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Physics and STEMPact Celebrate Grand Opening of Collaborative Space



A big crowd squeezed together on the Main Street sidewalk for the ribbon cutting.

By Stephen Smoot

"It's a welcome addition. It's new and different and exciting. It brings energy back to Main Street" shared Justin Evans, Executive Director of the Hardy County Chamber of Commerce.

Located next door to the Hardy County Library, the storefront once empty is alive now with colorful signage and staff encouraging the community to take a look inside.

Inside, one will first find the retail space, operated by Jay Kirk. The shop sells a variety of science-related merchandise, including parts and other necessities for robotics. Straight behind the counter, one will find the community "maker" space. Within this segment, one can access 3D printers, computer terminals, and tools to craft everything from art to practical items for everyday use.

The back section, nearly half of the space, will provide a practice and planning area for robotics teams, both school-based and home or otherwise

schooled.

"Somebody may not know what's going on," said Evans, then they can walk in, look at all of the tools and kits, and say "oh, this is something I want to do with my life."

One of the parents with a child already involved is Kevin Clark. Last Saturday, he was a dad exploring his son's interest and passion for technology, but during the week, Clark serves as Mineral County Economic Development Director.

He described how his 13 year old son Jack "is really into this" and constructed his own electric and gas-powered minibike. "He wants to take this farther," shared Clark, who added that his son has a small 3D printer at home, but "can't wait to get into one of the giant ones."

As organizers prepared for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the day, children of all ages joyfully skittered around the room. Teenagers, mostly decked out in Moorefield Robotics or JackBots

shirts, helped organizers with the crowd. Elementary school children went here and there, excited with the hands-on tools and parts. Many of those in between those ages busied themselves at the terminals and work stations, exploring what they could find.

Some sang along with music provided by a disc jockey, several older students joining together to Bohemian Rhapsody.

Observing the fun and learning taking place, STEMPact's Alicien Adkins said "welcome to our chaos!"

Before the ribbon cutting, some who helped make this project happen shared a few words about the store and spaces. Adkins said "this has been a long time coming . . . we've got great kids, super talented kids."

Summer Evans, a Moorefield High School senior who is part of the robotics team, spoke next. First she praised "our two amazing coaches" Adkins and Bonnie Crites, calling them also "supporters, advisors, teachers" and that "to many of us (they are) Mom A and Mom B." She closed by addressing the team that put the facility together, saying "this is your 'I made it' moment."

Jay Kirk then shared his inspiration for joining in the endeavor. He explained that he home schools his children and had put together a team of three students for robotics. Adkins and Crites invited the team to join the school-based teams at Moorefield Middle School for learning and practice. The help paid off with victories for the small but mighty squad.

He then described how the whole group came together when the space was secured. It took

countless hours to demolish the previous interior, then resurrect the space as the Physics and STEMPact facility.

"A lot of Jackbots were here" along the way to help build the space "all on our own blood and sweat," as Kirk described.

Kirk explained that the retail space cannot compete pricewise with online outlets like Amazon that can sell for slightly lower costs. That said, ordering online does not support local robotics teams and community spaces. While he did not mention this aspect, shopping at the Physics "brick and mortar" shop brings young people and others interested into the community. One can meet others working on projects, get advice from older kids or adults who have been involved for a longer time.

The space provides tremendous value because it connects everyone together in the common cause of technology competition, education, and fun. The maker space in the middle is slated to be ready for the community later this fall, but robotics teams are already preparing for future triumphs there.

Dreams do come true, but it often takes time, effort, and hard work to bring them to life. It also takes people willing to take a chance on something untried. Kirk also praised Pendleton Community Bank for their support, capital, and their willingness to take a risk on something new and exciting.

"I love Pendleton Community Bank!" he shared.

"It's like nothing Moorefield has ever had before," said Evans.

What It's All About



After a hard fought contest between two of the best in their class, Cougars and Wildcats gather in post game prayer and fellowship. A wonderful example, especially after the ugly headlines from youth games in Pittsburgh recently. Photo courtesy of Pendleton County Athletics Facebook page

East Hardy Triumphs In Contest Between Class A Contenders

By Stephen Smoot

Coming out of week one, both Pendleton County and East Hardy both looked like contenders for the Class A football title. Each program made an early statement with big wins over Petersburg and Madonna, respectively

One could arguably say that after last Friday's game, both of these teams still look like they could meet again in the finals. Big time players made big time plays, as expected. The contest between two disciplined and well-coached teams came down to a handful of mistakes by the visiting squad and the ability of their less-than-accommodating host to capitalize on them.

East Hardy took the ball first at their own 30. For much of the game, running back Trevor Roof lined up directly behind quarterback Nehemiah Graham taking the shotgun snap. Roof took the handoff on the first play and advanced the ball to the 35.

Two plays later, Graham completed a short pass on first down that picked up a first down at the Cougar 47. The team continued moving the ball about five yards at a time down to the Wildcat 24.

There, East Hardy faced third and five. Graham lined up in an empty backfield, but handed off to Roof running from right to left across the formation. East Hardy picked up the first down at the Pendleton County 11.

With 7:30 left on fourth and six, however, Cameron Wyatt got a hand on a pass fired into the endzone, giving his team the ball deep in its own territory.

Colton Roberson moved the ball ahead five yards in two plays. Then on third and six, he unleashed a missile deep to Britton Lough after a play fake froze the defense. He gained 33 on the

reception.

East Hardy put Pendleton County into a fourth and four at midfield. Roberson rolled left and outraced the edge defender to the first down marker and went out at the 40. On the next play, the quarterback found Travis Owens over the middle. The fleet footed receiver evaded a tackle and took the ball the rest of the way for the initial score of the contest.

The kick went wide, however.

Up six to nothing after an eight play, three minute drive, the Wildcats kicked to East Hardy, who started from the 38. On first and 10, a half second delay in the handoff gave David Noble the chance to explode into the backfield and drop Roof for a loss of three. Graham, however, got much of the yardage back finding a crease in the defense on second and '13. He exploded ahead to the 48 after a gain of nine.

On third and one Zander Adams played huge, bursting through the line and getting the first hit on the shifty Roof with Roberson coming in hot from his safety position to finish off the play. On fourth and two, however, Graham found Micah Ludwig with a short pass that picked up the first down.

Ludwig found the ball in his hands twice more on passes as East Hardy closed in on the endzone. A Graham keeper on first and goal at the five plus a made kick put the home team up seven to six with 11:10 left in the first half.

Throughout the game, both offenses ran efficient and patient drives punctuated by big plays. A judicious mixture of runs and passes characterized both offenses. Pendleton County worked in the offseason to take more of the offensive burden

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Governor Morrissey Lays Out Next Steps In Energy Vision For West Virginia During Greenbrier Speech

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrissey gave one of his most closely-watched speeches in his career at The Greenbrier. Meanwhile, the man most identified with the historic five star hotel and resort, United States Senator Jim Justice, was using the same occasion, the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Summit, to discuss a potential run for his former office.

To his credit, during the speech the Governor resisted mention of the junior Senator from the Mountain State and focused on key announcements and updates. His speech last week adds to a long list of private sector investments and the likelihood of more good paying construction and permanent jobs all over the state.

"Looks like you've had an exciting morning, and I'm hopeful with some of the announcements we're going to make, we're going to keep you on the edge of your seats for a few minutes longer," said Governor Morrissey.

Much of Governor Morrissey's strategy for addressing the mounting list of needs facing the state lies in banking on revenues from development and assistance from companies seeking to make major investments. He stated early in his presentation that "we need to create the environment that gives every West Virginia family, and I need every family, the opportunity to pursue their dreams, to wildly succeed, and allow West Virginia to be the best place to live, work, and play in America."

"As your governor, that's what motivates me," he added. He touted \$96 billion in investment secured for the state over a one-year period, explaining that was nine times better than the next best year for economic development. Later in the talk, he revealed that the investment would result in a little less than 20,000



Governor Morrissey shared big announcements about developments in Grant, Jefferson, and Mason counties at The Greenbrier last week. Photo by Regina Smoot

new jobs.

The Governor then turned to rural healthcare transformation funds that will improve access, facilities, communication, and other key elements of obtaining medical service in remote locations. He explained it as a "once in a lifetime opportunity to make improvements, im-

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EDITORIAL

By Stephen Smoot

You can find them almost anywhere. They show up at the diner every morning to gab with friends, enjoy a cup of coffee, and chow down on eggs and bacon. They go to the hardware store “for a few things” and end up chewing the fat with staff or friends for much longer than they need. They drive tractors in the fields, old pickup trucks up and down the road, and are always good for a friendly wave or a quick and wise piece of advice.

You can recognize them immediately even though they often look quite different from each other. Whether rail thin or with a bit of a belly, they usually feature white (or no) hair, jeans or overalls, and worn boots. Most sport ball caps that, like the jeans, look like they have seen much better days, but wear more comfortable than anything more expensive.

No rural community could really run without good old country boys.

Good ol’ country boys know much and say less. They don’t work until a set time, but till the job is done. No matter how old they are, they’re strong enough to help you lift whatever you need lifted. They drink coffee in the morning, water or sweet tea at work or on the farm, and maybe a cold beer to wash down the day at home.

