A minute elapsed into the second stanza before Helmick nailed a second trifecta sparking a 14-0 run.

Reed snatched a defensive rebound carom and netted a layup on the other end.

Both teams hit the rim, then a star by Helmick led to a basket from Kump.

Reed swiped the ball and dished to Metheny for a layup.

The Warriors had shots go awry on the next two series, while Moorefield recorded jumpers by Helmick and senior Law

Sherman on a putback.

Moorefield freshman Matthew Iman grabbed a rebound and dished to Metheny to cap the run for a 39-6 lead at 3:54.

Pocahontas County stopped that run with a 3-pointer from Dylan Keller and a jumper by Cash Beers.

The Yellow Jackets buzzed back with six more points in a span of a minute by Kump (2) and Greenwalt.

Beers added a trey for the Warriors at 1:27, then the Yellow Jackets answered with a layup from Sherman off an assist by Greenwalt.

Pocahontas County closed the half with a 6-0 run aided by Vandevender's two field goals to cut the deficit to 47-20.

The Yellow Jackets maintained altitude and tempo by outscoring Pocahontas County 20-10 in the third period to build a 67-30 lead entering the fourth period.

Kump garnered 10 points (4 FT) for Moorefield in the third frame, while Helmick contribut-



The Yellow Jackets bench exploded with excitement when senior Jeb Wagner nailed the perimeter shot.



Moorefield's Kail Greenwalt threw a pass inside to Law Sherman against the Warriors.

ed a pair of 3-pointers along with a layup and Reed calmly sank two technical foul shots.

The Yellow Jackets kept on

buzzing in the final period with Wagner putting the finishing touch on the game from the perimeter, 77-40.

Junior Cougars earn runner-up at inaugural PVL Wrestling Tournament

East Hardy Middle School Wrestling team garnered the runner-up trophy with four individual gold medals along the way at the inaugural Potomac Valley League Wrestling Tournament held at Pendleton County Middle/High School in Franklin on Saturday.

The Keyser Golden Tornado won the PVL team championship.

The Wildcats hosted Petersburg, Frankfort, Warm Springs, Keyser and East Hardy for this first PVL Wrestling Tournament.

East Hardy Middle School Wrestling featured a quartet of PVL division champions lifting

the Cougars to the second place team finish: Adonis Toulomeis, Chase Rossman, Bear Poe and Grafton Whitacre.

Poe earned All-PVL honors for the Cougars.

Joining these four champions in obtaining the PVL runner-up trophy were: Eli Vandevender, Dominic Rossman, Zayden Sperling, Clinton Nutter, Daniel Buckley, Aiden Smallwood, Madelyn Heishman, Ethan Gonzalez and Cayce Spaid.

East Hardy Middle School Wrestling coach Justin Whitacre has molded these grapplers into great contenders as the future remains bright in Baker.

photos on page 9

East Hardy Boys and Wildcats

continued from page 7

tercepted a pass and located Evan Hamilton for another 3-pointer making it 14-0.

Pendleton County drew iron twice, then Evan Hamilton and Roof created a turnover on a trap leading to Evan Hamilton's beyond-the-arc basket capping the 17-0 run at 2:25.

The Wildcats closed out the first period on a 7-0 run as Travis Owens hit a jumper, then the Cougars hit the rim twice.

A steal by East Hardy's Aubrey McCullough led to two more missed shots.

Chase Owens recorded an old-fashioned three-point play for the Wildcats with 27 seconds left.

Travis Owens stole the ball and connected with Jaydon Hess for a long range buzzer beating jumper, 17-7.

"We came out fired up and ready to play tonight. We got some open looks and were able to knock them down that put a lot of pressure on them. I got here and didn't have a place to park, so I knew this was going to be a big one tonight," East Hardy Boys Basketball coach Chris Hahn commented.

"The crowd was real energetic and loud, we gave them something to cheer for today. Chase Owens is as good as it gets offensively, so we knew to respect him. We just tried to give him the respect he deserved and basically chased him around the court. All the guys did a good job with the scouting report and knew each player and took it personal. When you hold a team to 28 points, that's incredible. [Hamilton twins] They are seniors now and they play so well together. They complement each other. They spread the floor and make

good decisions and on defense they wreak havoc. They are peaking at the right time this season. Pendleton County was ranked ahead of us, so this was a good regional win."

Pendleton County's lone quarter on the plus side scoring was the second frame outscoring the Cougars 10-8 to slice the deficit to 25-17 at halftime.

