



Daylight Savings Time begins March 13. Set clocks forward one hour.



MOOREFIELD EXAMINER

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Office of Emergency Management rolls out a new mass notification system

By Milda M. Mullins
Moorefield Examiner

The Office of Emergency Management has selected the Hyper-Reach mass notification system for emergency alerts. It is now open for public signup.

"We're hoping to — anytime we have any emergencies, whether it's weather-related or road closures — to notify the public and personnel... about that information," said 911 Center Dispatch Supervisor Jennifer Whetzel. "You can sign up to get weather alerts, too."

The system can send alerts via text, calls, email, and TTY/TDD services (an assistive system that uses a special keyboard device for communication) for deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

Alerts can be sent for any hazardous or urgent situation, including weather and environmental hazards like floods and fires, criminal activity, missing people, public health alerts, and other emergencies.

"Citizens can mark whatever they want to receive, whether they just want weather or something else — environmental hazards, chemical releases, criminal activity," said Office of Emergency Management and 911 Center Director Paul Lewis.

"This program will also allow us to go in on a map and just block a certain group or a certain area." Lewis explained that the system can

home in on a certain area and provide relevant alerts to residents for emergencies occurring nearby. Alerts can also be sent countywide.

Currently the county has Hardy Telecommunications and Frontier landline numbers, but cell phones are not currently in the system, which means citizens with cell phones who want emergency alerts should sign up for the system.

To receive notifications, residents can

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Parsons pronounces sentences in Circuit Court

By Jean A. Flanagan
Special to Examiner

After the fourth drug case to come before him on Thursday, March 3, Senior Status Judge Charles H. Parsons expressed his dismay at the cost of the drug epidemic in the county.

"Is this another drug related case?" he asked. "Everyone of these cases is drug related. I'm not sure what we can do to stop this. It seems like we're helpless to stop it."

Eight defendants were sentenced, two guilty pleas were accepted and several other cases were continued during the busy day in court.

Brian W. Leonard Sr., 53, of Baker was sentenced to not less than one year and not more than 15 years in prison for each of two counts of burglary. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Leonard was originally charged with one count of grand larceny, one count of petit larceny and two counts of misdemeanor destruction of property, in addition to the two counts of burglary. In January, he pleaded guilty to the burglary charges and the other charges were dismissed. According to Leonard's allocation, he committed two burglaries in January 2021 in the Rig community of Hardy County. Restitution has been paid and/or property returned to the victims.

Tyson A. Wratchford, 32, of Moorefield, was sentenced to two years in prison for conspiracy to commit a drug offense. He was originally charged with delivery of a Schedule II controlled substance - methamphetamine. Those charges were dismissed and an Information motion was filed on the conspiracy charge.

An Information motion means the defendant waives his right to have his charges heard by a Grand Jury.

According to charging documents, Moorefield Police were called to a domestic dispute on the railroad tracks in Moorefield. Officers observed Wratchford throwing something into the weeds. The object turned out to be a baggie containing methamphetamine. A search of Wratchford's cell phone revealed messages pertaining to drug transactions.

Matthew Kline, 48, of Petersburg was sentenced to five years in prison for being a person prohibited from owning a firearm and not less than one year and not more than five years for fleeing law enforcement with reckless disregard for the safety of others. The sentences are to run concurrently. He was also assessed a mandatory \$1,000 fine.

Kline did not appear to answer drug charges in November 2021. A capias order was issued and when law enforcement attempted to arrest Kline, he fled. In December 2021, Kline violated the terms of his probation by being in possession of a firearm.

Timothy A. Hawks, 23, of Burlington, was sentenced to not less than one year and not more than five years for possession with intent to deliver a Schedule II controlled substance. Judge Parsons suspended the sentence and ordered Hawks on probation for five years.

Hawks' attorney, Paul Gwaltney, argued Hawks had a "severe drug problem" and said he had been accepted to Recovery Point in Huntington.

Special conditions of his probation include Hawks completing the program at Recovery Point, getting a job

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A new hearing set for the Parks and Rec bike trail case

A new hearing regarding right of entry in the Hardy County Parks and Recreation v. Miltenberger case will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 11, in the Circuit Courtroom at the Hardy County Courthouse at 204 Washington St. in Moorefield. This hearing is open to the public.

Commission hears public concerns over ambulance fee, dangers on local road

By Milda M. Mullins
Moorefield Examiner

The County Commission meeting on Tuesday, March 1 was a mix of public concerns and funding requests.

Public Concerns
The first public concern was citizen Dale Cameron who came to contest the county ambulance fee.

"I'm here because of your Ambulance Authority fee. I've been keeping up with this Ambulance Authority fee for a long time, since it was first voted down by the citizens of Hardy County," said Cameron.

"It was only voted down when it was put on the ballot, trying to put it

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Robert works in his studio, which is located on the ground floor of his home. The north side is completely windows that face north.

Hardy County artist named Tamarack Foundation Master Artist Fellow

Virtual exhibit scheduled for this month

By Jean A. Flanagan
Special to Examiner

"I had this fantasy of putting all my work in chronological order and making it available to everyone. But putting together a lifetime of work sounded like an impossible task. This makes it possible."

In September 2020, renowned artist and Baker resident Robert Singleton received a letter from the Tamarack Foundation for the Arts. He was named the foundation's 2021 Master Artist Fellow. His work was to be exhibited at the Oglebay Institute's Stifel Fine Arts Center in Wheeling in March 2021.

"Then COVID really hit with a vengeance and the whole thing was postponed," Singleton said.

"The new schedule was for the exhibit to open in March of this year.

"But that would entail gathering all of my work that is currently on loan to various companies and institutions. We were to start the first of this year and at that time, the newest variant of the COVID virus was just getting started - Omicron - and we just didn't know what was going to happen. So we asked to postpone again, and they agreed."

In the meantime, Singleton began to research web-based options. "One of the

positive outcomes of this whole virus is that major museums and art galleries that were forced to shut down, with the technology available, could create online galleries," he said.

He found a company based in Berlin, Germany, that offered online templates specifically for art galleries and museums. He could build an exhibit, and people from all over the world could view it. "The templates are such that everything is to scale, the paintings, the wall space," Singleton said. "You can walk around, view a room or focus on one particular painting."

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Budget talk dominates Moorefield council

By Hannah Heishman
Moorefield Examiner

The Moorefield Town Council met Tuesday, March 1; they conducted a regular meeting and worked on the 2022-2023 budget.

Most of that discussion involved receiving information, rather than making decisions. Agencies and organizations submit requests for Town financial assistance, with an amount and justification. The Council can approve the requested amount, or adjust it to a smaller or larger amount.

The Council requested more information from the Moorefield Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD). Mayor Carol Zuber said she would ask the department for representatives to meet with the Council immediately before the next meeting.

Vic Shockey, the Town's code enforcement officer, building inspector and zoning officer, said three building or improvement permits were approved in February, for a combined \$130,000 value.

He contacted 35 property owners regarding 48 separate code violations; 41 are already resolved. To date for 2022, 74 of 81 code violations are resolved, with 7 pending.

Sidewalk hazards (snow or ice) constitute 31 of the 81 violations. There've also been 18 trash violations, and 13 yard junk and clutter violations.

Shockey plans to focus on yard junk and abandoned vehicles for several months.

The Moorefield Police Department responded to 183 calls for service in February, including 8 felony arrests, 53 misdemeanor arrests, 61 traffic citations and 133 traffic warnings.

The Special Response Team made one of the felony arrests, and found controlled substances and firearms in that residence.

The department received \$2103.33 to purchase three bulletproof vests; the department needs four vests. In order to cover all four, Chief Stephen Riggelman requested and received \$3452.27 from the Town.

Public Works director Lucas Gagnon gave his departments' February report.

Water personnel finished a water tap to the new building at Moorefield Elementary School and fixed a leak on Chipley Lane.

They repaired a main water line leak on Allegheny Street.

They conducted maintenance and tests on all fire hydrants, and began stripping and salvaging

Continued on page 7

Eleven Governor's Arts and Ten Legislative Leadership awards presented

On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH) and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts sponsored the Governor's Arts Awards at the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex in Charleston. During the awards ceremony, 11 Governor's Arts Awards and 10 Legislative Leadership Awards in the Arts were presented.

The Governor's Arts Awards are presented biennially to celebrate the state's creative spirit and the amazing talents of the people and groups that produce art. They also recognize those whose willingness to support arts organizations and artists help to ensure the arts maintain an important place in our communities and schools. Through the restructuring of the Department of Arts, Culture and History in 2018, Governor Jim Justice, along with the WVDACH, continue to show their commitment to promoting and strengthening the arts in the Mountain State despite state budget cuts and the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Justice has been a

dedicated advocate for the arts, especially arts in education. He believes a focus on arts in schools builds a strong foundation for excelling in other areas, which is one of the main reasons he chose an educator to receive this year's lifetime achievement award.

The Governor's Arts Awards include Artist of the Year and Arts Organization of the Year Award, which recognizes an individual artist and an organization who has impacted the exposure to the arts in West Virginia through his or her work; Arts in Education Award, which recognizes efforts to strengthen arts education in public schools; Susan S. Landis Distinguished Service Award to the Arts, which recognizes individuals and organizations of exceptional talent and creativity that have fostered growth and influenced trends and aesthetic practices on a state and national level; Folk Arts Award, which recognizes individuals and organizations that have demonstrated exceptional leadership or skill in the field

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PSD clashes with West Virginia over rates

By Connie Sherman

Hardy County Public Service District General Manager, Logan Moyers, provided an update to board members at their March 3, 2022 meeting on the status of the District's ongoing rate case with the West Virginia Public Service Commission. As previously reported, the District's accountant reviewed the District's financial position following an increase in purchased water costs from the Town of Moorefield and developed rates that would generate the necessary revenue to sustain operations. These rates have been in place for six months; there have been no complaints or protests filed with the WVPSC regarding them.

The WVPSC has suggested altering the rate structure put in place by the District in a manner that would result in an increase to residential customers and a decrease in rates to the District's largest water users. The District submitted a case filing stating their disagreement with WVPSC's suggested change and requested that the rates currently in place not be altered.

The WVPSC has received letters of support for the District's position on its rates from the Hardy County Commission, Delegate Bryan

Ward, State Senators Dave Sypolt and Randy Smith, the West Virginia Rural Water Association and Janie Berg, owner of Grant County Mulch, whose mulch production facility in Baker is the District's largest industrial water customer. Moyers told board members the District was very appreciative for all the support they have received and that the letters from local leaders will "have

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WEATHER

Source: AccuWeather

Wednesday
RAIN
High 46°



Thursday
CLOUDY
High 52°



Friday
SUNNY
High 64°



GET IT IN DIGITAL
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\$30 PER YEAR



OPINION

Putin plays Chicken, costs civilian lives

There aren't many US citizens who know what it's like to go to bed worrying about being mortared, rocketed or bombed in the middle of the night.

There aren't many who've debated Going versus Staying, or who've crammed cars full of whatever they could grab and tried to escape, wondering where they could even go to be safe because the violence is everywhere.

There aren't many who've wrapped themselves around their children and prayed that their own bodies are enough to stop the bullets or shrapnel. That's the Ukraine, right now.

The closest the U.S. gets is our inner cities, but out here in rural West Virginia? The only ones who fully grasp these concepts are immigrants and some military Veterans.

Tonight, in the Ukraine, there are adults who don't remember life before the Wall came down, but there are still many who do, who remember living under Soviet rule.