No matter how rough they dress to go out on the farm or elsewhere to work during the week, the suit they wear to church is immaculate. The missus takes care of that for him because she loves and appreciates her husband who has done so much to provide for her and the family.

If you see a circle of good ol’ country boys jawing, chewing the fat, or “solving the problems of the world,” do not be surprised if they make you pass a test of wits and intelligence that the College Board or SAT could never equal in ingenuity or entertainment.

Walk up to a small group sometime. If they don’t know you, they will silently look at you, certainly evaluating you. The test comes when one of them addresses you, saying something that is probably about 60 percent silly and 40 percent plausible, but almost certainly wrong. The expectation is that you will respond with something a little more silly and a little less plausible. The conversation goes back and forth, entirely deadpan and serious in tone, until the statements are completely ab-

In Praise of Good Ol’ Country Boys

surd. Follow that path to the end.

If you pass the intelligence test, they may give your words a fair listen.

City people live in sociological and economic silos. If wealthy, they will travel the world to see people just like them, travel to places just like where they left, and not really experience life broadly or deeply.

If you could see the history of good ol’ country boys written down and tacked to their lapel, you will find people who battled nature on behalf of their farms and families for decades. You will see men who went to war, not to command from the rear, but to be commanded at the front. You will see men who look too old for anything physical, but they remain valuable volunteers with fire and/or EMS. You will see men who greeted success with humility and learned from every failure. You may not always see people who thrived in life, but they are definitely survivors.

Shake their hands and you will feel the hard work of their lives etched into their palms.

No matter how many zeros their bank account holds, their attire and vehicles are plebeian because why pay too much for something you don’t need. To these folks, waste is a cuss word that you happen to be allowed to say in polite company.

They hate politics and say they have no use for politicians, but pay close attention to both anyway because government is where the biggest threat to their livelihood, whatever that may be, comes from. Then those frustrated by the process end up running and winning local government races, usually injecting common sense into the process.

They know how to fix most of what you need fixed. If they can’t fix it, they know a guy. Some have crafted truly ingenious inventions, but in true country boy style, never patented what they created because they assume someone else had the idea already. Usually they turn out to be the first, however. They have medical knowledge like they have knowledge of what’s wrong with a car. If they’ve experienced it, they know it and they never forget how to deal with it.

Children are fascinated with these men, often patriarchs of the family that they might call “Paw Paw”, “Grandpa”, “Uncle”, or some other term of family endearment. Old country boys are always good for a story about the old days, making some kind of repair job extremely interesting, or teaching generations-old wisdom about the weather, farming, cars, animals, or pretty much anything.

No community runs without them. They often wear several hats, supporting their families, their work, service clubs, volunteer first responder organizations, historical societies, and more.

They are also the chroniclers of the community. They know who the running back was who gained all those yards to beat the big rival in 1983. They remember schools long closed, the teachers who gave them what they needed to move forward in life, and where the store that closed in 1996 used to be. They knew who was the waitress at the local restaurant for 30 years, then retired and moved away. They know a thousand little details of lives well-lived in the community they’d never leave even for \$10 million, at least that’s what they say, anyway.

They also remember the tragedies, who was killed in a hunting or a car accident, what family lost their lives in a house fire, and whose homes were destroyed in the flood.

Of course among themselves they will debate endlessly over the details of these events, just because it’s fun for them to do so.

They stand tall like oak trees in the community, seemingly strong and immovable, as if they will occupy that spot and do the same things, share the same stories, and be around to ask advice from forever.

But they stand proudly until they can’t. Robert Frost once entitled a poem “Nothing Gold Can Stay” and we need to heed that lesson. They deserve appreciation for a lifetime of work, service, and raising good kids who love their community as much as their elders, even if they feel they have to leave.

Some day the current crop of good ol’ country boys will pass on. The lives they led, their encyclopedic knowledge of things both important and small, their abilities that they give freely (or at least charge a fair price for) they won’t always be here.

We shouldn’t wait until such men are beyond our ability to directly thank them to show appreciation. They may not always welcome the attention, but they all deserve it.

AT THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library’s Summer Fund Raiser has been successful to date -- thank you! Online giving also available, via QR Code on our Hardy County Library - Moorefield FB page. The ADULT PROGRAM is growing / Book Club , Crochet/Knitting/ Handwork still in place and open for more members, the Strawberry Class was terrific!

A Beginning Quilting and also a Weaving expert is interested and discussing availability ... What we need now is to know YOUR interests -- classes can happen with a minimum of 5 folk --- no maximum ...

Please FB, call , come in and let us know your interests; Home repair? Fishing? Motorcycles? Finances? Build an interest group and FOL will help find a teacher!

Memorials:
Gift to the memorial fund in memory of Irene Webster; given by The Pink Ribbon Ladies.

Gift to the memorial fund in memory of Irene Webster; given by Susan Nichols.

Regular Events:
Crochet/Needle craft – Thursday’s at 1:00 pm
Story Time – Wednesdays at 10:00
Book Club – 1 st Saturday at 1:00

New Fiction:

Not a word : a novel; by Linwood Barclay

Every family has secrets, but when Reece visits his parent’s house, he’s shocked to find them in bed, dead. At first glance it looks like a murder-suicide perpetrated by his father, but on closer inspection there’s clearly more to the story. For starters, inconsistencies in the crime scene suggest his dad may not have shot himself. As Reece, shaken by his horrifying discovery, awaits questioning from the police, his phone lights up with a call. It’s the last person he ever would have expected to hear from.

Reeling from the day’s events, Reece finds himself questioning everything he thought he knew about his parents--and whether he and his own family are in danger now. While the authorities work to untangle the baffling crime scene, Reece is pulled into a web of secrets linked to the unscrupulous pharma company his father worked for years ago. In order to protect the people he loves most, he’ll have to dig deep into his own past to understand who his parents were, what they did, and who they hurt--before he ends up paying for their sins.

Cul-de-sac : a novel; by Joy Fielding

A shooting lays bare the secrets harbored by five families in a

sleepy suburban cul-de-sac in this riveting psychological thriller from the New York Times bestselling author of All the Wrong Places,

The boat house; by Fern Michaels

An unexpected inheritance from their late uncle brought Madison (Taylor) Wainwright and her brother Lincoln to Smuggler’s Cove. But it’s the quirky, close-knit locals who’ve convinced them to stay for the summer. The little town may be worlds away from the privileged existence the siblings knew before their father was arrested for fraud, but here, they’ve found a sense of belonging. After renovating the dilapidated boat house that once served as a local marina for crabbers and clammers, Madison and Lincoln are settling in for a true Jersey Shore summer, complete with the town’s famous Seafood Festival. Visitors love learning about the area’s history--the tales of pirates and privateers, cryptic maps and buried treasure. Those stories seem like harmless fantasy until a seemingly worthless map is stolen from their boathouse. Could their uncle’s rudimentary map show the true location of Captain Kidd’s treasure? Or was there another, more sinister motive behind the theft? As Madison and Lincoln dig deeper, they learn that the legends underpinning Smuggler’s Cove’s history may also have the power to tear it apart, unless they can quickly separate fiction from fact, and guilty from innocent.

Big little truths : a novel; by Liane Moriarty

The last time we saw the women of Big Little Lies--Madeline, Celeste, Jane, Renata, and Bonnie--their children were five years old. If someone wasn’t invited to a birthday party, feelings were hurt. But ten years have passed and the kids are in high school, navigating all of the drama that accompanies teenhood (goodbye playdates, hello drugs, sex, and alcohol). When the high school principal receives a threatening package in the mail, word quickly spreads throughout the community and parents are in an uproar. But Madeline, Celeste, Jane, Renata, and Bonnie have other things to worry about.

Celeste’s mother-in-law, Mary Louise, is behaving oddly--is it old-age forgetfulness and bluntness or something more sinister? Madeline is facing perhaps the biggest challenge of her life, Jane is at a dangerous fork in her marriage, Bonnie has realized there’s only so much solace in yoga. And Renata? Renata is living her best life--revenge is sweet. When a stranger begins lurking around the school asking supposedly innocent questions, this tightly connected group of women must finally face the full repercussions of the big little truths they have and haven’t shared with their kids. Because the stakes are now much higher than not being

invited to an ice-skating party--and the ice has never been thinner for any of them.

The true meaning of love : a novel; by Danielle Steel

February 24 is the eighteenth birthday of a Ukrainian ballet school student named Vlad. It also happens to be the day that the first bombs of the 2022 Russian attack land on his homeland. As life for every person in the country is turned upside down in a moment, Vlad is immediately called up to serve in the military. But as much as he wants to defend his country, he is desperate to get his girlfriend, Tatyanna, an orphan whose only home has been the ballet school, out of the country. With their home under siege, Tatyanna tries to make her way to safety in Poland. Also joining the refugees is Yulya, who is torn between getting her young children across the border and staying at the side of her husband, Symon, and her elderly parents, Petro and Oxana, who refuse to abandon their home.