Ty Heavner led Pendleton County with six points in the second period.

Good paced the Cougars with three markers in that frame.

There were a combined 10 errant shots, 9 turnovers and 9 fouls in the second period as the pace slowed down.

East Hardy turned up the heat again in the third period garnering a 23-7 advantage to double up on the Wildcats 48-24 entering the final stanza.

Starting the third period with some fireworks exciting the crowd was Good with a rim rocker, then the Cougars forced a turnover with Joseph Price scoring and seconds later making a steal which would eventually result in a 3-pointer by Mason Hamilton.

Evan Hamilton made a leaping save for a steal, then the Cougars netted a jumper by Mason Hamilton.

Good swatted the ball into the student section the noise rocked the Den.

The Wildcats struggled to maintain control under pressure and went beyond mid-court for a turnover, then East Hardy was called for a flying elbow.

The Wildcats sandwiched two bricks around a steal by Hess.

Good was fouled on a rebound and made both markers on the line at 4:29, 36-17.

A full minute passed with a block and snatch by Levi Price



East Hardy's Trevor Roof made a pass around Pendleton County's Chase Owens.



The East Hardy student section roared after a perimeter basket was made extending the Cougars lead during a 17-0 run.

and two more Wildcats blunders, but the Cougars would come up empty thrice.

A steal by Mason Hamilton after making one free throw resulted in a 3-pointer by Evan Hamilton for a 40-17 lead.

Hess knocked down a 3-pointer, then a double foul occurred

prior to a response at the arch by McCullough for a 43-22 lead with two minutes left in the third period.

Opening the first two minutes of the fourth period, Pendleton County's Chase Owens made two jumpers surrounding a shot by Good.



East Hardy's Aubrey McCullough stretched for a layup just beyond the reach of Pendleton County's Jaydon Hess.



East Hardy's Mason Hamilton knocked down an inbound pass from Chase Owens creating a steal.

The Cougars slowed the tempo and Mason Hamilton added seven free throws down the stretch to help seal the win, while Good and Levi Price garnered ball smashing denials.

The Cougars triumphed in this battle of the cats 57-28 and will have a rematch in Franklin on

February 23.

East Hardy visited Paw Paw on Monday and travels to Hampshire tonight before returning home for senior night this Friday against Northern Garrett.

Warriors spear East Hardy



East Hardy's Charlee Hahn snatched a rebound against the Warriors.



East Hardy's Jenna Mongold battled for a jump ball against Pocahontas County's Shayla Barrett.



East Hardy's Chloe Gue drew contact by Pocahontas County's Shayla Barrett.

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

The Class A No. 7 Pocahontas County Girls Basketball Warriors ransacked the Baker Den and speared the Cougars 75-23.

Savanna Sharp recorded a game-high 27 points for the Warriors, followed by Alexis Arbogast with 23 points and Allyson Taylor with 16 points.

East Hardy Cougars were paced by Chloe Gue with 12

points and Jenna Mongold with 6 points.

The Warriors offense was on fire from the start as Sharp struck five field goals for 10 points in the opening frame and Taylor notched six points with Arbogast rounding out the scoring for an 18-3 advantage.

Jaiden Gordon netted a jumper for the Cougars and Gue added one free throw in the first period.

Pocahontas went on a 10-0 to commence the second frame in

under three minutes with Arbogast scoring the first six of 17 points for that frame starting the run and Sharp added four points to complete it.

The Cougars lost the ball twice during that stretch and had two shots blocked by Taylor.

Gue transformed a Warriors miscue into one point on the line drawing a foul at 4:55 to put a pin in that run, 38-4.

Pocahontas County responded with a 3-pointer by Arbogast within seven seconds to spark a

10-0 run with another perimeter shot loading after that first one.

Two field goals by the Warriors came off of turnovers in this run.

East Hardy's Charlee Hahn intercepted a pass and found Gue, who was hacked and added one point on the line at 2:04 to end the run, 38-5.

Taylor created another block for the Warriors and grabbed the ball, but Gue swiped it back and made a layup for the Cougars.

Arbogast nailed one more

3-pointer to put the Warriors up 41-7 at halftime.

Sharp unleashed 11 points for Pocahontas County in the third period for a 17-5 scoring onslaught.

The Cougars five points in the third period were on Mongold's perimeter basket and a jumper by Gue.

East Hardy refused to go down quietly even with a 58-12 difference entering the final frame.

East Hardy netted 11 more points compared to the Warriors

17 in the fourth period.