They're likely wondering how this happened, how they've found themselves in this position. They didn't attack anyone. They didn't fail in some way, didn't screw up anything. They were trying to live their lives, peacefully.

It's not brilliant or genius. It's disrupting and taking lives, and may be a strategic bid to control natural gas supplies in Europe while thumbing his nose at NATO.

It's hard to grasp how interconnected countries are in Europe; it's more like our states than the national borders we have with Canada and Mexico.

Imagine if Canada rolled into Michigan or Montana with tanks and guns. Or if the Russian military came ashore in Alaska.

You can talk your stuff about how that couldn't happen, how the Americans in those states would never let it... European men and women aren't pushovers.

The Ukraine has been Putin's plaything for a decade as he's danced around invasion, including annexing the Crimea in 2014. Threats made, sanctions imposed, diplomats activated. Russia backed down...ish.

But Putin's Russia never stopped dancing. Never stopped dipping Russian toes into the Ukraine, only to dance back at the last second. Playing Chicken with people's lives -- including American lives.

May God have mercy on the innocent, and grant true wisdom, clarity and understanding to decision-makers at all levels, on all sides, before this gets worse.

NEWS BRIEFS

Applications are now available for matching historic preservation development grants through the State Historic Preservation Office of the Department of Arts, Culture and History. Eligible projects include the restoration, rehabilitation or archaeological development of historic sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Deadline for receipt of applications is postmarked March 31, 2022. A complete program description, including funding priorities and selection criteria is available at <https://wvculture.org/agencies/state-historic-preservation-office-shpo/grants/> or contact Christy Moore, grants coordinator for the SHPO, at (304) 558-0240 or christina.J.Moore@wv.gov.

Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture are urging poultry owners to increase biosecurity efforts following the detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Indiana, Kentucky and Virginia. Poultry is West Virginia's number one agricultural commodity, contributing \$334 million to the economy. Poultry owners should immediately report unusual death loss,

a drop in egg production or any sick domestic birds to Animal Health Division at 304-558-2214.

According to AAA last week, the average price for regular gas in West Virginia was at \$3.367. The national gas price average was \$3.619. "Russia's invasion and the responding escalating series of financial sanctions by the U.S. and its allies have given the global oil market the jitters," said Andrew Gross, AAA spokesperson. "Like the U.S. stock market, the oil market responds poorly to volatility. It's an explosive situation, and a grim reminder that events on the far side of the globe can have a ripple effect for American consumers." Across the state Beckley was high at \$3.362 and Wheeling was low at \$3.314. Hardy County's gas average was \$3.459. Area prices were Hampshire \$3.461, Mineral \$3.450, Grant \$3.502, and Pendleton \$3.467. In Moorefield, Sheetz was \$3.55. BP was \$3.46. Exxon was \$3.46. Liberty was \$3.55. Sunoco at Old Fields was \$3.45. Kerr's Shell in Wardensville was \$3.46. BP at Baker was \$3.46. Pure at Mathias was \$3.46.

MY UNBASED OPINION

By DAVID O. HEISHMAN



Spring Peepers, the little frogs that come out in wet places each Spring when weather warms. They were screaming their little heads off last Saturday night in wetlands below Big House. Warm enough for them to be active, out and looking for small bugs they eat and small mates to help them make more Peepers.

I'd heard them chirp a bit other evenings, but nothing like Saturday evening. I had just removed my dual hearing aids before sliding into slumber in Doghouse recliner and still they nearly shrieked in my ears from two hundred yards away.

I've never seen many Peepers. When I get close enough to pick them out, they always seem to shut up and become awful hard to pinpoint. When I was young, I'd be out at night catching night crawlers for fish bait and I'd occasionally be carrying enough flashlight to see a frog, but when they go quiet it's more productive to just concentrate on the worms.

Spring Peepers were my mother's first alarm of the year. In later years, after Pap died and she moved to

Moorefield during Winter months, she always wanted to be back in farm's Big House when Peepers opened up in Spring. Every time she stepped out back kitchen door for any reason, when Peepers were singing, she'd stand and smile listening to them for a bit. Her time to leave the farm and head back to Moorefield's thermostat came when the big Maple tree end of Big House's lane began to shed it's usually brilliant leaves.

My Sister visited me Saturday, too. She caught me in Big House's kitchen finishing my lunch. She pulled out a chair, sat facing me and we talked about her plans to move from Moorefield to Harrisonburg. While talking she seemed intent on something behind me.

Through back kitchen door, she was watching a pair of bluebirds attempting to get into a small birdhouse I'd built and hung above the door to my gourd/meat/ice house. Poor birds wanted in bad, but couldn't squeeze through the hole I'd drilled too small. Built for wrens, at least one pair of which normally nest in one of my

back yard boxes, the hole was simply too small for them to slip through. They finally gave up and perched on the board fence nearby while looking over the territory for a better selection. If I finish writing this column early enough today, I'm going to take that house down, bore the hole bigger and let the Bluebird pair take another look at it.

Sitting at Big House's front window, writing, pausing to peruse front yard, I see four bright yellow Daffodils blooming. I'll bet there are a bunch more popping out down along back yard fence in the old bed where one or the other of my ancestors planted them. Remnants of Daffodil and Iris beds my Mother, Grandmother Heishman and Great Grandmother McKeever planted about the yard still bloom. There used to be a fair abundance of Crocuses, but I think I killed them all with weed spray I used to rid lawns of Ground Ivy.

My American Flag is tattered. Mom flew one regularly out front of Big House. Pap called it "Ms Ruth's Glory Rag." I hadn't noticed Win-

ter winds had worn and faded mine so badly, but they have. I'll try to change to a new flag when I'm out boring the birdhouse hole. I've got one on hand. I order best flags from American Legion.

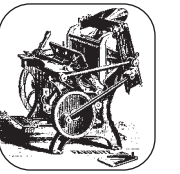
Driving out Big House's lane with farm tractor and trailer yesterday, I was mashing border between grass and packed road surface to make mowing easier when I begin this year. A mole hill. A whole dad blamed mole mountain range. Tunnel ran at road's edge more than half way out to the highway. I was so intent on mashing it shut with tractor tires that I nearly crashed into that big Maple Mom loved so much. Ground is thawed and worms must be active mole food.

So darn many moles around anymore that Scoot, my cat, can't keep up with them. Another good reason to get a farm dog, I guess. A known fact that dogs can dig faster than cats and the way moles have proliferated recent past years I may need a kennel full just to keep my lawn walkable.

Spring time in the country. Mom's Birthday, March 9th.

GLANCING BACKWARD

FROM THE MOOREFIELD EXAMINER ARCHIVES



Fifteen Years Ago March 7, 2007

Due to a slowdown in the new construction market, American Woodmark announced it was implementing a workforce reduction plan at all three Moorefield plants. The total number was not available due to employees taking retirement and leaves.

Eastern Panhandle counties were upset about plans for mass evacuation from Washington in the event of a nuclear device was set off. Some 700,000 people would head west into West Virginia needing food, fuel, water, medical attention and places to stay. The state wants them to continue west through the state to Ohio. Communication system upgrades were one of the biggest challenges.

Woodrow Simmons, Moorefield, and Harold Garber, Petersburg, were named History Heroes by the W.Va. Archives and History Commission.

WELD received Planning Commission approval to have six feet added to a Moorefield Fire Co. tower on Helmick Rocks. This would allow the radio station to provide coverage to East Hardy.

E. Scott Bergdoll, 89, died Feb. 25...Reba Powers Jackson, 80, died March 1...Naomi Taylor Harwood, 81, died Feb. 26...Wayne B. Weese, 74, died Feb. 24...Frances Jordan Davis, 89, Yellow Springs, died Feb. 22...Carlton Edgar Cullers, 80, Mathias, died Feb. 28...Catherine Combs Hobe, 85, died Feb. 25...Lawson Grant Jenkins, 91, Harrisonburg, died Jan. 29.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Sherman, a daughter, Madison Joy.

Moorefield boys defeated East Hardy 65-41 to claim the Section Title...East Hardy lost to Tucker 37-35 for the Region 2 Title...Shenandoah senior Alicia Sanders earned a First Team selection on the All-USA South Conference Women's Basketball Team...Fallon Fansler and Molly Look, both East Hardy, were named to the All-PFC Division II Girls Team...Jared Wrathford, MHS, was named to the All-PFC Division II Boys Team.

Thirty Years Ago March 4, 1992

An Examiner report traced bond issues in Hardy County to 1913 when the Graded School was built.

Potomac State College announced the establishment of the John and Ava Aylor Endowed Scholarship Fund for Hardy County students.

Tim Wrathford and Rhod Gunter received their Eagle Scout Awards.

Clarence Garrett See, 66, died Feb. 29...Mary McNeill Temple, 89,

Jackson, Mich., died Feb. 25.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lambert, a daughter...to Mr. and Mrs. Roy J. Smith, a son...to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Shell, a son.

East Hardy beat Berkeley Springs 64-58...Moorefield lost to Circleville 66-55 and then defeated Tygerts Valley.

Forty-five Years Ago March 9, 1977

Rail users met with Delegate Clyde See to review progress on the abandoned Chessie spur serving the Valley. See was instrumental in getting Gov. Jay Rockefeller to request \$50,000 from the Legislature to fight the abandonment.

The Board of Education established a bond levy of \$2.4 million to be voted on in May.

The extended period of below freezing weather had cost the town \$12,600. Over 140 water lines were reported frozen, 50 meters were damaged and 10 main lines had broken.

Otis Kimble, 77, Upper Tract, died Feb. 22...Forrest William Swisher, 55, Rio, died Feb. 27...Murlin Weese Crites, 76, died March 5...Jesse E. Crites, 77, Petersburg, died March 5...Annie McKee Hahn, 73, Orange, Va., died March 3...Floyd West Bott, 69, Rio, died March 5...Ruth McNeer Sherman, 73, Baltimore, died March 4...Clarence Lee Rinard, 70, Wardensville, died March 4.

Moorefield lost to Frankfort 71-55...Mathias defeated Wardensville 56-54...Wardensville defeated WV Deaf 63-45.

Sixty Years Ago March 7, 1962

A 25-to-35-inch snowfall paralyzed Hardy County Monday and Tuesday. It was the heaviest snow in two generations from a single storm. Schools were closed, traffic brought to a standstill, mail delivery was delayed and phone service was interrupted in some areas.

With 33 new members paid and 23 additional members promised, the Valley TV Co-op was able to pay on the bank note and expected to stay in business.

The SCS was taking bids on the Shook's Run dam on the South Fork. Anna Hose Lish, 58, Romney, died March 2...Vernon Wilson See, 54, died March 4...Nannie Miller Heishman, 64, Winchester, died on Feb. 27.

Born to Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Homan, a son, Dale Byrd...to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Harper III, a daughter...to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Neff, a son.

Moorefield lost to Musselman 45-32 in regional playoffs.

Seventy-five Years Ago March 12, 1947

Moorefield inaugurated a new refuse collection system. Only property owners who purchased the garbage cards from the Town office would have garbage service. The cost was 50 cents a month.

The Legislature increased the speed limit from 45 to 50 miles per hour for passenger cars.

Jennings Randolph, who served this area in Congress for 7 terms, was appointed Assistant to the President of Capitol Airlines.