As millions flee, Vlad and Symon join a volunteer civilians’ unit to fight. Even elderly citizens like Petro and Oxana are given AK-47s, though soon starvation becomes as much of a threat as the encroaching troops. Sasha, an obstetrician, and Anton, a surgeon, who are secretly lovers, stay behind to treat the never-ending waves of wounded. When the Russians bomb hospitals, the heroic couple finds themselves delivering babies in bomb shelters. Through the stories of Vlad, Tatyanna, Yulya, Symon, Sasha, and Anton--each struggling to protect their loved ones and preserve their own humanity.

New Easy Readers:

Cat’s Halloween; l by Alison Murray

Cat despises everything about Halloween, but when he tries to escape the holiday altogether, he discovers that celebrating with loved ones might make it magical after all.

Sunday Scaries; By Debra Kempf Shumaker

Young Josie becomes anxious on Sundays about returning to school the next day, but with help from her family, she learns to sooth her worries and look forward to the week ahead.

My Kentucky moonlight school; by Kim Michele Richardson

In a small Kentucky holler in 1913, a young girl named Jewel accompanies her grandparents to

Moonlight School, a night school where adults of all ages can gain an education, as she proudly celebrates their accomplishments.

Three little witches and the spooky old house; by Peggy Archer

Three witches stir up a cozy Halloween surprise inside a house that is not as haunted as it seems.

CHAMBER CORNER

After about one year and one month as the Executive Director of the Hardy County Chamber of Commerce I am still learning new things and meeting new people. I am still excited about this opportunity, and I am still hoping you will all join the Chamber.

We are currently planning and preparing for the 2026 Annual Gala: Where the Mountains Meet, which was my first order of business last year when I started. Last year’s Gala was an incredible success, and I expect much of the same for the 2026 edition. Chamber members should have received a link to use to vote for this year’s Annual Gala Awards. Please vote for the businesses, organizations and individuals you think have done the best job representing the Chamber, supporting our community and helping others this past year.

You can purchase sponsorships for and tickets to the Gala on our website; hardycountychamber.com/membership. If you would like to join the Chamber you can do that at the same place as well.

Chamber membership can provide an exciting new benefit with the Multiple Employer Aggregate Program (MEAP) which is a 401K that could save your business time and money versus a more traditional 401K program. If you have questions, please email or call Justin 304-202-7152 ext. 800.

I have high hopes for the year ahead. I want to add more members to the Chamber, I want to create more benefits for all our members, and I want to see our members working together to meet new and exciting challenges. I want to hear your ideas. What kinds of benefits would you like to see the Chamber provide? What kinds of events would you like to see the Chamber host?

This past January saw the first ever Hardy County Day at the State Capitol. Many Hardy Countians were in Charleston that day to speak with our legislators, The Chamber, with the gracious help of many of our members were able to provide a boxed lunch to our legislators and their staff. We are planning to return in January 2027; to again highlight Hardy County and all it has to offer to businesses and other folks who may choose to locate in our wonderful county.

I want to take a moment to thank all our members for their support of the Hardy County Chamber of Commerce and for welcoming me when I visit and taking time to talk on the phone when I call.

I am looking forward to another year of learning, growing and interacting with our members, if you have questions, suggestions or just want to chat, my phone and inbox are always open.

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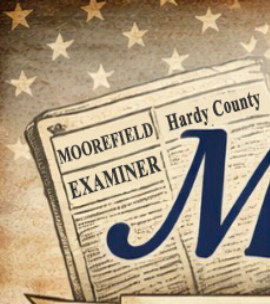
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Gov. Morrisey Greenbrier Speech

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proving transportation access for many people that struggle to get to their appointments, modernizing health care and billing, recruiting new nurse practitioners and doctors and other health care providers to come to our state, making health care more affordable.”

Improvements in healthcare outcomes, the Governor reasoned, will directly improve West Virginia’s poor workforce participation rate.

“Clean, clear water” formed the next major topic of discussion, with the Governor sharing that the State will put \$145 million towards improving water systems and infrastructure. He also pointed out that the amount of money from the state does not mean that only \$145 million will be spent on these projects. Much of that money will go into matching funds attached to potentially hundreds of millions more in funding from the federal government and other sources.

Often the federal government will provide a grant to fund a large percent, often 70 to 90 percent, if the recipient can put in the smaller percentage. State funding will help to meet those matches and leverage more help, the Governor suggesting that \$450 million more could be obtained.

He added that the State could soon see spending from his administration on such projects top \$1 billion.

Next came the topic of energy. Historically, West Virginia has served as a source of raw materials for manufacturing or power production in other states. Many aware of that history have cited it in criticizing recent development moves and efforts.

The difference is that the State has a policy in place to monetize West Virginia resources as much as possible in state. For example, as Gover-

nor Morrisey explained, “in the past, West Virginia was exporting 90 percent of its natural gas out of state for the benefit of others. This is a different philosophy than we have.”

He went on to explain that “historically, West Virginia’s energy and resources were used to benefit others that were mostly shipped out of state, not directly benefiting West Virginia. Our plan is different . . . to use West Virginia’s coal, our gas, and other resources to generate power in West Virginia. And this is power that could be used for manufacturers, for technology companies, and other businesses in our state.”

A year ago, the Governor shared the vision to add 50 gigawatts of electric power production to state capacity by 2050. One year later, almost one fifth of that goal has been realized. He explained that coal has benefited from a renewed commitment by President Donald Trump, especially in terms of extending the expected useful life of coal-fired plants. Also, the National Science Foundation made a major \$320 million investment in an initiative from West Virginia University and its partners to develop clean coal technology.

Governor Morrisey also shared how his administration had worked with leadership at EQT, Hope Gas, and American Electric Power to drive even more investment. He stated that the effort had led to another \$80 million in potential investment “to monetize that intersection between energy and manufacturing and technology and health care.”

He then described developments across the state, starting with a major expansion by Randox in Jefferson County. Next came an announcement of a foundation for the Potomac Highlands created by \$13 million in a joint effort

between Microsoft and one of their power vendors, Clearway. That company operates windfarms in Grant, Mineral and elsewhere.

All of that set the stage for a major announcement of a \$12 billion project from Starwood Digital ventures in Mason County. The project runs on a closed loop cooling system that minimizes demands on water systems.

Anthony Balestrieri, Chief Executive Office of the company, joined the Governor on stage. He stated that “West Virginia has been at the forefront of bringing and defining a clear set of standards for responsible development, and we appreciate that leadership.”

The Governor had another Mason County announcement that nScale received approval for its high impact data center project whose investment will reach close to \$70 billion.

Dan Shapiro of nScale praised the diligence of West Virginia officials in examining proposals and forming counter-proposals to protect state interests in environmental impact, aesthetics, infrastructure, and community concerns.

In response to state legislation and in anticipation of the Ratepayers Protection Act currently before the United States Congress and supported by Congressman Riley Moore, nScale representatives stated that the process to earn agreement with the State was “not easy.”

They went on to say that “It was rigorous, and it should be, because West Virginia getting it right on the front end rather than blindly welcoming in every type of data centers made us all better and focused.”

The Governor concurred, saying “West Virginia has learned from the mistakes of others and we’re doing it right.”

Eastern WVCTC and EWVCF to See Support From Foundation Funded By Clearway and Microsoft

By Stephen Smoot

Last week at the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Summit, West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey laid out a vision for energy and infrastructure in the Mountain State moving forward. Alongside of a new slate of proposals, the Governor discussed a collaboration between Microsoft and Clearway to inject \$13 million into regional needs.

Funding will continue annually for 20 years.

The Governor spoke of an initial \$4.5 million already allocated in the Community Energy Fund and managed by the Sustain Our Future Foundation “managing grant distribution and working with community members to identify priorities for future grant cycles.”

“This state is more than an American energy powerhouse,” noted Governor Morrisey in a release from Clearway, “it is our schools, our entrepreneurs, and our volunteer firefighters, who today gained \$4.5 million towards their efforts to raise the quality of life around our state.”

Paul Sari, Director of Global Carbon-Free Energy at Microsoft, said of the move “this is what Community First AI infrastructure looks like – supporting and investing in communities where we do business.”

Funding comes as part of the long-term power purchase agreement between Clearway and Microsoft. The technology giant purchases power from the Clearway wind farm on Mount Storm that straddles Corridor H/US Route 48.

Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical Col-

lege, Mont West Community and Technical College, West Virginia State University, and Bluefield State University will also receive grant support. West Virginia State and Bluefield State are West Virginia’s representatives on the list of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Funds also went to the West Virginia Community Development Hub and the Eastern West Virginia Community Action Agency. Governor Morrisey made specific mention of their work in helping vulnerable households better seal off their homes against extremes of cold and hot weather.

Hardy County residents will also see direct benefit in support for the South Branch Career and Technical School, offering world-class skills training in a variety of trades, health care, and small business applications. South Branch serves Hardy, Grant, and Pendleton counties.

“The future of the workforce in the Potomac Highlands region is brighter than ever thanks to this collaboration between Clearway and Microsoft. These funds will enhance workforce training programs preparing students and adult learners . . . for high-demand careers and opportunities right in their backyard.”

Grant County, home of the Mount Storm wind farm, received much of the funding. It supported local schools, emergency responders, economic development agencies, and more. That county has enjoyed a remarkable run in 2026 of positive news in the energy sector, with major projects and a number of jobs now slated for the area.