Gue contributed five points for the Cougars in the final frame, Monogold nailed a 3-pointer in the closing seconds, Hahn netted a jumper and Alexis Baker added a point on the line.

The Cougars were always fighting and forcing jump balls, especially Baker and Gordon.

The Warriors marched away with the 75-23 win, but couldn't take the East Hardy spirit.

Potomac Valley League Wrestling Tournament



Inaugural Potomac Valley League Wrestling Tournament Runner-up trophy earned by East Hardy Middle School in Franklin



East Hardy Middle School Bear Poe



East Hardy Middle School Adonis Toulomelis



East Hardy Middle School Chase Rossman



East Hardy Middle School Grafton Whitacre

Petersburg Golden Lanes Bowling News

THURSDAY NIGHT MENS LEAGUE 01/29/2026

TEAM STANDINGS: Vetter's Mini Mart 55 - 25, Golden Lanes

49.5 - 30.5, Strikeforce 42 - 38, E=Bowl-A 40 - 40, Petersburg Oil Company 39.5 - 40.5, Balls Deep 39.5 - 40.5, Country Cars & Trucks 36.5 - 43.5;

HIGH GAME (SCRATCH): Cohan Kesner 278, Zachary Ar-

baugh 259, Evan Kesner 258, Derek Thorne 258, Garrett Willis 256; (HANDICAP): Garrett Willis 297, Derek Thorne 287, Cohan Kesner 278, Zachary Arbaugh 268, Evan Kesner 267;

HIGH SERIES (SCRATCH):

Cohan Kesner 789, Garrett Willis 690, Zachary Arbaugh 685, Derek Thorne 666, Jon Hedrick 660; (HANDICAP): Garrett Willis 813, Cohan Kesner 789, Kevin Reed 767, Derek Thorne 753, Zachary Arbaugh 712;

HIGH AVERAGE: Cohan Kesner 227.00, Zachary Arbaugh 210.23, Evan Kesner 209.91, Jon Hedrick 209.12, Andrew Kesner 208.00, Don Himelright 201.51;

Richie Burgess 249; HIGH SERIES MEN (SCRATCH): Jon Hedrick 619, Cohan Kesner 618, Arron Faxon 616, Tyler Halterman 611; (HANDICAP): Tyler Halterman 695, Floyd Shepard 684, Richie Burgess 678, Kevin McDonald 678;

HIGH AVERAGE (MEN): Cohan Kesner 217.18, Jon Hedrick 211.99, Arron Faxon 198.41, Phil Crews 194.11;

HIGH GAME WOMEN (SCRATCH): Carissa Michael 234, Emily Stark 205, Dee Anna McDonald 191, Denise McGreevy 191; (HANDICAP): Carissa Michael 269, Emily Stark 268, Teresa Sullivan 253, Denise McGreevy 251;

HIGH SERIES WOMEN (SCRATCH): Carissa Michael 597, Denise McGreevy 541, Dee Anna McDonald 510, Teresa Sullivan 506, Emily Stark 506; (HANDICAP): Denise McGreevy 721, Teresa Sullivan 719, Carissa Michael 702, Emily Stark 695;

HIGH AVERAGE (WOMEN): Carissa Michael 183.02, Dee Anna McDonald 175.70, Sarah Earle 167.86, Ashley Wratchford 161.71;

THURSDAY NIGHT MENS LEAGUE 02/05/2026

TEAM STANDINGS: Vetter's Mini Mart 56 - 28, Golden Lanes 52.5 - 31.5, Petersburg Oil Company 43.5 - 40.5, Strikeforce 43 - 41, Balls Deep 42.5 - 41.5, E-Bowl-A 40 - 44, Country Cars & Trucks 39.5 - 44.5;

HIGH GAME (SCRATCH): Jon Hedrick 288, Walter Barnes 237, Zachary Arbaugh 236, Clayton Laub 233, Garrett Willis 232; (HANDICAP): Jon Hedrick 297, Clayton Laub 276, Harry Timbrook 269, Garrett Willis 269, Roger Earle 262;

HIGH SERIES (SCRATCH): Jon Hedrick 716, Cohan Kesner 666, Zachary Arbaugh 648, Gary Leatherman 630, Don Himelright 624; (HANDICAP): Harry Timbrook 743, Jon Hedrick 743, Clint Vandevander 725, Trevor Wratchford 712, Clayton Laub 712;

HIGH AVERAGE: Cohan Kesner 226.75, Zachary Arbaugh 210.57, Jon Hedrick 210.52, Evan Kesner 209.13, Andrew Kesner 204.08, Don Himelright 201.83;

Cougars senior party

continued from page 8

Cougars score off a turnover. East Hardy got a steal and two free throws by Gue at 5:55, 26-11.