David Seymour Huffman, 78, died March 9...Charles Marshall Whipp, 64, Burlington, died March 4...Kitty Huffman Wine, 66, Forrestville, Va., died Feb. 2...Bessie Clark Marshall, 77, Romney, died March 8...Eliiza Sours Runion, Woodstock, died March 5...John Philip Harness had died in Maryland...Ida Miller Miller, 71, had died at Paw Paw.

Lola Mavis Mongold and Virgil Ernest Stultz were married March 1...Una Lee Wilkins and Grant Eugene Wilkins were married March 8.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Austin Heishman, a son...to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Plaugher, a son...to Mr. and Mrs. Merle Hedrick, a son...to Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Combs, a son, Harlan Monroe...to Mr. and Mrs. Noah Sager, a son...Births filed with the registrar during February: Beulah Stump, a daughter, Barbara Ella Crites...to Mr. and Mrs. Amby H. Crites, a son, Clyde Elwood...to Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Lester Helmick, a son, Wilmer Overton...to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Martin, a son, Robert Joseph...to Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Elwood Raines, a son, Calvin Elwood, Jr...to Hazel P. Rittenour, a daughter...to Mr. and Mrs. Brounley H. Sherman, a son, Daniel Richard...to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Strawderman, a son, Richard Lane...to Mable R. Weatherholtz, a son, Cletis Albert...to Mollie R. Whetzel, a daughter, Denia Wilma...to Alice Peete, a son, Lawrence Victor.

Moorefield defeated 3 teams to take the Sectional Title: Bayard 80-29, Thomas 54-27 and Parsons 56-33.

Ninety Years Ago March 10, 1932

The 39 cows comprising the experimental herd at Reymann Memorial Farm at Wardensville gave an average of 8,917 pounds of 4.1 percent milk and 364.78 pounds of butterfat at the end of the third year of experimentation.

Hardy County and the nation were in the grip of the worse blizzard in several years.

EXAMINER SAYS

Brush Up

We were so glad to hear from Dr. Carmen Rexroad the end of February with her annual spring peepers report. We're sorry we didn't get the information in last week because we had already sent our copy when we heard from her. But this is the interesting part: Carmen and husband Andy both heard the peepers on the South Fork on Feb. 23. In case you don't know about such things, that's a bit early for this part of the world. Then she reported that the peepers were heard in Fort Seybert and on the North Fork. That's pretty good

coverage for southern Hardy County near Milam, over to Fort Seybert and to North Fork in Pendleton County. So we'll join Carmen in officially welcoming the 2022 spring peepers. And that, dear Readers, is the best indication we'll have that Spring is really here.

On Your Irish

We apologize to our friends in Berkeley Springs. We missed writing anything about the annual International Water Tasting competition recently held there. Municipal Water, Bottled water and Sparkling

water were the three categories judged. Judges ranked the water on taste, odor, mouth feel and aftertaste. There were entries from 16 states, 3 Canadian provinces and 8 other countries. Montpelier, Ohio, won first in Municipal water, Vortex Energy of Meriden, Connecticut, won Bottled water, and Big West Sparkling Spring of Victoria, Australia, won first in Sparkling water.

St. Patrick's Day

Our fearless governor has taken a shot at Russia. He ordered his Director of Alcohol Beverage Control to

stop the sale and purchase of liquor produced in Russia. Plus he asked the W.Va. Retailers Association to remove liquor from their shelves. West Virginia distributes 4 brands of Russian vodka — Russian Standard, Beluga Vodka, Moskovskaya, and Manner and Sickle Russian Vodka. The ABC estimated there were about 73 cases of Russian liquor in the state's warehouse. Somehow, we don't think the elimination of Russian Vodka will hurt Putin's economy.

Is Coming

MOOREFIELD EXAMINER

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O P / E D

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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Dear Editor

In the March 2, 2022 edition, your paper printed a guest column that mentioned our "most narcissistic president." I was pretty sure she was referring to the guy that wouldn't attend a remembrance for our WWI fallen in France in 2018 because the wind and rain would have messed up his hair. She might want to google that, I don't think Fox covered it. In that same issue you published an editorial from someone that praised a pillow guy's opinions on voting fraud.

After the 2016 election, the winner (by Electoral College) created a commission to look into voter "fraud" because he was embarrassed he lost the popular vote. Talking about narcissistic. I wonder how many millions of dollars that cost? They shut it down when they couldn't find any "fraud." His own appointed people couldn't find any "fraud" to report.

For years our foreign adversaries have performed psy-ops to reduce the American people's trust in one of our most cherished and important values, free and fair elections. And now there are Americans openly aiding them. All because the real most narcissistic citizen in our history lost an election.

I'm neither Democrat or Republi-

can. I'm a proud American that loves their country. Please stop trying to run it down. Thank you.

Geoff Brehm (subscriber)
Trough View Rd
Moorefield

To the Editor,

I read Tanya Vance's letter in the Examiner (March 2) with dismay. It was filled with a lot of words, and a lot of assertions about a stolen election. None of those words and assertions were based on any evidence that has survived scrutiny by election officials and forensic experts. Mike Lindell is not a reliable source of anything but pillows. None of those words and assertions have persuaded any court of their truth and little has actually been presented in court because lying in court carries criminal penalties. Mr. Trump was repeatedly informed by key staff, including Attorney General Barr, that the election was not stolen, that there was no meaningful amount of fraud.

Let me be perfectly clear. If there was actual evidence of election fraud of a scale that could change the result of national elections, no matter who did it or who benefitted, I would be the first person in line to demand an investigation, to demand justice, because election fraud leading to a stolen election would be the most corrosive thing that could happen to OUR

country. It would be as corrosive as the lies about the presidential election having been stolen that have led to widespread distrust in our electoral system, and led to a majority of republicans believing the sitting President is not legitimate. Since the Civil War nothing has been a greater threat to our country than this lie.

It is entirely possible to write a lot of words about a lot of things. You could write a letter as long as Ms. Vance wrote about the lizard people who are our overlords. That would not mean that we are ruled by lizard people, only that someone asserted that we were.

On a side note, anyone on social media might have noticed that there are a LOT fewer negative comments about President Biden, his administration, and Democrats generally. It's amazing what happens when the Russian disinformation machines are shut down.

Regards,
Neil Gillies
Baker, WV

Dear Editor,

At the February 1st County Commission meeting (reported in the Examiner on 2/16/22), Fran Welton advocated for first responders to wear ID badges. While this topic was not

resolved at that meeting, I agree with Mrs. Welton.

In the past, as is common in small town communities, everyone knew everyone. The first responders were your family, friends, and neighbors who had made the commitment to complete the training and volunteer with the squad to perform their civic duty.

The reality, especially on the east side of the county, is that we are less and less of a four or five generation local resident community. From prior reports in the Moorefield Examiner, I understand that about 50% of the houses in Hardy County are owned by weekenders and come-here retirees. We purchased our property 31 years ago, when we were in our 30's. We built our weekend home 29 years ago and moved here as full time residents 20 years ago. We are soon to join the retiree group. Many of our HOA neighbors are in a similar situation.

While we are healthy and have not needed EMS response to our home, we can think of half a dozen times that the rescue squad has come to our HOA for residents, weekenders and guests who have had medical crises. They all have said kind words about their experiences. But, they did not know who the members of the crew were. ID badges or some form of official ID would be a good idea in

these cases.

Folks who come here from cities expect that everyone official wear some type of ID, whether a clip on badge or on a lanyard. As a hospital employee myself, I cannot get into the building or any of the many units that I work on without my ID badge. I show it to every client whom I work with as routine introduction and assurance of trust.

On a side note, I have recently had a customer-of-health-care experience as my mother's advocate after she broke her hip, came home and got home health therapy set up. I verified every staff ID as different RN's, MD's, Care Managers, Pt's, and dietary and housekeeping staff came and went. Also, seeing their names, I could address them by name and thank them for their care.

While we might want to believe that our corner of the sky is a small town community, the reality is that we are not all family, friends, and neighbors. But, we can assure the good will of the volunteer and paid first responders with something simple as an ID badge. We may be strangers, but let's be good neighbors, not rank strangers.

Oscar Larson
Cove Creek Road
Baker



INTERCEPTED LETTERS

Dear Commissioners,

Please see the attached letter on behalf of the West Virginia Land Trust, in regard to our property at the end of Beans Lane (at the confluence of the South Fork and South Branch of the Potomac). If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Adam Webster
Project Lead
West Virginia Land Trust
PO Box 304
Morgantown, WV 26507
(304) 413-0945
www.wvlandtrust.org

2/8/2022

Hardy County Commission
204 Washington Street
Moorefield, WV 26836

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the West Virginia Land Trust (WVLT), we appreciate the opportunity to introduce our organization at your meeting on February 1, 2022. In recent years, we met with representatives from the Town of Moorefield and the Hardy County Parks and Recreation Commission relating to a property that our organization owns at the confluence of the South Fork and South Branch of the Potomac. In upcoming years, we plan to develop this 80-acre property, known as the Poppy Bean Preserve, into a nature preserve that will be open to the public for hiking, wildlife viewing, and potentially other uses, such as community gardens, educational space, and more. There is a lot to be determined, but we welcome partnerships in the development of this area for the benefit of residents and visitors. Several community stakeholders have already expressed

an interest in the property, including Eastern WV Community and Technical College and Moorefield High School, both of which inquired about using the property as an outdoor classroom. The former has already done so on several occasions. In 2021, WVLT also provided input about our preserve during workshops related to the revision of the Hardy County Comprehensive Plan.

Several years ago, the Hardy County Parks and Recreation Commission approached WVLT about the potential for a recreational trail passing through our property that would connect Brighton Park to Moorefield. This is the type of project on which we work alongside partners in other places throughout the state and we support a public trail passing through our property. A public trail brings added benefit to our preserve and potentially creates partnership opportunities with the County and others to achieve mutual goals for public recreation, including a potential access point along a section of the levee (on our property) where the trail would travel. WVLT already let the Parks and Recreation Commission survey the proposed route on our property as an indicator of our support for the project. We recognize that the County is working to gain access from Brighton Park to our property and if that is achieved, we welcome the opportunities that may grow from the trail passing through our property.

Sincerely,

Brent Bailey, Ph.D.
Executive Director
PO Box 304 Morgantown, WV 26507
(304) 413-0945 brent@wvlandtrust.org

February 14, 2022

Hardy County Commission 204
Washington Street Moorefield WV
26836

Dear Commissioners,

The Hardy County Convention & Visitors Bureau (HCCVB) has worked consistently to grow the outdoor recreation and heritage assets within Hardy County and the Hardy County Commission has been generously supportive. HCCVB's efforts are intended to increase the number of visitors traveling to our county, but they also have been created/supported to enhance the quality of life for our residents. The county now has the opportunity to do the same by supporting the recreation trail linking Brighton Park with the Town of Moorefield Levee Trail.

Development of walking, hiking, and cycling trails has a proven history of not only providing safe, no-cost opportunities for people of all ages to engage in physical and wellness activities close to home, but also of finding adaptive re-uses of disused or abandoned property, increasing foot traffic into retail areas, providing a pathway to experience previously inaccessible scenic areas, and even increasing property values. Study after study mentions these and other benefits to the use of local trails.

What also is mentioned, repeatedly, is trail opposition and community concern that these trails provide opportunities for increased crime. What is evident from the research is that the trails themselves do not contribute to an increase in criminal activities, litter, or vandalism. If there is crime in the area, the trails do not further serve the criminal element, nor do they put trail users at risk – not in

urban, suburban, or rural areas. One of the most thorough reports on this issue is from Cupertino, CA where a survey of available literature for the last 25 years supported the building, benefits, and safety of trails. In addition, the Cupertino survey included more recent information from eleven trails from across the country. "The overwhelming evidence of all of these studies are that trails are safe, and do not pose a risk of increased crime, and in fact may decrease it."