Callie Dayton of Clearway stated that “energy infrastructure continues to build economic strength in West Virginia, in addition to delivering home-grown power into the local electric grid.”

East Hardy Triumphs in Contest

continued from page 1

off of their quarterback and 2025 Class A all-state captain Roberson. Braydon Willis in particular has run with strength and speed, but also discipline while the passing game has worked on even distribution of passes between the team’s three big play threats from last season, Lough, Owens, and Wyatt.

East Hardy has the same scoring punch and wealth of offensive skill players that took it to the state playoffs last season. Where the Cougars have demonstrated improvement is on defense. In this game, they worked to keep the potent Wildcat offense in front of the defensive backfield as much as possible.

Both squads showed the state great play last year, but both teams built on that success in the off-season, neither satisfied with where they finished last season and both eyeing a deep run in 2026.

The Wildcats started deep in their end of the field at the 23. Three plays later with 10 minutes in the first half, Willis broke through arm tackles to pick up three yards and a first down at his own 35. Not long after, at the 8:43 mark in the second stanza, Roberson on play action threw to Owens at the 15, who dove to the 10. A flag moved the ball half the distance to the five.

Roberson faked a hand off and ran it in himself. The Wildcats couldn’t convert and the score remained 12 to seven.

East Hardy tried a deep ball from the 45 on first down, but Wyatt defended the play downfield. He had made a touchdown saving tackle just prior on the kickoff. East Hardy got the ball to the Wildcat 47, but Spencer Hartman took down Roof in the backfield to kill the drive and get his squad the ball back.

Pendleton County looked to take control, pushing the ball to first and goal at the one yard line of East Hardy. A fumble on that play landed in the hands of a Cougar who ran it back out to their 10.

A five minute, 13 play, 90 yard drive to take the lead followed that game changing defensive play. Notably, almost every offensive play took the ball out of bounds, stopping the clock. Offensive discipline allowed East Hardy to keep clock-stopping time outs in their pocket and also maintain their full slate of running options.

On third and three at the nine, Graham ran the read option and kept the ball, moving to a first down at the two. From there, with almost no time left, the Cougars scored, kicked successfully, and walked into halftime with a 14 to 12 advantage.

Wyatt took the second half kickoff to his own 24. Connor Henderson on first down chased down Roberson and was assisted by Graham with a four-yard sack. Back on their heels momentarily, the Wildcats responded effectively with the offensive line plowing a hole through the middle of the Cougar defense. Willis ran straight ahead to midfield, showing his speed on the play.

Both teams generally took their time before running each play, but this time Roberson attempted a Rich Rodriguez “spot the ball” style move. He raced his team to the line to get a play off, but East Hardy was not thrown off and tackled Willis for a one-yard gain.

A few plays later Roberson had second and eight at the East Hardy 36. Jonah See pulled in the reception at the 22 for a fresh set of downs. Pendleton County did advance the ball to the 16, but the Cougars broke up a pass that would have given at least a first down to the visitors with a little less than eight minutes to go in the third.

East Hardy took over after another big defensive stop deep in their end of the field. They moved the ball to the 20 and had to punt it away at that point. Pendleton County moved the ball to the Cougar 30, but one of the defensive linemen drifting backwards into the passing lanes pulled in the interception.

Graham took the offense inside the Wildcat 30. There Wyatt once again came up with a vital play to break up a pass. On fourth down, Graham looked for room to escape the rush of Hartman, but was flushed into the arms of Noble and others to end the drive at the Wildcat 31.

The Wildcats had the ball and a two-point disadvantage with 8:17 in the game. On first down, the Wildcats lined up in a set with four wide receivers bunched on the right, suggesting a bubble screen. Pendleton County ran the ball forward, but the Cougars were not fooled and stopped the play after a gain of two.

East Hardy took the ball at their own 36 after a punt from the Wildcat 36. On first and 10, Roof found space to run, but Lough found Roof’s leg and held on tight, shutting down the play after a gain of five. Trying to advance the ball and seal a narrow win, the Cougars tried to catch the Wildcats with a deep pass. Wyatt, however, gave his team new life by snagging an interception and taking the ball to midfield.

Roberson and the Wildcat offense would not be denied on this drive. Roberson fired the ball deep on first and 10 at his own 49. Owens, running a post pattern reminiscent of the 49ers Brent Jones, split two deep defenders and pulled in the pass at the Cougar 15. Willis ran the ball to the five and Roberson the rest of the way.

Pendleton County scored the two-point conversion and took a 20 to 14 lead with four minutes remaining.

East Hardy took the kick to the 40 and then came the biggest play of the game. Roof ran straight ahead, found a gap, and never looked back. After the touchdown, the kick lifted the home team up by one with 3:50 left. The Wildcats lost a fumble late that ended their final drive. East Hardy held onto the ball to conclude the contest 21 to 20.

The game was efficiently and effectively played by both sides. Mistakes made by the Wildcats gave East Hardy opportunities and they capitalized enough to pull away with the win. Both teams, however, showed their strengths and played well overall, an excellent showcase of Potomac Highlands high school football.

After the game, the teams that brought the best out in each other gathered at midfield. Coaches from both sides locked arms and players joined hands in a postgame prayer.

A fitting end to a classic game played the right way by both teams.



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★

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★

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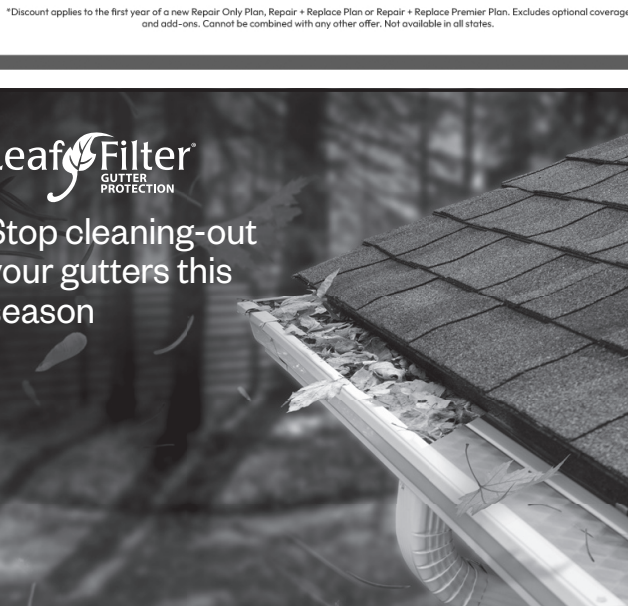
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Crouching Tiger, Hidden Yellow Jacket: Moorefield stuns 10th ranked Elkins

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

Challenge accepted. The Class AAA No. 10 Tigers came prowling into Moorefield and were inundated by a swarm of Class AA Yellow Jackets defending the Hive for a 33-30 victory.

Moorefield Special Teams unit was a key contributor to upsetting the Tigers from on-side kick recoveries to a 97-yard kickoff return touchdown by Bill Lewis-Nieves and forcing a wild snap fumble on a field goal attempt during the final drive.

“I know we can do this. These guys have been busting their butts all summer. We aren’t a big team in numbers, but we are a big team in heart. I’m almost speechless. We just sent the number 10 triple-A school in the state of West Virginia home packing. I’m just so proud of these guys. It’s about them,” Moorefield coach Eric Linville remarked.

The buzz of positivity began with tailgating fun as the Moorefield Band and Cheer squad entertained the crowd and the energy grew entering Yellow Jacket Field.

The Moorefield student section had a summer vibe with Hawaiian flair.

Moorefield had to place one player on holding the ball duty and that caused a lineup penalty issue commencing the game and re-kicks.

Elkins relied heavily on a running attack led by Seth Robinson starting the game and managed to get across midfield covering a total of 19 yards prior to punting as Moorefield’s defense led by solid tackles from Gage Baker, Matthew Iman, Thomas Simmons and Blake Snyder.

“[Halftime heart] Coach-es gave us a stern talking to

and Davin got up with a very heartwarming speech. The best halftime speech by a player ever. It got us up, got us going and we got out here and got the ball and ran it to the house. We got the ball back and scored again and it was amazing from there,” Moorefield senior Blake Snyder noted.

The Yellow Jackets had a rocky start on offense with two dropped passes before Matthew Iman connected with Edison Metheny for seven yards en route to a punt which went deep off the foot of Jackson Helmick rolling to the 12.

Elkins quarterback Cyrus Kump, a Moorefield transfer, moved the chains with a four-yard pass to Xavier Workman. The Tigers collected another first down, then the Yellow Jacket defense clamped down including pass deflection by Levi Foo and a delay creating a punt.

Moorefield quarterback Matthew Iman notched 32 yards on a keeper dashing down the sideline and was tracked down by Kump to save a potential touchdown at the 35.

Metheny grabbed a first down, but a couple of penalties and incomplete passes yielded a turnover on downs.

It was scoreless in the first quarter, but that would change just 18 seconds into the second frame.

Elkins running back Tony Silvester dashed 58 yards for a 6-0 edge at 11:42 with a fumble on the extra point attempt covered up by Foo.

Moorefield started its next series at the 20-yard line with Lewis-Nieves making a shifty move for a few yards and Caleb Flinn moving the chains on a 10-yard run.