The Cougars forced another turnover and Gue drew more contact to notch one more marker.

East Hardy's Baylee Aylor created a free throw point with four minutes remaining in the half.

Parker (2), Vincell and Katie Heavner collected field goals to push the Pendleton County lead up to 36-13.

The final minute of the second period was wild as three treys were made within 40 seconds as Hahn and Gue fired into the hoop for the Cougars sandwiching a long distance one by Miller for the Wildcats.

Pendleton County carried a 43-20 lead into the locker rooms.

The Wildcats boosted the advantage outscoring East Hardy 17-2 in the third frame.

Vincell pitched in 8 points and Miller hammered two perimeter buckets during that period.

Jenna Mongold netted the lone Cougars basket in the third period at 2:04 off an assist from Jaiden Gordon.

East Hardy never gave up and kept battling with a small rally in the fourth period, but the Wildcats emerged victorious 69-36 win.



East Hardy senior Adyson Crider launched a jumper in the paint against Pendleton County.



Icy Crash: There was a huge crash at mid-court as East Hardy senior Adyson Crider dashed for the ball against the Wildcats.



East Hardy senior Chloe Gue battled for a rebound against Pendleton County's Lilly Brogan.



The Most Awarded Source for News and Advertising in Hardy County

MOOREFIELD EXAMINER

Promote your business here. Find out what we can do for you.

(304) 530-6397

5th Regular Season WVSACA Girls Basketball Poll

Table with 12 columns: Rank, School, Votes for divisions A, AA, AAA, and AAAA.

WVSACA Week 9 Boys Basketball Poll

Table with 12 columns: Rank, School, Votes for divisions A, AA, AAA, and AAAA.

West Virginia Wrestling West Virginia High School Wrestling West Virginia Coaches Association / wvmat.com Team Poll Seventh 2025-26 Team Poll - February 13, 2026. Includes Division I, Division II, and Girls rankings.

West Virginia Wrestling West Virginia Girls High School Individual Wrestling Rankings West Virginia Wrestling Coaches Association / wvmat.com February 13, 2026. Lists individual wrestler rankings.

West Virginia Wrestling West Virginia Division II High School Individual Wrestling Rankings West Virginia Wrestling Coaches Association / wvmat.com February 13, 2026. Lists individual wrestler rankings for Division II.



LARGE GUN, AMMO, NEW COSTCO PALLET ITEMS & ANTIQUES! VERY NICE COLLECTION OF GUNS & MORE TO FOLLOW IN 3 WEEKS. Sunday February 22nd @ 2PM Located at Oak Summit Auction Gallery 132 N Main St, Moorefield, WV 26836 | 304-530-6403

PUBLIC NOTICES

Tariff Form No. 8
(RULE 23)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

NOTICE is hereby given that Mountaineer Gas Company (Mountaineer), a public utility, has filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA, a tariff containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing natural gas service to approximately 218,000 customers in Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming Counties in West Virginia.

The proposed increased rates and charges will become effective Thursday, March 5, 2026, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission, and will produce, on a total Company basis, \$26,793,000 annually in additional revenues, or an overall average increase in revenues of approximately 8.44%. The \$26,793,000 consists of an increase in base rates of \$43,764,000 and a decrease in the Company's Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program ("IREP") of \$16,971,000. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

	(\$) INCREASE	(%) INCREASE
Residential	\$ 9.63	% 10.57
Commercial	\$ 14.23	% 4.09
Large Commercial	\$ 1,058.29	% 1.31
Industrial	\$ 378.26	% 1.69
Resale	\$ 125.36	% 1.31
Other	\$ -	% -

This increase incorporates the rate impact of the cumulative investment under the IREP that was placed into service as of September 30, 2025. As a result, the Company proposes to reduce the IREP component of its rates relating to that investment when the new base rates go into effect.

Resale customers of Mountaineer Gas Company include Canaan Valley Gas Company, Cardinal Natural Gas Company, Hope Gas, Inc., Megan Oil and Gas Company, Inc., and City of Philippi.

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. (If a hearing is scheduled, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.)