The following are some links to these studies including one from Monongalia, WV.

<https://walkbikecupertino.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Crime-Concerns-on-the-Regnant-Creek-Trail.pages.pdf>

<https://www.railstotrails.org/resourcehandler.aspx?name=business-impact-of-mon-river-trails-system&id=13878&fileName=Business%20Impact-Monongalia%20River%20Trails.pdf>

<https://www.railstotrails.org/trail-blog/2021/december/06/utah-s-jordan-river-parkway-trail/>

<https://www.railstotrails.org/resource-library/resources/30th-street-corridor-shared-use-trail-preliminary-feasibility-study/>
<https://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/basics/equitable-and-inclusive-trails/>

<https://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/organizing/working-with-opposition-and-neighbors/>

The last link above from the Rails to Trails Conservancy has suggestions for working with opposition and lays out ten suggestions for achieving a successful trail project. The Brighton to Moorefield Trail is not a rail trail, but many of the suggestions are applicable. The Fact

Sheet (a link on the site) ends with "While trail opposition is one of the more difficult hurdles to overcome during [any] trail development, it need not stall your project."

The Hardy County Parks and Recreation Commission including Brighton Park, members of the community, and the West Virginia Land Trust support the creation of the Brighton to Moorefield Trail as does the Hardy County Convention & Visitors Bureau. We are asking the Hardy County Commission to continue your support of this important community and tourism asset.

Sincerely,

Michele Moure-Reeves
Executive Director

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Hardy County Commission
204 Washington Street
Moorefield, WV 26836

Dear Commissioners,

Quite some time ago, the Hardy County Parks and Recreation Commission approached the Moorefield Town Council about potentially constructing a recreation trail from Brighton Park to Moorefield that would utilize the top of our levee. We understand that the Park Commission is working to gain access to property that would allow them to construct the recreational trail. At our meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, Council voted unanimously to offer our support to this endeavor of constructing this trail.

Sincerely,

Carol S. Zuber, Mayor
Town of Moorefield

Awards

Continued from page 1

of folk and traditional arts within West Virginia; Resiliency in the Arts Award, which recognizes a West Virginia individual or organization that demonstrated creative solutions and leadership in the wake of COVID-19 restrictions; and the Governor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement, presented by Governor Justice, which recognizes an individual or organization for a lifetime of significant commitment to the arts through personal talent and skills, lifelong arts educational leadership, and support of arts development in West Virginia.

The Legislative Leadership in the Arts Awards include Arts in Education Awards, Community Arts Awards, Cultural Facilities Awards, Folk Arts and Lifetime Achievement, which are presented to those members of the Legislature who have made significant contributions in the arts.

A panel of members from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and staff of the Department of Arts, Culture and History selected winners who were nominated based on the magnitude of their contributions and achievements.

GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Lifetime Achievement

Tim James, Director of Bands, Cabell Midland High School, Barboursville, Cabell County

Artist of the Year

Jenn Lockwood, Capon Bridge, Hampshire County

Arts Organization of the Year
ART26201, Buckhannon, Upshur County

Arts in Education

Individual – Jim Alder, Caldwell, Greenbrier County
Organization – Farms Work Wonders, Wardensville, Hardy County

Folk Arts Award

Individual – Adam Booth, Shepherdstown, Jefferson County
Organization – Augusta Heritage Center, Elkins, Randolph County

Resiliency in the Arts Award

Individual – Key to Adam, Adam Moyer and Kiara Williams, Buckhannon, Upshur County
Organization – Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, Wheeling, Ohio County

Susan S. Landis Distinguished Service to the Arts

Individual – John Elliott, Charleston, Kanawha County
Organization – Coalfield Development Corporation, Huntington, Cabell County

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Arts in Education

Senator Rollan Roberts
Delegate Caleb Hanna

Community Arts

Senator Richard Lindsay
Delegate Jason Barrett

Cultural Facilities

Senator Mike Maroney
Delegate Amy Summers

Folk Arts

Senator Rupie Phillips
Delegate Charlie Reynolds

Lifetime Achievement

Senator Charles S. Trump IV
Delegate Brent Boggs

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

HCEAA Meeting

The Hardy County Emergency Ambulance Authority will hold a budget hearing and meeting Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the 911 Center (157 Freedom Way) in Moorefield. The Board of Directors will review and approve the 2022-2023 budget. The meeting is open to the public, and will include other board business.

PHBA Meeting

The Potomac Highlands Beekeepers Association (PHBA) will meet Thursday, March 10 at 7 p.m., at the Bank of Romney Community Center, 165 E Main Street, Romney (across the street from the Shetz in Romney). All meetings are open to the public. If you want to learn about beekeeping, are a beginner or are an experienced beekeeper, this is a forum where you can learn and exchange beekeeping information. We hope you will join us! We have changed our meeting date to the second Thursday of each month. This will be only our second meeting of 2022, so please join us!

Special Budget Meetings

The Hardy County Commission will hold meetings in Room 101 at the Hardy County Courthouse at 204 Washington Street, Moorefield, beginning Monday, March 14 at 9

a.m. and continuing daily thereafter or until the Levy Estimate Budget Document is completed. Meetings are open to the public.

Author Presentation

National, award-winning novelist Mylene Dressler will read and sign copies of her most recent novel, "Our Eyes at Night," at the Hardy County Public Library, 102 N. Main St., on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 7 p.m. She will discuss the writing process and take questions. Books will be available for purchase.

Singleton Honored

The Tamarack Foundation for the Arts and Wheeling's Stifel Fine Arts Center will honor TFA's Master Artist Fellow Robert Singleton's work and artistic contributions with a virtual gallery exhibition of his Sixty Year Retrospective on March 18 from 7 p.m.-8 p.m. Event Registration: <https://bit.ly/MAFRS>. Additionally, Kandi Workman wrote an essay about Singleton titled, "The Art of Living: 60 Propositions on Becoming." Singleton's work will be on display in the Stifel Fine Arts Center from March 18 through April 30.

RDA Board Meeting

The next Rural Development Authority Board meeting is planned for Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 11

a.m. in the RDA Conference Room.

Flu and COVID Shots

Hardy County Health Department will give flu and/or COVID shots at the following times:

Flu shots will be given on Monday and Wednesday only, from 8 – 11:30 and 1 – 3:30. You do not need an appointment for a flu shot. Bring your insurance cards. If you do not have insurance, you can still get a flu shot. The Moderna booster is now available. COVID shots are by appointment only and are scheduled on Thursday or Friday, depending which shot you need. Call the health department at 304-530-6355 to schedule an appointment.

Dead Animals

The West Virginia Division of Highways has a policy regarding the pickup and disposal of dead animals. The DOH will only pick up carcasses on state owned highways and will not go on private property. To report a dead animal on a state owned road, please notify your local district DOH office at 304-434-2525.

Spay and Neuter

Get the cat or dog spayed or neutered! Spay Today, (Main Office: Charles Town) is our area's non-profit, reduced-fee spay and neuter program. MANY participating

vets over a WIDE area! Gift certificates can be purchased and used later. Spay Today: 304.728-8330 or <https://spay-today.org>

Drug Take Back

The Moorefield Police Department maintains a permanent collection site for unwanted or expired prescription medication, located within the Police Department. It is located at 206 Winchester Ave. and is available to the public Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information check the Moorefield Police Department Facebook page or call 304-530-1777.

Food Pantry

The Moorefield Church of God Food Pantry is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The church is at 212 S. Elm St. in Moorefield. They provide commodities in accordance with federal USDA policy.

Heritage Tiles Available

The 2021 Heritage Weekend Tile Food Pantry is now available for purchase at the Hardy County Public Library. The tiles are \$15 each, with all proceeds benefiting the ongoing efforts of the Hardy County Tour & Craft Association.

Honor Veterans

The American Legion wants to

make sure they honor each Veteran who is buried in Hardy County with a flag on their grave for Memorial Day. Please contact Karen Malcolm at 304-257-6458 with the name and grave site of these honored veterans. You can text the name and site or leave her a voicemail. You can also email her at kemalcolm@hardynet.com.

Project Hello There

Lost River Projects invites people of all ages to send greetings to residents of EA Hawse Nursing Center who have been without visitors due to the Covid-19 pandemic. You do not need to know anyone personally! Please send notes and letters to Hello there! c/o Lost River Projects P.O. Box 23, Baker, WV 26801 or by email to lostriverprojects@hardynet.com. Lost River Projects will deliver your notes and letters to EA Hawse Nursing Center in Baker. Thank you!

Free Classes

Earn your WV High School Equivalency diploma. Prepare for college and careers. Call Hardy County Adult Education at 304-434-8000, Ext. 9234.

Hardy County Public Meeting Schedule

• Hardy County Commission -

First Tuesday of each month - 9 a.m. Hardy County Courthouse

• Hardy County Board of Education - First and Third Monday of each month - 5 p.m. Hardy County Board Office, 510 Ashby Ave. Moorefield

• Wardensville Town Council - Second Monday of each month - 6:30 p.m. - Conference and Visitors Center, Main Street, Wardensville

• Moorefield Town Council - First and Third Tuesdays of each month - 7 p.m. Inskip Hall, 206 Winchester Ave., Moorefield.

• Hardy County Planning Commission - First Tuesday of each month - 6 p.m. Planning Office, Hardy County Courthouse, Lower Level

• Hardy County Public Service District - First Wednesday of each month - 4:30 p.m. PSD Office, 2094 U.S. 220 South, Moorefield

Hardy County Ambulance Authority - Second Wednesday of each month - 6:30 p.m. alternates between Moorefield 911 Center and Baker building.

The Hardy County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Board - Third Wednesday of each month - 1 p.m. - Planning Office, Hardy County Courthouse, lower level

• Hardy County Rural Development Authority - Does not publish a regular schedule of meetings. RDA Office, 223 N. Main St., Suite 102, Moorefield

Circuit Court

Continued from page 1

and getting his GED. He was also ordered to pay court costs and attorney's fees, which were capped at \$500.

Joshua L. Dingess, 36, of Franklin was sentenced to not less than one year and not more than five years for conspiracy to commit grand larceny. Judge Parsons suspended the sentence and ordered Dingess on probation for five years.

Both his defense attorney, Jonie Nelson and prosecutor Stagers argued this was Dingess' first felony and that he had been accepted into the South Branch Valley Drug Court Program. He was also accepted into Phoenix House, a men's recovery house.

A special condition of his probation is

that Dingess complete the Drug Court program and live at the Phoenix House. He was also ordered to pay court costs and attorney's fees, which were capped at \$500.

Preston C. Dove, 19, of Wardensville, pleaded guilty to one count of misdemeanor destruction of property. He was originally charged with felony burglary, misdemeanor or petit larceny and misdemeanor domestic assault, in addition to the misdemeanor destruction of property charge.

In June, 2021, Hardy County Sheriff's deputies responded to a call outside Wardensville. The victim said Dove entered an unlocked residence, took property valued at more than \$1,000, threatened the victim and destroyed property with a baseball bat.

Judge Parsons sentenced Dove to 12 months in jail, but suspended the sentence and ordered him on probation for five years.

Gino M. Serio, 39, of Arthur, pleaded guilty to one count of grand larceny, the sole count of his indictment. Serio admitted he stole a 2015 Ford F-150 from the victim. The truck was located in Randolph County.