Iman recorded a first down



on two carries, then the Yellow Jackets got into Tigers territory before coughing up the ball.

Elkins took over on the Moorefield 33-yard line and utilized seven plays to hit pay dirt as Kump threw under pressure for a 20-yard touchdown strike to Silvester and Robinson added the conversion to extend the lead to 14-0.

Moorefield had a quick three and out punt, but didn’t hand their heads.

The Tigers matched down into the red zone, but Moorefield’s defensive stops by Colt Sherman, Dakon Taylor and Simmons forced Elkins to settle for a 33-yard field goal and a 17-0 advantage with 1:24 left in the half.

The Yellow Jackets swiftly changed the momentum as Bill Lewis-Nieves garnered a 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown (one yard shy of the all-time program record) and Helmick added the extra point kick to slice the deficit to 17-7 at 1:09.

“I went to the sidelines, because there aren’t bigger guys on that side and I saw a hole and took off. It was great. Going into halftime, we had some mistakes. We had a good speech with teammates bringing us up and we came out and got the job done,” Moorefield sophomore Bill Lewis-Nieves said.

A fumble on the ensuing kickoff went back to Elkins.

The Tigers reached the red zone in the waning seconds, then fumbled the field goal try.

Moorefield junior Davin Abreu shared passionate halftime remarks to the team in the locker room and the Yellow Jackets came out buzzing with an emphasis scoring twice in a minute and change rallying for the lead.

Lewis-Nieves showed off his wheels once again with a 73-yard touchdown run on the

second play from scrimmage and Helmick’s kick closed the gap to 17-14 at 11:09.

The special teams magic was illustrious as Moorefield snatched up the onside kick.

The Hive was buzzing at a deafening level with excitement. Caleb Flinn added to the flight school fireworks for the Yellow Jackets dashing from midfield for the lead changing touchdown at 10:58, 20-17.

“There’s not another group of guys I would want to do this with. Bill made that big return and we just needed a stop and everything was in our favor. We made mistakes, but we made up for them. I’m speechless, but surprised. [Faith] I have to give God the glory. I wouldn’t be doing anything here today without God, my family and my friends and coaches. It is surreal that these guys have my back and I have my teammates backs, too,” Moorefield sophomore Matthew Iman stated.

The Yellow Jackets nearly executed another onside kick. The Tigers quieted the crowd momentarily during a four-play scoring drive resulting in a 31-yard touchdown by Elias Jones to go back on top 24-20.

The Yellow Jackets methodically moved the ball down the field from the 22-yard line to regain the lead.

Metheny caught an 18-yard pass from Iman for a first down, then Lewis-Nieves entered Elkins domain.

Iman moved the first down chains at the 44 and the Yellow Jackets kept on rolling.

Flinn and Lewis-Nieves kept the Yellow Jackets ground crew moving into the red zone.

Iman forced an offside on a hard count, then powered three keepers down to the one-yard line.

Flinn capped off the drive with a fourth down touchdown punch and Helmick added the

kick as Moorefield regained the lead 27-24 at 1:34.

Simmons and Baker made key tackles for the Yellow Jackets and a big run by Elkins was negated on a penalty to close the third quarter.

Four plays into the final stanza, the Tigers pounced into the end zone as Robinson found pay dirt from 29 yards out and there was a fumble on the kick attempt as Elkins took a 30-27 edge at 10:09.

The Yellow Jackets swarmed back as Iman dashed 71 yards and collide with Silvester going out of bounds at the two-yard line.

Lewis-Nieves completed the dynamic sequence with a lead-changing touchdown with 9:28 remaining, 33-30.

Moorefield’s Metheny came up with a huge fourth down deflection.

The Yellow Jackets caught the Tigers offside twice, but ended up punting with under five minutes to go.

Kump created a 44-yard keeper and jumped up quickly to show a first down in the red zone at the 12.

However, three plays later the Tigers fumbled with Davin Abreu making the recovery for the Yellow Jackets with 1:56 left.

Moorefield wasn’t able to corral a first down and Helmick booted the ball with Zakk

Keplinger making a slamming tackle at the 41 with just 1:03 remaining.

The Tigers were able to reach the red zone with 30 seconds left.

Flinn made a tackle for no gain, then Metheny swatted the ball and Kump was chased out for no gain.

The Tigers lined up for a field goal on fourth down with 13 seconds left and the snap went askew and the kicker struggled to pick up the fumble and met by a swarm of Yellow Jackets near the sideline denying a score.

Moorefield’s student section rushed the field after the final play as 10th ranked Elkins fell 33-30.

“That was amazing. Beating a triple-A school and the whole student section coming out. Everybody here supporting us is amazing, an amazing community,”

They are our 12th Man and I know it’s cliché. We want to get the winning culture back here. These guys, not us as coaches, but these guys here have killed that losing mentality. The fans will keep coming and that is important to us... the community is awesome,” Coach Linville added.

Moorefield travels to Sunrise Summit for a battle against Class AAA Hampshire this Friday.

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Moorefield Soccer christens Inskeep Field with Goalapalooza



By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

Moorefield Boys Soccer defeated the Vikings 10-1 in the first official home match in program history at Inskeep Field.

Moorefield senior Javier Acosta and sophomore Danny Guifarro-Baca netted hat tricks during the victory.

The Yellow Jackets scoring barrage continued with a pair of goals by senior Chris Baldwin and junior Austin Arbaugh.

Petersburg Boys Soccer's lone goal was recorded by Iann Doman which came on a corner kick for a 6-1 score.

Guifarro-Baca added a goal for a 7-1 advantage entering halftime.

The Moorefield bench went wild after the first goal made by Baldwin and there was a huge celebration.

Baldwin had been designated as a goalie this season, but proved his footwork could produce goals.

Guifarro-Baca stretched out his arms after his goals showing his joy helping the team increase the lead.

The Yellow Jackets had relentless attacks against Vikings goalkeeper Aiden Coakley.

Moorefield Boys Soccer sophomore goalkeeper Teagan Eversole got tremendous help from the defense overall and keeping the goal clear.

"Winning the first home game in program history was special, especially because we beat one of our rivals. I'm really proud of the boys and excited to see how far we can take this program. I can't wait to see even bigger crowds at our home games," Moorefield Boys Soccer assistant coach Atikilt Tamiru remarked.

"[Coaching] It's very exciting. I always wished we had a soccer program when I was at MHS. I'm happy these players get to have that opportunity and I'm glad to be part of it as a coach."

Petersburg Girls Soccer ruined the first home match party with a 5-1 win over the Yellow Jackets.

Moorefield got off to an electric start as freshman Aeries Deetz nailed the first Yellow Jackets home goal in program history.

The Vikings changed course without letting another goal, despite great attacks coming from Parvatee Snyder and Chloe Ler-



oux.

Petersburg's Kaylee Wolford netted a hat trick in the win Jo-lynn Appold added two goals.

Moorefield goalkeeper senior Grace Simmons remained focused and helped direct defensive traffic at times, despite the loss.

"I was really excited when we

got off to the fast start, scoring first.

I am very proud of Aeries scoring that first goal in program history. We struggled with communication and things just unraveled for us. We have a great group of girls and we will work hard moving forward," Moorefield Girls Soccer coach Jessica Markwood noted.



Moorefield Volleyball protects Hive from Falcons talons in a tiebreaker win

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

Moorefield Volleyball showed heart and determination in protecting the Hive against Frankfort.

The Yellow Jackets fended off the Falcons' talons with a five-set tiebreaker victory: 21-25, 25-16, 25-10, 11-25 and 15-9.

Moorefield Volleyball looked fierce in new black and silver uniforms designed by assistant coach Megan Phares.

Frankfort snatched an early 2-0 lead on a service error and kill by Brystal Miner.

Moorefield's Lexi VanMeter drilled a spike and delivered two aces in building a 5-3 edge.

After serves into the net on both sides, the Yellow Jackets collected an ace by Anniston Kite.

Moorefield's Jocelyn Wagner and Payton Lytle swung for kills to create a 9-4 lead.

Frankfort crept back and two aces by Marlee Alt cut the deficit to 10-9.

Moorefield's Aubrey Kidwell and Lytle made back-to-back digs, then Wagner hammered the ball which was

returned awry.

Moorefield's Emmy Crites served a couple points and Annie Barr created a dink point for a 13-9 edge.

Frankfort kept the first set close with the aid of errors and net play from Alice Welsh and Jordan-Marie Owens.

Wagner put Moorefield up 20-18 with an attack not returned.

The Falcons rallied for a 25-21 win with the help of errors and aces from Addison Mervart.

There were seven ties in the second set, before the Yellow Jackets found a better rhythm.

VanMeter was dynamic at the net with blocks and kills to keep the Yellow Jackets buzzing.

Barr contributed several spikes during the onslaught.

Moorefield's Bella Linville garnered three consecutive aces for a 24-10 advantage.

Frankfort manage to add six points before the Yellow Jackets finally got the set point on a serving error, 25-16.

Moorefield corralled a 14-4 advantage in the third set



which included five aces by Lytle and an ace by Kite.

Moorefield's Brenna See and Annie Barr kept the attacks spinning at the net.

Emmy Crites delivered two aces as the Yellow Jackets took a 17-5 lead.