Anyone desiring to intervene and act as a party in the case should file on or before May 5, 2026, a Petition to Intervene complying with the Commission rules on intervention in the Rules of Practice and Procedure, 150 C.S.R. 1, unless otherwise modified by Commission order. The Commission may establish a final deadline for intervention. Failure to timely protest or intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases or to participate in future proceedings. Anyone desiring to protest should file a written protest as soon as possible, although protests will be accepted by the Commission through the pendency of this proceeding. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention. All interventions may be mailed and addressed to Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston West Virginia 25323 or may be hand-delivered. Protests may be filed online through the Commission website (www.psc.state.wv.us) using the "Submit a Comment" link or may be mailed to the Executive Secretary at the same address as above.

A complete copy of the Company's tariff proposals and a representative of the Company to provide information concerning this tariff are available to all customers, prospective customers or their agents at the following office of the Company:

501 56th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304

A copy of this tariff is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25301.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in him by that certain Deed of Trust, dated November 19, 1999, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Hardy County, West Virginia, in Book No. 152, at Page 454, Gary J Hall and Nancy M Hall did convey unto Household Finance Company III, Trustee(s), certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Seneca Trustees, Inc., as Substitute Trustee; and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by Bravo Residential Funding Trust 2024-RPL1 to foreclose thereunder, will offer for sale at public auction at the front door of the Hardy County Courthouse in Moorefield, West Virginia, on

March 19, 2026 at 12:45 PM

the following described real estate, together with its improvements, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in 02 - Lost River District, Hardy County, West Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:

All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in Hardy County, West Virginia, known and designated as containing 2.0 acres, more or less, improved with a dwelling house, situated along Rush Lick Hollow Road, in Lost River District, Hardy County, West Virginia.

At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have an address of: Rt 1 Box 82K2, Mathias, WV 26812.

The referenced real estate will be conveyed with no covenants of warranty, and subject to all covenants, restrictions, easements, rights of way and reservations which may be a matter of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office or visible upon the ground, all prior liens and encumbrances, including, without limitation, liens for real estate taxes, incinerator, sanitary and sewer charges. The purchasers at the sale shall be responsible for paying the recording costs and also the tax on the privilege of transferring real property (the cost of the tax stamp to be affixed to the deed). The purchasers shall be responsible for payment of all 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: \$3500.00 in cash and/or certified funds as deposit at the time of sale with the balance due and payable within 30 days of the day of sale.

FEDERAL TAX LIEN: In the event that there are Federal Tax Liens against the property, the United States would have the right to redeem the property within a period of 120 days from the date of such sale or the period allowable for redemption under local law, whichever is longer.

Pursuant to the Deed of Trust, the Trustee may postpone the sale by public announcement at the time and place designated or by posting a notice of the same, and act by agent in the execution of the sale. The parties secured by the Deed of Trust reserve the right to purchase the property at such sale.

SENECA TRUSTEES, INC.
5000 Coombs Farm Drive, Suite 104
Morgantown, WV 26508
(304) 413-0044
(304) 292-2918
Toll free: (888) 534-3132
Reference File No. 28527

cc: The Moorefield Examiner
February 18, 2026, February 25, 2026

✓

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON**

CASE NO. 25-0811-MC-C
COMPASSIONATE CARE TRANSPORT,
A limited liability company,

Application for a certificate of convenience and necessity to operate as a common carrier by motor vehicle in the transportation of NON-EMERGENCY medical transport patients.

NOTICE OF FILING

On September 11, 2025, Compassionate Care Transport, LLC, filed an application with the West Virginia Public Service Commission under West Virginia code §24A-2-5 for a certificate of public convenience and necessity -

To operate as a common carrier by motor vehicle in the transportation of passengers for non-emergency medical transport in Mineral, Grant and Hardy Counties, in West Virginia to other points in West Virginia.

Rates:
Loading Fee (one way): \$75.00
Loading Fee (round trip): \$150.00
Mileage Charge: \$3.00 per mile (until transport completed)
Waiting Fee:
First thirty (30) minutes: \$0.00
All minutes over the first thirty: \$1.00 per minute

Anyone affected by or opposed to the application must object, in writing, or file a letter of protest or seek intervenor status in this matter within ten days of this publication. All such letters must be addressed to: Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323. If no written protests of objections to the application are received by the commission within ten days, the Commission may waive formal hearing and grant the application based upon its review of information submitted with the application.