Judge Parsons sentenced Serio to not less than one year and not more than 10 years in prison, but suspended the sentence and placed Serio on probation for five years. He was also ordered to pay court costs and attorney's fees.

The case against George H. Johnson, of Moorefield was continued until Thursday, April 7, Johnson pleaded guilty to possession

with intent to deliver a Schedule II controlled substance in January. His sentence was deferred, but he tested positive for methamphetamine while on post conviction bond.

While his attorney, Grant Sherman, requested home incarceration, Hardy County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney H. Orrin Stagers III objected, stating Johnson was given an opportunity to have his adjudication deferred, but tested positive for drugs. "I think he would benefit from the South Branch Valley Drug Court," Stagers said.

Probation Officer Aura Brill agreed. "I originally recommended drug court, but because of his work schedule, he couldn't attend."

Judge Parsons ordered Johnson to apply

for Drug Court and granted Sherman's motion for post conviction bond.

The case against Mitchell Erb, 36, of Fisher was continued to Wednesday, March 16. He was charged in 2021 with breaking and entering and grand larceny. He had been living at the Phoenix House, but violated his bond.

The case against Tyler W. Alger, 22, of Moorefield, was continued to Wednesday, March 16. Alger was scheduled to be sentenced following his guilty plea for fleeing law enforcement with reckless indifference for the safety of others.

Alger's attorney, Grant Sherman, said Alger was at the Anthony Center. "He was sent by Hampshire County," Sherman said.

AT THE LIBRARY

Meet the Author!

Award-winning novelist Mylène Dressler will be reading and signing copies of her most recent novel, *Our Eyes at Night*, at the Hardy County Public Library on Wednesday, March 16th at 7pm. She will be discussing the writing process and taking questions. Books will be available for purchase.

Dressler is the author of six novels. Her stories and essays have appeared in the *Kenyon Review*, *Creative Nonfiction*, and *Lit Hub*, among others. Her honors include the Paisano Fellowship in Literature, as well as residencies at Hedgebrook and the Carson McCullers Center. She is an emerita professor at Guilford College, and lives and writes on the Oregon coast and in the high desert of southern Utah.

New Fiction

Gwendy's Final Task (Gwendy; 3) by Stephen King – When Gwendy Peterson was twelve, a mysterious stranger named Richard Farris gave her a mysterious box for safe-keeping. Years later, the button box entered Gwendy's life again. A suc-

cessful novelist and a rising political star, she was once again forced to deal with the temptation that box represented. Now, evil forces seek to possess the button box and it is up to Senator Gwendy Peterson to keep it from them.

The Unsinkable Grete James by Jennifer E. Smith – An indie musician reeling from tragedy and a public breakdown reconnects with her father on a week-long cruise.

Joan Is Okay by Weike Wang – Once thirtysomething ICU doctor Joan and her brother, Fang, were established in their careers, their parents moved back to China, hoping to spend the rest of their lives in their homeland. But when Joan's father suddenly dies and her mother returns to America to reconnect with her children, a series of events sends Joan spiraling out of her comfort zone.

Such a Pretty Smile by Kristi DeMeester – There's something out there that's killing. Known only as The Cur, he leaves no traces, save for the torn bodies of girls on the verge of becoming women, who are known as trouble-makers; those who refuse to conform, to know their place. As

past demons become a present threat, a mother and daughter must chase the source of this unrelenting, oppressive power to its malignant core.

New Non-Fiction and Bios

"I Was Better Last Night: A Memoir" by Harvey Fierstein – A memoir from Harvey Fierstein, the cultural icon, gay rights activist, and four-time Tony Award-winning actor and playwright, revealing never-before-told stories of his personal struggles and conflict, of sex and romance, and of his fabled career.

Shadowman: An Elusive Psycho Killer and the Birth of FBI Profiling by Ron Franscell – The story of the first time in history that the FBI Behavioral Unit created a profile to catch a serial killer.

Abundance: The Inner Path to Wealth by Deepak Chopra – Chopra draws on the philosophical principles of yoga to present a guide on how to forge an inner path to abundance, tap into a deeper sense of awareness, and become an agent of change in your life.

The Other Dr. Gilmer: Two Men, a Murder, and an Unlikely

Fight for Justice by Benjamin Gilmer – A rural physician learns that a former doctor at his clinic committed a shocking crime, leading him to uncover an undiagnosed mental health crisis in our broken prison system.

Never Simple: A Memoir by Liz Scheier – Scheier's story of learning to survive — and, finally, trying to save — a complicated, mentally ill parent, as feared as she is loved, and as self-destructive as she is adoring.

Hell's Half-Acre: The Untold Story of the Benders, a Serial Killer Family on the American Frontier by Susan Jonas – Jonas sheds new light on the Benders, a family of serial killers in Kansas whose horrifying crimes gripped the attention of a nation still reeling from war.

The Invisible Siege: The Rise of Coronaviruses and the Search for a Cure by Dan Werb – Werb gives readers a history of coronaviruses and the modern-day scientific quest to conquer viral epidemics forever.

Black Ops: The Life of a CIA Shadow Warrior by Ric Prado – CIA covert warrior Prado lifts the veil of secrecy and offers a glimpse into the shadow wars that America

has fought since the Vietnam Era.

The Invisible Kingdom: Reimagining Chronic Illness by Meghan O'Rourke – O'Rourke gives readers an exploration of one of the most consequential and mysterious issues of our time: the rise of chronic illness and autoimmune diseases.

The Social Lives of Animals by Ashley Ward – Animal behavior expert Ward embarks on a global search to reveal the surprising, delightful, and occasionally downright strange ways that animals build and manage societies, with both members of their own species and others.

The Bald Eagle: The Improbable Journey of America's Bird by Jack E. Davis – Taking readers from before the nation's founding through inconceivable resurgences of this enduring all-American species, Davis contrasts the age when native peoples lived beside the bald eagle peacefully against when others, whether through hunting bounties or DDT pesticides, twice pushed the species to the brink of extinction.

New JR Fiction

Hope in the Holler by Lisa Lew-

is Tyre – Upon her mother's death, Wavie Conley, 11, must go live with a scheming aunt in the Kentucky town her mother left behind.

The Tower of Time (Max and the Midnights; 3) by Lincoln Purse – Max's twin is public enemy number one, and it is up to the Midnights to avoid looming dangers like trolls and pirates to find her before time runs out.

Out of My Heart by Sharon M. Draper – Because she loves horses but is scared of them, Melody wants to conquer her fears, so she hopes a summer camp will be the place to welcome someone with cerebral palsy who wants to learn to ride.

No Humans Allowed (Dungeons and Dragons: Dungeon Academy; 1) by Madeleine Roux – When Zelligora "Zelli" Stormclash seeks answers to her true lineage, she embarks on a dangerous adventure.

Escape from Falaise (Ranger's Apprentice: The Royal Ranger; 5) by John Flanagan – Held captive by the dangerous baron Lassigny, Will Treaty and his fearless young apprentice, Maddie, must outwit the baron with the help of their friends from home to escape.

PSD Clash

Continued from page 1

a significant impact" on WVPSC as they weigh whether or not to alter the rate structure.

Moyers in particular praised the letter of support from Janie Berg. He said that the letter from Berg would "carry more weight" than other letters of support due to her perspective as someone who would benefit from WVPSC's suggested rate structure. In her letter, Berg states that the proposed increase to residential customers would, "cause hardships on our most vulnerable residents and would have a negative impact on the community as a whole. For those reasons I cannot support any change in the current rates, regardless of the savings that I personally would realize." Moyers said Berg's letter was "truly a selfless act" and that Hardy County was fortunate to have business leaders like her who put the community before their own interests.

Moyers told board members the support received by the District has

already made an impact on the case because in the days following receipt of the letters, WVPSC unexpectedly issued two orders in the case. The first order rescinded the case from PSC staff and retained the matter to be heard by the Commission itself rather than the administrative law judge previously assigned to the case. Moyers said having the Commission rescind the case from PSC staff was uncommon but he felt it was a good sign for the District because it may indicate the Commission is not in agreement with the position of WVPSC staff.

The second order directed WVPSC staff to proceed with making their recommendation for the rates by March 3, 2022 and further directed the District to file a response to the staff's recommendation by March 14, 2022. This will allow both the District and WVPSC staff to make their case to the Commission for the rate structure they feel is appropriate and puts the decision in the hands of

the Commission. Additionally, as part of the second order, the Commission scheduled a public hearing to be held at the Hardy County courthouse in the circuit court chambers on April 5, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Moyers also shared some good news with board members regarding the District's new facility project. The District has received authorization from the project lender, USDA-Rural Development, to advertise for bids for the 6,000 square foot facility that will become the District's main office and maintenance shop.

The District has been operating from a temporary office trailer for nearly five years due to flood damage to its former building. The new facility is being built without an

additional rate increase to customers and is being funded with FEMA grant funds and a \$350,000 contribution from the District's reserve accounts in addition to the USDA-RD loan. The new facility will be located in the Robert C. Byrd Industrial Park just east of Moorefield.

In other news, board members were told that customers of the District were notified on recent water bills to contact the office of the District regarding lead service lines. Due to revisions in the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule, the District is required to work with customers to compile an inventory of the material makeup of all service lines within the District's water systems. Because all of the District's water systems were

constructed after lead was banned from use in construction materials in the mid 1980s, there are no lead components in District-owned infrastructure. EPA regulations, however, require that the District also determine the type of material of each custom-

er's private service lines. If a customer does not know the material of their service line, additional inspections will need to be conducted by the District at the residence in order to comply with the EPA regulations.

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Classes begin March 24 in Moorefield.
Clinicals will be held at Grant Rehabilitation & Care Center in Petersburg.

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Grant Memorial Hospital (GMH) would like to announce that on March 1, 2022 (the effective date), it will be changing its patient obligation prompt pay discount policy. As of this effective date, GMH will be offering a twenty (20) percent discount on all patient balances for any wholly owned services rendered by the Hospital if payment is made in full at time of preauthorization, scheduling or point of service.

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Commission

Continued from page 1

on the levy. It's a fee," Commissioner David "Jay" Fansler said.

"Fee, levy, whatever you want to call it — you gentlemen sat here in this board room and you took the decision away from the citizens of Hardy County. You sat here and voted on it yourselves," Cameron replied.

"We fought a war in the 1700s about people imposing taxes or levies or fees or whatever you want to call it. We fought a war back then about it. If this is the war you all want," Cameron said, trailing off.

He continued, "put it back to the citizens of Hardy County. Until the citizens of Hardy County say 'yes,' then we'll just have to go to war. I'm sorry I have to do this. I'm sorry I have to be the one, but I know several folks in the county who believe the same way I do. If I'm the first person to be shot at, then I'm the first person to be shot at."

Cameron, who admitted he'd not yet paid his ambulance fee, explained he understood the need to support emergency personnel, and said he was formerly an EMT and firefighter. He added he doesn't agree with the fee because it was not supported via vote by county residents.

"I would say one thing: you disagree with the fee, you disagree with the law, which it is the law right now, this is our ordinance right here that people pay the fee," said Commissioner Steve Schetrom.

"I do understand where there are times you don't agree with the laws, but... you have to go through the process and... what you're doing right now is a legitimate part

of it. You should pay (the fee) in good faith while you're also going through the process to fight it."