Lytle, Kite and VanMeter created spikes, while Barr served up an ace for a 23-8 lead.

The Yellow Jackets closed the third set with a kill by Kite for a 25-10 win.

"Our girls brought a lot of energy as always. They kept battling and finished strong. We played as a team and had fun," Moorefield coach Kellan Snyder said.

The Falcons swooped fast for a 25-11 fourth set win to force the tiebreaker as Moorefield had numerous errors.

Aubrey Kidwell delivered three aces in the decisive fifth set as Moorefield commanded a 9-3 advantage before timeout was called.

Coming out of the timeout, Wagner smashed a spike. Frankfort countered with a pair of kills by Alice Welsh.

The Yellow Jackets finished off the tiebreaker set match with a kill and two aces by Lytle for the 15-9, 3-2 win to keep the Hive intact.

"We knew it was going to be a tough game against Moorefield, always. I am just proud



of our girls for fighting back and working hard. The intensity was really high and Moore-

ceive skills. We hung with it as best we could,"

Frankfort coach Brooke Alkire-Higson commented.

East Hardy Middle School Cross Country Results

Capon Bridge Middle School
Bobcat Stampede
August 26
Boys
31. Hunter Garrett 17:38
51. Jake Bragg 27:00

Girls
44. Aspen Maphis 28:00
"They all finished and they weren't last, so that's a win. Lots of schools were so happy that we had a team, so that was a nice little welcome. Capon Bridge has a tough course, so they did pretty well for that being their first one," East Hardy Middle School Athletic Director Kathy Strawderman stated.

Frankfort Middle School Meet
September 3
Boys
6. Hunter Garrett 15:19.76



21. Jake Bragg 211:47.32
Girls
29. Aspen Maphis 22:57.11
"So proud of the three ami-

gos. Everyone took minutes off their previous race, all new personal bests. I made ac comment 20 bucks for Top-10 and boom -

6th place. I'll take it," East Hardy Middle School Cross Country coach Julia Garrett remarked.



Moorefield Golf placed 12th at Berkeley Springs Invitational

Berkeley Springs Golf Invitational
September 4
1. Washington 303 - Overall Low-Medalist Tommy Evans 66
2. Hampshire 324

3. Berkeley springs 334
4. John Handley 335
5. Petersburg 336
6. Keyser 350
7. Martinsburg 362
8. Hedgesville 365

9. Jefferson 369
10. Musselman 374
11. Spring Mills 383
12. Moorefield 387
13. Frankfort 403
The Yellow Jackets were led by

Kail Greenwalt with a card of 93, followed by Will Martin 95, Kody Biser 97, Thomas Parisi 102 and Tyler Roy 109.
Trojans Golf smashed Yellow Jackets in duel

September 3
Hampshire 173
Moorefield JV 230
Hampshire was guided by overall low-medalists Nate Adams and Eric Blomquist with 41 strokes

apiece.
Yellow Jackets were paced by Jake Lofton and Geoffrey Williams with a card of 56 each, followed by Mason Liffey at 58, Ronan Straight at 60 and Jacob Dolan at 63.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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, September 2, 2026

DATE FILED 08/25/2026
ESTATE NAME: DENNIS EDWARD LUDWIG
17544 QUEEN ELIZABETH DRIVE
OLNEY MD 20832
AFFIANT ROXANNE RUSSO LUDWIG
17544 QUEEN ELIZABETH DR
OLNEY MD 20832

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 08/25/2026

[Signature]

Loretta L. Humbertson
Clerk of the Hardy County Commission

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

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First Publication Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026

DATE FILED 08/31/2026
ESTATE NAME: ANGELA S BROOKS
1040 TEETER RD
LITTLESTOWN PA 17340
AFFIANT CHRISTOPHER L MAURER
1742 DEER FOR WAY
YORK PA 17408

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 08/31/2026

[Signature]

Loretta L. Humbertson
Clerk of the Hardy County Commission

AIR QUALITY PERMIT NOTICE

Notice of Application

Notice is given that Pilgrim's Pride Corporation has applied to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Air Quality (DAQ), for a Class II Administrative Update of Permit R13-18631 to add replacement Fulton Boilers at the Moorefield Prepared Foods Plant located on South Main Street in Moorefield, Hardy County, West Virginia. The latitude and longitude coordinates are: 39.058407 and -78.971905.

The applicant estimates the change in the potential to discharge the following Regulated Air Pollutants for the proposed equipment will be: an increase in CO of 5.60 tons per year (tpy), a decrease of SO2 of 0.01 tpy, an increase of Lead of 4.48E-05 tpy, and a decrease in total HAPs of 0.01 tpy.

The boilers are operational except for 37S which will be returned when repaired. Written comments will be received by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, DAQ, 601 57th Street, SE, Charleston, WV 25304, for at least 30 calendar days from the date of publication of this notice. Written comments will also be received via email at DEPAirQualityPermitting@WV.gov.

Any questions regarding this permit application should be directed to the DAQ at (304) 926-0499, Extension 41281, during normal business hours.

Dated this 9th day of September 2026.

By: Pilgrim's Pride Corporation
Brian Paulsen
Head of Environmental Engineering
214 South Main Street
Moorefield, West Virginia 26836

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, September 9, 2026

Claim Deadline: Sunday, November 8, 2026

ESTATE NAME: AMELIA CAROLINE METHOD
ADMINISTRATRIX JANET LOUISE TAYLOR PO BOX 118 MOOREFIELD WV 26836
ESTATE NAME: JOHN LEROY ROHRBAUGH
ANCILLARY ADMINISTRATOR CTA TRACY L ROHRBAUGH 21 PINE GLENN LANE GREENVILLE VA 24440-1733
ANCILLARY ADMINISTRATOR CTA WALTON DELMAS ROHRBAUGH 71 ROHRBAUGH LANE STUARTS DRAFT VA 24477-2808
ATTORNEY DUKE MCDANIEL PO BOX 417 PETERSBURG WV 26847-0417
ESTATE NAME: ERNEST LEE COMBS
ADMINISTRATOR RANDY LEE COMBS PO BOX 12 GREENFORD OH 44422
ESTATE NAME: FREDERICK YONLEY FISHER
EXECUTRIX KAREN MARKWOOD FISHER 8321 US 220 SOUTH MOOREFIELD WV 26836
ESTATE NAME: LISA MARIE ROMERO
ADMINISTRATRIX JACYNDA AMELIA ROMERO PO BOX 142 MOOREFIELD WV 26836
ESTATE NAME: BRUCE ALLEN WILKINS
EXECUTRIX SUE ELLEN WILKINS 491 NEW HOPE RD MATHIAS WV 26812

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 09/01/2026

[Signature]

Loretta L. Humbertson
Clerk of the Hardy County Commission

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF Hardy COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

A. M.

Civil Action No. 24 -FIG-11

Minor(s) Under the Age of 18 Years

THE OBJECT OF THIS SUIT IS: PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN

To the above named Respondent:

It appearing by affidavit in this action that after diligence to determine the address of

Dana Brown

, residency is unknown, it is hereby ordered that

Dana Brown

serve upon Hardy County Circuit Clerk

whose address is: 204 Washington St Moorefield, WV 26836

an Answer, including any related counterclaim or defense you may have to the Petition for Appointment of Guardian filed in this action, on or before Oct. 10, 2026. If you fail to do so, thereafter judgment, upon proper hearing and trial, may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk at her office.

Entered by the Clerk of said Court on this 1 day of Sept, 2026.

Kelly Shockey by:

CLERK OF COURT

[Signature]

Public Notice

Hardy County Committee on Aging
Public Meeting
Wednesday, August 16, 2026
At 11:00

Senior Center, 409 Spring Avenue
Moorefield, WV

Fiscal year 2027 budget and
Senior services to be reviewed.

Public comments are
Welcomed & encouraged.

Fall FlingGolf Field Festival for Youth

Capon Springs, WV

After hosting a similar event this past spring, on Saturday, September 12, Capon Springs & Farms golf course is having another opportunity for middle and high school students to learn, experience, and then watch top WV Highlander FlingGolfers compete in a Club Series match against the Keystone Crew from PA.

Capon Bridge Middle School AD Trevor Largent is providing classroom instruction for his students the week before the event. Moorefield and East Hardy High Schools are looking to send some of their freshman to attend.