COMPASSIONATE CARE TRANSPORT, LLC

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


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

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

First Publication Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026

DATE FILED 02/02/2026
ESTATE NAME: RONALD LEE ALLEN
118 CEDAR LANE
CALLAO VA 22435
AFRIANT RONALD WILLIAM ALLEN
27 HARWILL DR
STAFFORD VA 22556

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 2/2/2026


Loretta L. Humberton
Clerk of the Hardy County Commission

Notice of Administration to Creditors, Distributees & Legatees

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

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

First Publication Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Claim Deadline: Sunday, April 12, 2026

ESTATE NAME: MELANIE DAWN ZIRK
ADMINISTRATOR GREGORY M ZIRK PO BOX 678 MOOREFIELD WV 26836-0678

ESTATE NAME: GARY BAILEY STALNAKER
ADMINISTRATOR CTA DBN JOSHUA R PARSONS 215 CENTRAL AVENUE MOOREFIELD WV 26836-1213

ESTATE NAME: BETTY LOU STALNAKER
ADMINISTRATOR CTA DBN JOSHUA R PARSONS 215 CENTRAL AVENUE MOOREFIELD WV 26836-1213

ESTATE NAME: NINA R SHOEMAKER WILKINS
EXECUTRIX MICHELLE DEIRDRE SHOEMAKER 1030 WHETZEL HOLLOW ROAD MATHIAS WV 26812-8050


ESTATE NAME: RENICK CUNNINGHAM WILLIAMS
CO EXECUTOR SAMUEL I WILLIAMS PO BOX 963 OLD FIELDS WV 26845-0963
CO EXECUTOR ROBERT R WILLIAMS PO BOX 122 MOOREFIELD WV 26836-0122
ATTORNEY JOYCEE STEWART 113 WINCHESTER AVENUE MOOREFIELD WV 26836-1109

ESTATE NAME: HAROLD ELMER DAVIS
EXECUTRIX RAMONAT DAVIS 208 SIONS ST MOOREFIELD WV 26836-1029

ESTATE NAME: DENNIS OWEN HELMICK
EXECUTOR AUSTIN TYLER HELMICK PO BOX 624 MOOREFIELD WV 26836-0624

ESTATE NAME: BRENDA KAY STRAWDERMAN
EXECUTOR TODD S STRAWDERMAN 29024 STATE RD 55 WARDENSVILLE WV 26851-8203

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 02/02/2026


Loretta L. Humberton
Clerk of the Hardy County Commission



MOOREFIELD EXAMINER

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Stay Informed with Hardy County's Local News.

Local Reporting • Community Updates • Sports

304-647-0949

Visit moorefieldexaminer.com

GET YOUR PAWS ON BOTH

Smaller Internet Price

Bigger Internet Speeds

EVERY ONENET FIBER INTERNET CUSTOMER IS A LUCKY DOG

Do you have our OneNet fiber Internet? You'll automatically see your price decrease and your speeds increase. That may sound too good to be true, but we assure you, it's happening.

Why is Hardy Telecommunications taking this doggone amazing action? We want you to have more money to spend and more Internet speed to enjoy.

TO FETCH ALL THE DETAILS, VISIT WWW.HARDYNET.COM OR CALL 304-897-9911.

HARDY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
2255 Kimseys Run Road, Lost River, WV 26810
304-897-9911 • www.hardynet.com

Customer premise equipment change might be necessary for new speeds. Call to learn more.

SUBSCRIBE NOW

GET IT IN DIGITAL

www.moorefieldexaminer.com

\$41 PER YEAR

Queen Bees Travel Softball 16U Team

Queen Bees Travel Softball 16U Team competed hard at the Girls Night Out Tournament in Palmyra, PA only giving up 6 runs, recording 2 wins, 2 ties and awarded Runners-Up! Congratulations Team & Coaches! - Manager Daniel Barr



We are seeking additional housing for our Moorefield, WV facility



BROILERS

Contact
Duke Dunkle
304.703.7407
Larkin.Dunkle@pilgrims.com

\$ Upgrade incentives and new housing incentives available.

\$ Fuel pay incentives of \$.05/sq. ft. paid year round.

All litter amendments and bug spray paid year round.

We offer many opportunities to expand existing farms. Upgrades can be done within one year of transfer.

BREEDERS

Contact
Michael Mallow
304.538.5352
Michael.Mallow@jbssa.com

Pilgrim's Moorefield Breeder Department is seeking additional housing for hatching egg production for our growing facility.

Extended term contracts and new increased building incentives are available!

JOIN OUR TEAM

208 S. Main St.
Moorefield, WV 26836

Visit our website
www.pilgrims.com

Contact us

304.538.5356



EOE, including disability/vets