Schetrom continued, "You have to go through the process to fight it, but it's not good faith if you aren't paying the fee at the same time because you say there's a process and you want to live under the rule of law, but you're not obeying the rule of law. It could be you win the day, but I think you have to pay it while that's happening."

Commissioner Dave Workman noted the original ordinance had issues that were later resolved. He said amendments to the ordinance were adopted, resulting in the \$120 fee for each household.

"Still," Cameron said, "you can't run around the citizens,"

"I would hope the ordinance was enacted with the welfare of the citizens in mind," replied Workman.

The Commissioners and Cameron went back and forth, but did not reach a resolution on the matter.

The second public concern regarded traffic, particularly large trucks driving on Cunningham Lane, a 5-mile stretch of road from U.S. 220 to Old Route 55 on Corridor H.

Cunningham Lane resident Debbie Davis said the road from Trough Road headed east is narrow, has poor sight alignment, and is insufficient for large vehicles, which she and other residents say is contributing to hazardous living and driving conditions in the area. She also noted there are many vehicles speeding on the road, which has a 35 mile-per-hour speed limit.

"In late October, I was in our driveway

cleaning our vehicle and I witnessed a Hardy County school bus loaded with children meet a tractor trailer in front of our home. The bus was forced into our ditch line by the tractor trailer," said Davis.

"It teetered in the ditch on two wheels and I thought for sure it was going to roll over in our yard, but luckily the bus driver got the bus under control."

She continued, "We haven't had any children on the lane for several years until this past year. Now we have several children again and I really am concerned for their safety."

Jason Stephens, another Cunningham Lane resident who attended the meeting, said incidents on the road near his home have his family scared.

"I have three small children — a four-year-old, a six-year-old, and a two-year-old. My yard is fenced in the front, but I'm scared to let my kids out there close to the road because of what happened the other morning with that car flipping in my driveway," said Stephens.

"I wake up to take my daughter out to take her to the bus and I've got a car rolled back sitting in my driveway. You can see where he was driving too fast."

He said he and his wife often observe vehicles traveling too fast and have also seen vehicles, particularly large trucks, struggle to move past each other on the narrow roadway.

"My wife is terrified to meet a truck on that road. That road is not acceptable for large trucks; meeting two vehicles on that road is enough."

Stephens continued, "If my daughter had

been there the other morning, I hate to think what would happen. Could I have gotten her out of the way in time? Could we have gotten out of the way in time for someone driving like that?"

Hardy County Sheriff Steve Dawson echoed sentiments that the road is dangerous. "I'm out there on that road a good bit. I'm nervous on that road. I don't know why the state doesn't impose a weight restriction on that road," he said.

"I don't like driving that road and, I'll tell you, there's a lot of drug traffic that goes on through there. That's the route they take to stay out of town to try and get away from us. That's a lot of your crazy drivers down there."

Dawson recommended the citizens create and sign a petition, and send it to the (Division of Highways). "Ask them to put a weight restriction on that road: That way you're laying the foundation if something were to happen."

Davis said she would talk to her neighbors and get a petition together. She asked if the Commission would submit the petition; they unanimously agreed to write a letter of support and submit it with the petition.

Funding and other requests
Commissioners approved several funding requests at their last meeting, including \$10,000 to West Hardy EMS to help the company avoid excessive debt.

Commissioners also approved \$5,000 for the Potomac Valley Transit Authority for their yearly contribution. The \$5,000 is the same monetary request from previous years. Commissioners unanimously approved a

\$65,000 request for the Hardy County Emergency Ambulance Authority, which is the standard monthly request.

The Rural Development Authority requested \$70,000 in matching funds for the Robert C. Byrd Industrial Park access road, which connects to Corridor H.

Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution for the road project, which is ongoing according to RDA Executive Director Mallie Combs.

Hardy Telecommunications, represented by Bill Sites and Matthew Crites, requested a right-of-way through Brighton Park for broadband internet lines.

Sites and Crites informed Commissioners that if they have plans for the park or structures nearby, "now would be the time" to make plans for fiber connectivity.

"I believe that fiber optic is certainly almost like an essential utility like electric, water, gas, whatever, anymore in the society we live in today," said Commissioner Workman.

Workman added that he'd like to see more people have access to fiber optic internet, and thanked Hardy Telecommunications for making Hardy County a leader in that. "I really don't see any problem with this and I think, working with the Parks and Rec board, that can be accomplished."

Commissioners encouraged Sites and Crites to speak with the Hardy County Parks and Recreation board while otherwise approving the request for right-of-way access.

The County Commission's next regular meeting is Tuesday, April 5, at the Hardy County Courthouse at 204 Washington Street in Moorefield.

March Lunch Menu for Hardy County Schools

Tuesday, March 1 — Meatball Sub/ Fish Sticks, Winter Blend, Frozen Fruit Cup

Wednesday, March 2 — Chili Con Carne, Hobo Bun/Corbread, Green Beans, Applesauce

Thursday, March 3 — Chicken Patty Sandwich, Honey-Glazed Carrots, Pears

Friday, March 4 — School-Made Pizza, Corn, Pineapple

Monday, March 7 — Pork Rib Sandwich, Sweet Potatoes, Pears

Tuesday, March 8 — Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Fruit Cup

Wednesday, March 9 — Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Homemade Rolls, Pineapple

Thursday, March 10 — Walking Taco, Salsa, Corn, Applesauce

Friday, March 11 — Calzone, Marinara Sauce, Spinach, Mixed Fruit

Monday, March 14 — COOKS CHOICE

Tuesday, March 15 — Cheeseburger Mac, Peas, Chocolate Chip Cook-

ies, Applesauce

Wednesday, March 16 — Hot Dog on Roll, Hot Dog Chili, Baked Beans, Mixed Fruit

Thursday, March 17 — Hamburger/Cheeseburger, French Fries, Ice Cream, Fruit Cup

Friday, March 18 — Pizza, Variety, Broccoli, Pineapple

Monday, March 21 — Crispy Chicken Tenders, Sauce Dipper, Mixed Veggies, Applesauce

Tuesday, March 22 — Steak 'n Cheese Sub, Beans w/Ham, Fruit Cocktail

Wednesday, March 23 — Chili Nachos, Baked Potato, Snack Bag, Peaches

Thursday, March 24 — Oven-Roasted Chicken, Homemade Rolls, Steamed Broccoli, Mixed Fruit

Friday, March 25 — Pepperoni Roll, Marinara, Cooked Carrots, Frozen Fruit Cup

Monday, March 28 — Chicken Nuggets, Sauce Dipper, Variety of

Beans, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Pears

Tuesday, March 29 — Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Pears

Wednesday, March 30 — Tangerine Chicken, Rice, Broccoli, Mandarin Oranges

Thursday, March 31 — Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Homemade Rolls, Applesauce

*Lunches are served with fresh fruit and garden bar often containing prepared salads and dressings, as well as a variety of low fat/FF milk (NOTE: Pre-K students will not receive grain-based desserts or flavored milk, according to CACFP meal pattern requirements.)

For Breakfast/Lunch Menus online, as well as nutritional and related information, go to www.hardycafe.com. Call the School Nutrition Programs office at 304-530-2348, ext. 9223, with questions.

Update on fire at the Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

Investigators were not able to determine a cause behind last week-end's fire at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, the State Fire Marshal's Office announced March 4.

Investigators cited the extensive damage from the Feb. 26 fire, which destroyed the 1800s-era Administration Building on the Romney campus. The building was unoccupied at the time, and students were gone for

the weekend.

The fire started on or around 6:12 a.m. and required several fire departments to help extinguish. WVSEMO investigators arrived on-scene shortly after the fire started and, when it was deemed safe, began their investigation. Because of the scope and size of the scene it was determined by the WVSEMO to call in extra resources from the regional section of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms

and Explosives. The ATF soon arrived with their National Response Team, consisting of more than 30 agents.

A detailed investigation, including interviews, scene analysis and checking of video surveillance, was conducted by both agencies. With the fire cause ruled as undetermined in cause, the case is now considered closed by the WVSEMO and ATF.

Mass Notification System

Continued from page 1

call 681-231-4011, text "alerts" to the same number, or visit <http://hyper-reach.com/wvhardysignup.html>.

Residents with Alexa smart de-

vices can also set up their device to receive alerts by saying "Alexa, enable Hyper-Reach" and following the Alexa-provided instructions.

For more information, contact the

Office of Emergency Management at 304-530-0291. The Office of Emergency Management is located at 157 Freedom Way in Moorefield.



This is a wind turbine planned for Short Mountain, 607 feet tall.

Comments may be mailed to: Public Service Commission of West Virginia, Reference Case# NOIE Short Mountain 21B
C/O Ms. Connie Graley, Executive Secretary,
201 Brooks Street, Charleston, WV 25301

This is a windmill, the tallest in Holland is 132 feet.



Or email: Caseinfo@psc.state.wv.us

Check out:

<https://www.facebook.com/Preserve-Short-Mountain-say-NO-to-WIND-FARMS>

OBITUARIES

GEORGE JAMES MUTH, SR.



George James (Jim) Muth, Sr., age 82, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at his home in Lost River.

Jim was born in Baltimore on Dec. 20, 1939 to the late Gladys Betty & George B. Muth. He was a 1958 graduate of Westminster High School where he played Varsity football. After graduation, Jim joined the Navy and served on the USS Mitscher as a boiler technician. Jim worked for Powercon Corporation for 42 years before retiring and moving to West Virginia. Jim lived his life to the full-

est, enjoying his favorite pastimes and hobbies, including sailing, model trains, and watching his favorite sports, especially the Ravens.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 39 years, Juanita; his sons, George J. Muth, Jr. and the late Michael J. Muth; and his daughter, Alisa Nolan & her husband Stephen. Jim was the proud grandfather of James, Sara and Rachel Nolan; dear brother of Jeffrey Muth, Judy Massarelli and Joyce Erb; beloved Uncle of Kathy Argo, Judy Erb and Nathan Gist; and Brother In Law of Stephanie & Bob

Heuer.

Family and Friends are invited to join in a celebration of Jim's life on Friday, March 11, 2022 at 10:30 a.m., at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 15773 Dover Road, Upperco, Md. Interment with Military Honors to follow at Evergreen Memorial Gardens, 2800 Old Westminster Pike, Finksburg, Md. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10306.

All arrangements are handled by McKee Funeral Home, Baker.

CHARLENE MAE FITZWATER



Charlene Mae (Arbaugh) Fitzwater, 63, formerly of Moorefield, passed away on Feb. 26, 2022.

Born Aug. 17, 1958, she was the daughter of the late Calvin and Zona (Wimmer) Arbaugh. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Gregory Fitzwater; son, Gregory Arbaugh; and brothers, Glen and George Arbaugh.

Charlene is survived by her daughter Anita Arbaugh, and her children, Colton and Chelsie; and her son, Daniel Fitzwater and his daughters, Gracie and Abby. She is also survived by her brothers and sisters, Becky, Steve, Danny, Vandy, Joyce, Kenny and Mike Gribble; as well as numerous nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews and great-great

nieces and nephews.

In accordance with her wishes, Charlene will be cremated and a memorial service is being planned for a later date.

Boal Funeral Home, Westernport has been entrusted with the care of Mrs. Fitzwater.

WILLIAM "BUD" DELAWDER, JR.



William Harry "Bud" Delawder, Jr., age 81 of Moorefield, passed away Thursday morning, March 3, 2022 at his residence. Bud was born Sept. 1, 1940, in Moorefield to the late William Harry (Bill) Delawder and Carrie Beatrice Funkhouser Delawder. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Lori Delawder.