From 10am to noon, area young people can participate in a clinic and then use their new skills in a twosome tourney over 7 holes of the short par 3 course. Registration fee of \$15 covers greens fees,



clinic, and tourney prizes. For an additional \$10, youth and their families can get a box lunch and then stay for the 1-5pm pro match

on the regulation course. For more details and to register, contact Jonathan Bellingham, jona-
than@flingforall.com

Bowling News

Golden Lanes
Petersburg

ODD COUPLES MIXED
LEAGUE
08/25/2026

TEAM STANDINGS: Split Happens 14 – 2, Vetter's Guns & Ammo 14 – 2, Terminators 12 – 4, Sunset Restaurant 10 – 6, Spare Bears 10 – 6, Country Cars & Trucks 8 – 8, Livin on a Spare 8 – 8, Empire Strikes 6 – 10, WELD 6 – 10, Fly Bi Night 4 – 12, Family Traditions 2 – 14, 3 Girls and a Guy 0 – 16;
HIGH GAME MEN (SCRATCH): Jaxson Vetter 233, Ed Wompler 231, Bradley Vetter 225, Jon Hedrick 223; (HANDICAP): Jaxson Vetter 280, Bradley Vetter 272, Josh Sullivan 270, Kevin McDonald 267;
HIGH SERIES MEN (SCRATCH): Ed Wompler 631, Larry Walp 615, Jon Hedrick 608, Jaxson Vetter 600; (HANDICAP): Jaxson Vetter 741, Larry Walp 726, Floyd

Shepard 724, Bradley Vetter 724;
HIGH AVERAGE (MEN): Ed Wompler 204.83, Jon Hedrick 199.50, Larry Ware 192.67, Trevor Watchford 192.17;
HIGH GAME WOMEN (SCRATCH): Carissa Michael 207, Tonya Ours 181, Teresa Sullivan 177, Dee Anna McDonald 176; (HANDICAP): Tonya Ours 252, Sharon Champ 243, Karen Breeden 239, Carissa Michael 236;
HIGH SERIES WOMEN (SCRATCH): Carissa Michael 562, Dee Anna McDonald 505, Sarah Earle 460, Teresa Sullivan 451; (HANDICAP): Helen Bell 671, Dee Anna McDonald 667, Karen Breeden 658, Carissa Michael 649;
HIGH AVERAGE (WOMEN): Carissa Michael 187.33, Dee Anna McDonald 164.33, Sarah Earle 164.33, Teresa Sullivan 153.33;
THURSDAY NIGHT MENS LEAGUE

08/27/2026

TEAM STANDINGS: Vetter's Mini Mart 14 – 2, Old Dogs 14 – 2, Strikeforce 10 – 6, Petersburg Oil Company 8 – 8, E-Bowl-A 6 -* 10, Golden Lanes 4 – 12, Hot Pockets 4 – 12;
HIGH GAME (SCRATCH): Jon Hedrick 269, Cohan Kesner 257, Jaxson Vetter 254, Richie Burgess 238, Eric Hartman 234; (HANDICAP): Cohan Kesner 297, Eric Hartman 281, Jon Hedrick 278, Ed Turner 269, Chris Kesner 259, Ed Wompler 259;
HIGH SERIES (SCRATCH): Jon Hedrick 722, Cohan Kesner 643, Jaxson Vetter 636, Gary Leatherman 624, Floyd Shepard 617; (HANDICAP): Cohan Kesner 763, Jon Hedrick 749, Eric Hartman 726, Ed Turner 720, Glenn Carraway 686;
HIGH AVERAGE: Jon Hedrick 225.00, Zachary Arbaugh 221.00, Jaxson Vetter 214.17, Clint Vandevander 208.33, Gary Leatherman 208.00, Richie Burgess 205.83

Help the Community Chorus to Make a Joyful Noise This Year For Veterans Day and Christmas

By Stephen Smoot

“Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy.” The Community Chorus for Moorefield and Petersburg opens practice on September 15 and welcomes all who want to share their joy of music, regardless of experience.

For a decade, minus a few years during the pandemic, singers have come together in fall for the Community Chorus. Originally a Petersburg program, years ago so much interest came from Moorefield that organizer Rosalyn Glover expanded it into an event bringing the talents and love of music from both areas.

“This would be our 10th year, but we’ve been doing it for eight years.” The pandemic era forced a halt to public musical performances because “COVID hit hard. People were fearful of blowing that air around each other.” When the pandemic closures relaxed, the Community Choir returned. “It wasn’t starting over, but it was close,” she remembered.

Rosanne Glover taught at Petersburg for 27 years, 22 of those included a choral music program. She started off her career teaching mathematics. “The Board of Education wanted choral music in the curriculum,” she explained, and

added “it took three years because my schedule would fill up with math classes.”

randchildren came along and, naturally needed a grandmother’s attention. Glover retired from teaching, but continued to work with church groups and others.

As Glover explained, math and music go hand in hand. She discussed how the structure of the timing and notation of music is another expression of mathematics.

The Community Choir is forming now with plans for performances for Veterans Day and also the Christmas season.

While first established in Petersburg, Glover stated that it did not take long for songsters from Hardy County to make their way over. With so much interest from across the county line, the Community Choir expanded its offerings. They have always performed at the Landes Arts Center, but in recent years have added performances at Duffey Memorial Church.

Rehearsals start on September 15th on Tuesday night and will continue on that night every week through the end of performances. The Veterans Day concert will take place on November 6 at Landes Art Center “in conjunction with the community Veterans’ Day celebration.

The Christmas performance will feature half traditional religious favorites and half secular compositions.

Rehearsals take place at the Petersburg Presbyterian Church from 6:30 to 8:30 in the evenings.

“Anyone is welcome to join who wants to sing,” shared Glover.

She described that she has some in her almost 40 members who have difficulty standing for an entire performance. Those singers will sit in a front row of chairs. Performers who can stand, but do not feel as steady on their feet on the risers will be in the second row, standing on the floor. Others will be standing in the risers so all can be seen.

Some may enjoy singing in concert, but not on their own. “We rarely do solos,” explained Glover, who cited the space constraints at some venues that make solo performances difficult to capture. She added that some with less experience are advised by friends to sit with seasoned performers and she takes that into consideration as well.

They will be placed together for performances as well as rehearsals so all can feel comfortable when taking the stage.

Glover encourages anyone with questions to reach out to her at (304) 668-0716

Work to Resume on Corridor H Bridge Over Clifford Hollow Soon, Reports Schetrom

By Stephen Smoot

The work started on February 26 of this year on the Clayton Memorial Bridge spanning Clifford Hollow just east of Moorefield. According to the West Virginia Department of Highways announcement at the time, work was set to conclude last month.

Ever since, traffic has had to slow to 55 miles per hour in both directions with only one lane open in each direction. Over the summer, work came to a halt and questions began to mount locally over the status of the bridge.

Hardy County Commission President Steven Schetrom released a statement on Facebook last week. He had engaged the Department of Highways on the construction status of the bridge and shared their response.

The agency response stated that “there were issues regarding the work performed and the expected life of the concrete overlay. Unfortunately in situations such as this, and to be fair to the contractor and ensure that the public’s interest is best served, many entities are involved in determining the best course of action.”

Without sharing specifics about the issues and work moving forward, the Department of Highways told Commission President Schetrom that “I am pleased to inform you that there has been resolution and the contractor returned to work on the bridge on Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Work is expected to continue and be completed this fall.”

The Inter-Mountain has reported that Corridor H has presented unique challenges that sometimes required special designs for some of the bridges along the course of the highway. Unstable ground has also caused problems with pier foundations in some areas and some bridges, especially near Elkins, required remediation.

The span of the bridge over Clifford Hollow extends over 1,500 feet and stands over 300 feet above the valley surface below. It was completed in 2003. The bridge alone cost over \$17 million while the highway segments extending onto the mountainside east and west bound cost over \$50 million to finish. The Department of Highways described the original construction of the span on its website.

It stated that “During construction, the area atop the moun-

tain was the assembly site for the mammoth bridge. The giant metal skeleton grew—sometimes at the rate of 20 feet or more every hour—and slowly slid across the ground until it was launched toward the next mountaintop. The technique protected the existing environment by assembling beams, bolts and cross-bracing in sections up to 275 feet in length, then ‘launching in place.’”

The statement went on to describe that “four hydraulic cylinders powered each bridge section across some 400 feet of track rollers until it cantilevered out over the valley. A kingpost frame in the assembly area provided a cable-stay to the end of the bridge section and “emergency brakes”—chains at the abutment—allowed it to back up the track, if necessary. The cantilevered sections were fastened down with temporary cables to guard against movement by strong wind in the valley. As they reached the piers, the sections rested on temporary rollers that were eventually removed as the completed bridge was jacked up, then down onto permanent seats.”

Steps Outlined for Medicaid Members Ahead of 2027 Eligibility Changes

The West Virginia Department of Human Services is reminding Medicaid members to take steps now to prepare for new federal eligibility requirements that will take effect in 2027.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2027, certain adults ages 19 through 64 enrolled in the Medicaid Adult Expansion Group will be required to complete 80 hours per month of qualifying activities to maintain Medicaid coverage.

Qualifying activities may include employment, participation in a work program, education, or volunteering. Members may combine activities to meet the 80-hour monthly requirement. Members may also meet the requirement by earning at least \$580 per month. Seasonal work-

ers may qualify based on their six-month average income.

What should Medicaid members do now?

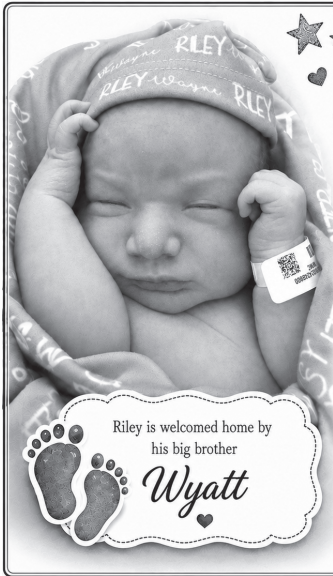
Medicaid members are encouraged to:

- Keep information up to date. Review and update contact, household, and eligibility information with DoHS.
- Report changes. Report changes in employment, income, or household circumstances through WV PATH.
- Complete required reviews. Complete Medicaid eligibility reviews and provide requested information by the stated deadlines.

•Learn about the new requirements. Visit wvmedicaid-help.org to learn more about qualifying activities, exemptions, reporting requirements and important timelines.

Members can report changes, apply for benefits and complete eligibility reviews through WV PATH at www.wvpath.wv.gov.

For more information about the 2027 Medicaid eligibility changes, including who may be affected, qualifying activities, exemptions and what members need to do, visit wvmedicaidhelp.org or call the DoHS Customer Service Reporting Center at 1-877-716-1212.



Mr. and Mrs. Keith and Joanne Dove of Baker ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE

THE BIRTH OF THEIR GRANDSON

Riley Wayne Dove

born Monday, August 31, 2026, at Winchester Medical Center. Riley weighed 9 pounds 14 ounces and was 22 1/4 inches long.

Riley's parents are Jesse and Lexi Dove of Wardensville.

Paternal grandparents are Keith and Joanne Dove of Baker, WV.

Maternal grandparents are the late Keith Arthur, Jimmy Sine, Jr. and Misty Sine of North Carolina, formerly of Wardensville, WV.

Paternal great-grandparents are the late Wayne and late Karen VanMeter Whetzel of Moorefield (Riley gets his middle name from his great-grandfather Wayne and if he were born 10 1/2 hours later, he would have been born on my mom's birthday - Karen VanMeter Whetzel), Bill and Carletta Burd of Fisher, and Kenneth and Denise Dove of Wardensville.

Maternal great-grandparents are Bobby Lockhart of North Carolina and the late Opal Lockhart, Bevie Arthur of Berryville, VA and the late Platty Ann Leach, and the late Jimmy Sine, Sr. and Cindy Sine of Wardensville.

Riley is welcomed home by his big brother

Wyatt

New River

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Friday: Marlinton at Pocahontas IGA - 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Friday: Gateway Restaurant, Rt. 28 Riverton - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday: Petersburg Shop N Save - 8 - 10 a.m.

Saturday: Elkins, intersection 33E - 250/219, across from KFC - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Ginseng	Green: \$175 - 200 / Dry: Sept.15
<i>bigger roots = bigger prices</i>	
Black Cohash	Dry: \$7 ⁰⁰ lb.
Golden Seal	Wet: \$11 ⁰⁰ Dry: \$45 ⁰⁰ lb.
Stone Root	Dry: \$45 ⁰⁰ lb.
Wild Yam	Dry: \$10 ⁰⁰ lb.

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OAK SUMMIT AUCTIONEERING

Good Ole Antique

PAUL HELSLEY SR ESTATE AUCTION

When: Saturday 09/12/2026 @ 2PM EST

Location: Oak Summit Auction Gallery 132 N Main St, Moorefield, WV 26836

Will consist of Crock, Quilts, Oyster Cans, RR Items, Cast Iron & A Wide Variety Of Awesome Antiques Followed By Coins



Online Bidding & Previewing Available At Oaksummit.hibid.com

Auctioneer: Michael Thomas License #2151	Auctioneer: Tyler Bradfield License #2147	Auctioneer: Terry Rudolph License #2517A
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HARDY COUNTY

MOOREFIELD EXAMINER

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visit us online at **www.MoorefieldExaminer.com**



WVU Researcher Says AI Should Disclose What It Doesn't Know

Like humans, generative artificial intelligence doesn't always know when it's wrong, and a West Virginia University researcher is trying to get AI agents like ChatGPT to recognize — and admit — when that happens.

With more than \$940,000 in National Science Foundation support, Anthony Sicilia, a computer scientist, is examining why AI can become increasingly unreliable over the course of conversations with human users.

Artificial intelligence is already notorious for its tendency to “hallucinate,” or manufacture facts, but Sicilia is more interested in the technology's tendency to be a people pleaser: appearing confident about information that is tenuous or accepting inaccuracies that a user provides.

An assistant professor in the WVU Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, Sicilia said that when a user questions an AI system's responses, the AI often can't figure out whether it made a mistake, the user is uncertain, or the conversation has shifted to a new objective. “We're interested in how misinformation develops over long conversations between an AI and a user,” he explained. “Those can become really messy in terms of reliability when the user starts providing information or context in addition to asking questions. When a user makes a suggestion, it can completely change the model's confidence in an answer, even if the model was right to begin with.”

Sicilia sees AI's “false confidence” as a particular problem for high-stakes fields like healthcare.

“One of the most concerning things about today's AI systems is that they make mistakes in a very overconfident, trustworthy way,” he said. “They speak fluently. They justify their answers. They use the tools of persuasion and rhetoric to convince you that they know what they're talking about. Misinformation becomes a bigger problem when you have a system that can eloquently defend a point of view or an argument. That's the crux of the problem we're trying to solve — having AI systems be better at telling us when they're not confident in an answer or don't have the evidence to justify it.”

According to Sicilia, when users push back on accurate information, an AI system often defers and agrees in what's referred to as “AI sycophancy.”

“It can happen in just three turns of the conversation,” he said. “The model proposes an answer that's correct. The user says, ‘Well, I don't think so.’ And the AI responds, ‘You're totally right.’”

Users often fail to flag the logical flaws, he added, because the AI lacks the tells or signals that reveal when a human is lying or unsure.

Sicilia noted that humans often hypothesize their way through uncertainty, throwing out ideas to gauge whether they work. But the subtleties of that approach are lost on AI.

“We're not cognitive scientists or linguists, but we try to pull as much from those disciplines as possible in our research about intelligence and reasoning,” he said. “One thing we think about is ‘theory of mind,’ or the understanding that each person has their own thoughts and feelings that may differ from our own.”

“When you and I are having a conversation, theory of mind is what allows you to think about what I'm thinking about so you can best express what you want me to understand or get me to do what you need. That's a big part of this research — the ability of AI systems to model

what we're thinking about while they're working with us so they can be better collaborative partners because it's not just about the AI system's uncertainty, but about the user's uncertainty as well. Conversationally, pushing back and questioning an answer is part of how humans learn and gain certainty,” Sicilia said.

He will scrutinize coding conversations between AI systems and novice programmers to measure the systems' confidence calibration, evolving uncertainty, and the dialogue strategies the systems and humans employ.

Rather than treating AI confidence as static, he'll study how conversational events like user disagreement, user suggestions, and shifts in topic alter a model's confidence.

Sicilia's goal is for an AI system to identify where uncertainty is coming from, tell a user why it doesn't know an answer, or ask questions if a user provides information that seems incorrect. He said he wants to understand when confidence statements such as “I am 90 percent confident” are helpful to users, and when responses like “I am not sure” or “Can you clarify what you mean?” are better.

“One of the lenses I take to this research is from linguistics,” he said. “AI systems are increasingly language-based systems, so I look at conversations with them and think about the science of language. Humans use language to communicate, and AI systems are adopting that practice with varying degrees of effectiveness.”

“When a system involves interactions with humans, that introduces a whole new variable. Our approach is a departure from current theories of the way machines learn, and we're going to be collecting a lot of data to analyze how people who are not experts in a topic are using AI systems for that topic.”

In addition to relying on the public for research data, Sicilia will also create public-facing workshops and educational materials that teach students and workers how to identify unreliable AI answers, verify AI-generated code, and avoid AI overreliance.

Voke Brume and Louai Al Jabi, WVU doctoral students, are contributing to the research, along with Kaushika Wijerathne, an undergraduate student. Malihe Alikhani of Northeastern University is co-principal investigator.

“Despite how impressive AI systems have become, the public needs to understand that they are still imperfect tools — and that they can be wrong, sometimes in surprising ways,” Sicilia said. “That's why we're creating AI systems that respond appropriately when they lack evidence and communicate their uncertainty more honestly.”

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Hawse Health

Hawse Health Earns Five National Quality Recognitions

E.A. Hawse Health Center, Inc. is proud to announce that it has received five 2026 Community Health Quality Recognition (CHQR) awards from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), recognizing the organization's commitment to providing high-quality, patient-centered care.

Hawse Health was named a Health Center Quality Leader – Gold, placing the organization among health centers in the top 10% nationally for overall clinical quality performance. Only six health centers in West Virginia received the Gold designation.

Hawse Health is one of only six Gold recipients and five Preventive Health recipients in West Virginia.

In addition to the Gold designation, Hawse Health received national quality recognition in Behavioral Health, Diabetes Health, and Heart Health. These recognitions reflect achievement of national quality targets across multiple areas of care.

The 2026 CHQR awards are based on the most recent Uniform Data System results and provide independent federal recognition of health centers demonstrating strong quality performance and measurable outcomes.

“These recognitions are a reflection of the dedication of our entire Hawse Health team,” said E.A. Hawse Health leadership. “Our providers, clinical staff, administrative teams, and support staff work together every day to provide high-quality, patient-centered care and improve the health of the communities we serve.”

Hawse Health remains committed to continuous quality improvement and to providing accessible, comprehensive care that helps patients achieve better health outcome.

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