He served six years in the United States Navy and was stationed in Charleston, S.C., but traveled the globe. He later worked in the field of electric motor and pump repairs in

the Virginia and D.C. area. He retired in 2005. Bud was an active member at Old Fields Baptist Church, and an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing and gardening. He enjoyed tinkering with old motors and doing home repairs.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Hellen Louise Jenkins Delawder; his two children Julie Stump (husband Ron) and William (Billy) Delawder; four sisters, Susan Clater (husband Ernie), Helen Bell, Sally (Jo) Heavner (husband Larry) and Mary Hinkle (husband Jim). He

has two granddaughters, Leah Lesley (husband Ryan) and Crystal Rager, and one great-grandson, Crosby.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at Old Fields Baptist Church with Pastor Dan Howard officiant. Military Honors will be accorded by the U.S. Navy.

Condolences, shared memories and photos may be left on "Bud's" Tribute Wall at www.fralefuneral-home.com.

BRADLEY BINGHAM BARNES, JR.

Bradley Bingham Barnes, Jr. was born Jan. 30, 1945, in the small town of Troy, N.Y. on the Eastern bank of the Hudson River. Brad (aka Pop and Pepop, as he was known by his grandchildren) passed away peacefully, with his loving wife and son by his side, on March 3, 2022, in Baker.

Brad spent his childhood years living in Greenville, Tenn., onto Dover, N.J. The family then relocated to Chester, Va. years later, where he soon started and ran a HVAC Business for 38 years - Barnes Heating &

Cooling, Inc.

Brad was loved by his community and proved throughout his business trek. This passion allowed him to enjoy many special times and moments with his family throughout these wonderful years.

Brad loved adventure and the outdoors with his family. Many summers were enjoyed boating on Buggs Island Lake (Kerr Reservoir), where he perfected the art of slinging his sons to the stratosphere utilizing the tubes being towed by him. He would

never turn down a great moment to educate, how to hang on. He was certainly the captain!

When not on the water, Brad could often be found enjoying the open road in their RV with his wife by his side as they enjoyed the many late memories of their explorations. He was true and open-hearted, which he wore on his shoulder, anyone would say; someone who appreciated life and exemplified kindness.

He is survived by a loving family: his wife Robbie Barnes; his sons Al,

Dale & Lee (wife Lindsey, grandson Christian); granddaughter Hannah (Husband Lenny); brother Russ; nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Charlotte R. Barnes, father Bradley B. Barnes, Sr., and sister Barbara Moore.

There will be a Celebration of life at a later date.

All arrangements are handled by McKee Funeral Home, Baker.

DONNIE LEROY PRATT



Donnie Leroy Pratt, age 73 of Kernersville, W.Va. passed away Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, at his residence. Born on Sept. 3, 1948 in Moorefield, he was a son of the late Arno Leroy Pratt and Catherine Virginia Crites Pratt. A brother, Randy Pratt also preceded him in death.

Donnie was a U.S. Army Combat Veteran of the 101st Airborne during the Vietnam War. After the service he was employed at Georgetown University. He enjoyed playing football and hunting in his spare time.

Surviving is a daughter, Shannon (Paul) Martin of Eustis, Fla.; two special friends, Melissa Robinson and Jennifer Gaither from Maryland; two sisters, Patsy Kelly of Columbia, Md. and Barbara Pratt of Ormond Beach, Fla.; Uncle Albert (Jose) Crites of Kessel, and Aunt Margaret Conroy of Lincoln Park, Mich.

Funeral Services will be 1 p.m. Friday, March 11, 2022 at the Fraley Funeral Home Chapel, 107 Washington Street, Moorefield, with Pastor Harold George officiant. Interment

will follow with Military Graveside Rites accorded by the U.S. Army and the Moorefield Veteran's Honor Guard at the Olivet Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. until time of services. Due to the current COVID-19 recommendations, wearing of masks and social distancing by individuals unvaccinated is recommended.

Condolences, shared memories and photos may be left on Donnie's Tribute Wall at www.fralefuneral-home.com.

ROBERT KEITH LANDACRE

Robert Keith Landacre, 52, of Mathias, went home to be with the Lord March 4, 2022 at Sentara RMH Medical Center in Harrisonburg, surrounded by his family and friends.

Robert was born March 26, 1969 in Morgantown at St. Vincent Palotti Hospital to the late Daniel L. Landacre and Constance Landacre Hoover, who survives, along with husband Rick.

He graduated from East Hardy High School in 1987 and attended Vale Tech in Blairsville, Pa. with his degree in autobody refinishing and mechanics. He owned and operated

Robert's Auto Repair for 28 years. You would walk in as a customer and leave as friends and family.

On Sept. 29, 1990 he married the love of his life, Tracey L. Spitzer, who survives. Also surviving are a daughter, Katie Carr (James) and two sons, Don and Travis Landacre, all of Mathias; a brother, Dustin Landacre (Wendy) of Baker; a sister, Dana Landacre of Harrisonburg; and five granddaughters, Dakota Landacre, Elaina Carr, Gabi Sentman, Abigail Keplinger and Madi Keplinger. He also leaves behind two nieces, a nephew, many aunts and uncles, a

brother-in-law, a sister-in-law, cousins, etc. One special aunt is Joyce Marie Funkhouser of Baker, along with his special mentor in Christ, Rev. Karl Slye.

Robert also had many special friends whom he loved to cook for on his grills and over the campfire. The simplest pleasure in life brought him great joy. He enjoyed his time at the campground in Mount Storm, and telling a great story or joke. He had an uncanny ability to find happiness in all he did while being the simple, loving man he was.

The family received friends and

family on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 from 6-8 p.m. at McKee Funeral Home in Baker. A funeral service will be conducted at 2 p.m., Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at Garrett's Chapel Church in Mathias, with Rev. Karl Slye, Rev. Johnathan Hedrick and Pastor John Bruce officiating. Burial will follow at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Mathias.

All arrangements are being handled by the McKee Funeral Home of Baker.

In Appreciation

The family of
Loring E. "Bud" Barr

would like to thank everyone for their love, prayers, support, phone calls, cards, visits, food, flowers, and memorials received from extended family, friends, neighbors, members of the community and area Churches after the passing of our loved one. A special thanks to West Hardy Emergency Medical Service, Dr. Ben Leslie, Grant Memorial Hospital Emergency Room and Hospital Staff, Fraley Funeral Home, Pastor Lynn Rohrbaugh for the beautiful service, the Pallbearers, and Julie Shobe and the Snyders for the music.

*May God Bless You,
Lori, Joe, Suzanne & families*

Church Services

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Sunday Mass 8:00 AM

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Mon. Mar.14: Cold cut sub w/ cheese, chips, raisins, cucumber w/ Ranch, green beans, pears.

Tues. Mar.15: Salisbury steak w/ gravy, baby baker potatoes, lima beans, roll, banana.

Wed. Mar.16: "Birthday Meal." Sliced turkey, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, peas and carrots, coleslaw, cupcakes.

Thur. Mar.17: Chicken pot pie, broccoli, peaches and cottage cheese.

Fri. Mar.18: Sausage, egg and cheese muffin, hash browns, stewed tomatoes, mandarin oranges.

The Center is now open to serve meals inside. The grab and go meals are still being done at this time. That will end but not sure when. Please call in and let us know if you are picking up or eating in with us. Thank

you for staying with us thru all of the changes.

Meals are to be eaten here at the center or at EA Hawse Community room in Baker Thursdays only. Person under the age of 60 are welcome to come eat with us at a cost of \$5.25 per meal. "That's A Deal." Any donation over \$5.25 would be greatly appreciated.

Those making donations were Food Lion and the Moorefield Examiner. We would like to thank each and everyone of you for your donations: They are greatly appreciated. Have a safe and happy week.

HCCOA receives funding from federal and state entities including W.Va. Bureau of Senior Services and Upper Potomac AAA, local government, donations and memorial contributions.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Hardy County Committee on Aging is participating in the AmazonSmile program. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide

selection of products, low prices and convenient shopping features as on amazon.com. The difference is when customers shop at AmazonSmile (smileamazon.com), the AmazonSmile foundation donates 0.5 percent of purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Please remember us as you do your online shopping. AmazonSmile is an easy and convenient way to donate to your local Senior Center. Donations are used to offset the expenses of our nutrition program, which provides on-site meals, as well as home-delivered meals to eligible seniors in Hardy County. For more information, please call us at 304-530-2256 Option 5 or stop by the Senior Center at 409 Spring Ave. Moorefield, WV Thank you for your support!

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Aides provide services in the home of eligible participants. Please call us at 304-530-2256 Option 1 or 3 for more information.

GRAB AND GO MEALS for Seniors 60 and older; donations accepted. Anyone under 60 can get a meal also at \$5.25 per meal. We'll need your name, address, and birthday. Pick up your lunch between 12-12:30, because the Center is closed due to COVID-19.

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MOOREFIELD EXAMINER

COMMUNITY



THIS WEEK IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY

By Michael Keller

WVa. Humanities Council

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.

March 9, 1832: George Robert Latham was born. At the onset of the Civil War, Latham turned his Grafton law office into a recruiting station, and he led the first Union troops in north-central West Virginia.

March 9, 1953: Football player Dennis Harrah was born in South Charleston. Harrah played in 168 games and one Super Bowl before retiring from the NFL.

March 10, 1920: West Virginia became the 34th state to ratify the 19th

Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guaranteed the right of women to vote.

March 11, 1847: Boone County was formed from parts of Logan, Kanawha, and Cabell counties and named for Daniel Boone.

March 11, 1848: Putnam County was formed from portions of Kanawha, Mason, and Cabell. The new county was named in honor of Gen. Israel Putnam, who commanded the Continental Army at Bunker Hill.

March 11, 1856: Roane County was created from parts of Kanawha, Jackson, and Gilmer counties. The new county was named for Judge Spencer Roane, a son-in-law of Patrick Henry.

March 12, 1850: Wheeling Hos-

pital was chartered. During the Civil War, the institution was used as a general military hospital. The Sisters of Saint Joseph were hired as army nurses, treating wounded Union and Confederate soldiers side by side.

March 13, 2002: Herbalist and folk doctor Catfish Gray died in Huntington. Gray was known for his vast knowledge of traditional plant lore and for his quaint and engaging personality. At the height of the folk-revival of the 1970s, Gray was a frequent newspaper and television interview subject.

March 14, 1931: Noting the interest in the annual reunion of Carnifex Ferry battle veterans, the legislature created the Carnifex Ferry Battlefield Park Commission.

March 15, 1882: Union leader

Frank Keeney was born on Cabin Creek, Kanawha County. Keeney, who went to work in the mines as a boy, became a rank-and-file leader during the Paint Creek-Cabin Creek Strike of 1912-13.

March 15, 1952: Governor Earl Ray Tomblin was born in Logan County. He was elected as a Democrat from Logan County to the House of Delegates in 1974, when he was only 22 years old and still a senior at West Virginia University.

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

Moorefield Council

Continued from page 1

equipment from the old water plant for auction or use at the new plant.

Sewer crews also installed a tap at the new MES building, and cleaned out the line at the Town office.

They jettied 230 feet main line from the Department of Motor Vehicles to behind Vetter's Car Wash twice, and flushed lines on Burr Street and South Elm Street.

The South Branch Inn pump station required a new pump, and both pumps were pulled several times through the month for clogs. They met with Precision Pump about upgrading the pump station so they can provide a quote, and so the Town can advertise for bids.

Park personnel began readying the Park for Spring by building picnic tables, repairing equipment in bathrooms, and filling in tripping hazards on the tennis courts.

They began installing the water line for the new bathroom and concession stand by the new basketball courts, and removed sticks, leaves and debris from around the Park.

Street crews finished cleaning the Town's storm drains. They swept all the streets in Town, removing more than 40,000 pounds of debris.

Zuber encouraged council members to consider ideas for downtown beautification projects. She and Shockey will meet with the Chamber of Commerce on March 15 to discuss cleaning the Town and other projects; she invited the rest of the council to attend.

The Council will meet again at 6:45 p.m. -- a little earlier than normal, to meet with MVFD representatives -- on Tuesday, March 15 at the Town Hall. The public is encouraged to attend. Social distancing is observed, but masking is optional.

Singleton



Photo by Jean Flanagan

Robert Singleton looks from the second story window of his home in Hardy County.



Photo courtesy Robert Singleton

Distant Procession

Continued from page 1

Singleton has created four galleries of his work, each spanning a different timeframe in his career. The exhibit will open on Friday, March 18 at noon. There will be a reception from 7 - 8 p.m. on Zoom. Go to www.rsingleton.net to view the exhibit and register for the reception. You must be registered to attend the reception.

The four galleries are titled: 1963 - 1973 Early Years, 1974 - 1978 Mystical Meditations, 1978 - 2012 Exploration, 2012 - 2022 Romanced Horizons.

The Early Years gallery features work that put Singleton on the world stage.

"I was living in Florida," he said. "That is where my career was launched. My work was in demand by galleries, museums. I was teaching. I was very successful. But there was something missing, something indefinable. I was looking for something else. I wanted to get out of Florida."

Singleton said he found a place in the Great Smokey Mountains. His time there is the subject of the Mystical Meditations gallery.

"It was in northern Georgia and it was spectacular. It was at 4,000 feet. It had spectacular views. I stayed for four years, and came to realize, it wasn't what I was looking for."

Singleton had done a show in Washington, D.C. and remembered the Shenandoah Valley. He called a realtor in Winchester, Va., looked around that area, but didn't find anything suitable. "He told me to go to West Virginia," Singleton said. "I asked him, 'Where's that?'"

Singleton met Johnny Ely, who, in addition to selling real estate, ran the post office and general store in Baker.

"He closed the store and we drove all around. It was October and the leaves were in full color and the sky was this brilliant azure blue. He showed me the top of a mountain that was for sale. There were no roads on the property, we stood on an opposite ridge. I could see a little clearing at the top, the perfect location for a house and studio."

The original parcel was 160 acres, which Singleton said was too large. He negotiated with the seller and bought a 30-acre piece at one end of the property.

Singleton rented a small house in Baker, packed his art supplies and a few pieces of furniture, and moved to West Virginia. That was in the fall of

1978. Over the winter, he did a show in New York City and designed his studio/house.

"Johnny and Iris kind of adopted me," Singleton said. "I had Thanksgiving and Christmas with them. I didn't know anyone. I didn't even really know where I was. I would drive to Winchester every week for groceries, because I didn't know Moorefield existed."

In the Spring of 1979, Singleton hired the Snyder Brothers - Charlie, Larry, Mike and Kenny - to build his house. He moved in August. "It was my life's dream to build my own house and studio on a mountaintop in an unspoiled environment."

The Exploration gallery features paintings from Singleton's early years in Hardy County. It was a very reflective time for him.

"When I moved here, I had a major career and I just dropped out," he said. "The first three years, I was in almost total isolation. I didn't even have a telephone."

Singleton said when he called Hardy Telecommunications in 1979 to get telephone service, there was a problem. "They told me the Needmore Road party line was maxed out. Someone would have to die before I could get a phone. It took me four

years to get a phone and by that time, I didn't know if I really wanted one."

Singleton had given the Ely's store phone number to friends and family. When someone called for him, Iris would put a note in the mail. The postman would deliver the note and Singleton would drive to the store to return the call. The system worked perfectly.

Those first years, Singleton said, were like living in a vacuum.

"I was confronted with being by myself," he said. "I became comfortable with being alone, with being myself. It was very difficult, but it was the most important thing in my life."

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Singleton stopped painting for awhile. Personal tragedy, the state of the world, took him down another path for a time. He eventually found his way back to art.

"There were certain visual events that spoke to me over time," Singleton said. "I spent a lot of time alone as a child. I began to see human emotion in the natural world."

As a young man, Singleton took a trip across the United States with a friend. Driving through Kansas, Singleton asked his friend to stop the car. "I got out and looked all around

me - 360 degrees - and there was nothing. Nothing but the horizon line of the prairie. That division between heaven above and earth below. It appears in just about all my work. All I have to do is draw a line on a canvas, and I'm inspired to paint. After a time, the clouds entered above the line. While I was in Florida, I lost that line."

Singleton said when he looks back on his lifetime work, he's amazed at the progression. "The early years feel like things that were done by another person, in another life."

"I've spent half my life in Hardy County and it's been the best part of my life."

Robert Singleton's galleries will be available to the public March 18. There is no charge to see them. There is no charge to attend the reception at 7 p.m. Register at rsingleton.net.

Oh! Oh!
She's turning
the Big 5-0
on March 9th
Happy Birthday
Christi Baldwin

Love
from your
friend,
Frances



Two Lilas



Amye Bensenhaver sent this photo, with the following explanation:

"My grandfather was Charles B. Bensenhaver Sr., my father is Charles B. Bensenhaver Jr., and my brother is Charles B. Bensenhaver, III.

"This photo of Lila Halterman Funkhouser Carioscia was taken many years ago when she visited her namesake Lila Bensenhaver, daughter of Charles, III, granddaughter of Charles Jr., and great granddaughter of Charles, Sr.

"As you may know, Aunt Lila (to generations) passed away recently at the age of 106.

"We would like to share this wonderful photo of Aunt Lila and little Lila, now 15 and a blossoming young woman who is proud to carry Aunt Lila's name and memory forward."

Lila Carioscia's sister, Eula Halterman Bensenhaver, was married to Charles B. Bensenhaver, Sr.

Thank you, Amye, for sharing this wonderful photo! - HH

NOTICE

The Hardy County 4-H Camp Association will hold their annual meeting on **March 24, 2022, at 6pm, at Hardy County 4-H Camp / Camp Pinnacle**. There will be a covered dish dinner followed by the meeting. Everyone is invited to attend the meal and meeting.

Birthday Card Shower
For
Rose Marie Mathias
90th Birthday
on **March 22nd**

PO Box 220
Mathias, WV 26812

BBQ CHICKEN MEAL
Sunday, March 13, 2022
Mathias Fire Station. Rt 259, Mathias WV
11 am - 1:30 pm (or until sold out)

MENU:
BBQ Chicken,
Scalloped Potatoes,
Green Beans, Coleslaw,
Roll, & Dessert

\$12 Carryout Only
Proceeds To Benefit:
Mathias-Baker
Vol. Fire Company

Wardensville Bull Test
54th Annual Sale
March 24, 2022
12:00 Noon - Wardensville, WV
W.VU Regn. an. M. en. c. k. J. P. am. - 2 m. D. en. c. a. t. h. c. o. W. ar. d. en. s. v. i. l. l. e. n. S. R. 259N

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Kevin.Shaffer@mail.wvu.edu Jerry.Yates@mail.wvu.edu

NOTICE

The Region VII Workforce Development Board quarterly board meeting will be held on March 17, 2022. The meeting is being held via conference call and will begin at 6:00 P.M. For meeting information, contact Stacy Swick at 304-530-5258.

An Equal Opportunity Program/ Employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

TARZAN
THE STAGE MUSICAL
BASED ON THE DISNEY FILM

March 18, 19, 25, 26 at 7:30 p.m.
March 20, 27 at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets \$15 Student • \$20 Adult
Tickets are available at the door and in advance ONLINE
go.wvu.edu/psc-theatre

West Virginia University
POTOMAC STATE COLLEGE

HARDY COUNTY

SPORTS



Photos by Carl Holcomb

East Hardy's Mason Miller shows his enthusiasm claiming a spot on the state wrestling podium for the Class A-AA 182-lb. weight class with a 6-5 decision over Tyler Consolidated's Sean Winfrey.

HISTORY MADE

Miller earns East Hardy's first state wrestling medal

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

East Hardy Wrestling earned its first state medal in program history as junior Mason Miller kept the family tradition of success growing with a Class A-AA sixth place finish and Moorefield Wrestling coach T.J. Van Meter was honored as coach of the year, highlighting the 75th annual WVSSAC state wrestling tournament in Huntington this past weekend in addition to five of Hardy County grapplers garnering victories to cultivate future success.

Descending on the Mountain Health Arena in Huntington on Thursday evening were a total of 448 wrestlers from the Mountain State competing in 224 matches on eight mats with seven grapplers representing Hardy County.

There was a special awards ceremony on Friday night honoring the coach and referee of the year with Moorefield coach T.J. Van Meter being given the NFHS coaching plaque by WVSSAC executive director Bernie Dolan and assistant executive director Wayne Ryan.

"It's really humbling. I have been involved in wrestling for 15 years now. To be recognized, it is very humbling. There are a lot of great coaches in the state of West Virginia. There are coaches who are much more deserving than myself," Moorefield Wrestling coach T.J. Van Meter remarked.

The Miller family tradition has created an unbreakable bond within the Cougars Wrestling program as head coach Steven Miller has seen all three of his children compete at the state tournament, SierraMarie,

Dayton and Mason.

Presbyterian College Women's Wrestling freshman national qualifier SierraMarie Miller was the first East Hardy wrestler in program history to reach the state tournament and collected the first ever win in Huntington in addition to her two-time girls state invitational championship titles.

Dayton and Mason experienced the state tournament previously, but this year Mason took it to the next level with the first state medal for his family and the team as the tradition keeps growing.

"I'm still living on this high, it's an unbelievable feeling. I put a lot of work into it. Last year I came down here and got pinned twice, so I made up my mind that wasn't going to happen again. I wanted to be on the podium again."

Continued on page 12

Van Meter Named State Wrestling Coach of the Year

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

The Yellow Jackets won the state wrestling championship last season and coach T.J. Van Meter was recognized as the 2021 National Federation Coaches Association West Virginia Active State Wrestling Coach of the Year during a special ceremony held at the 75th annual WVSSAC State Wrestling Tournament in Huntington.

The NFHS presents these awards annually to coaches for their dedication, commitment to excellence and promoting the ideas of interscholastic athletics.

WVSSAC executive director Bernie Dolan and assistant executive director Wayne Ryan made the presen-

tation to Coach Van Meter.

"It's really humbling. I have been involved in wrestling for 15 years now. To be recognized, it is very humbling. There are a lot of great coaches in the state of West Virginia. There are coaches who are much more deserving than myself," Moorefield Wrestling coach T.J. Van Meter remarked.

"It is quite an honor and completely unexpected. There's several very accomplished wrestling coaches in West Virginia and any one of them would be very deserving of this recognition. I've been very blessed to be surrounded by some great people like coach Larry Schoonover, Darby Clayton and our youth coaches Rob Pillus and Carson Connors. All have contributed greatly to our success. I

hope I didn't get in the way of our wrestlers last year. They put in a lot of time and effort to win the championship. It was a team effort."

Van Meter has been the head coach for Moorefield Wrestling since the 2016 season, overseeing tremendous success with consistency as five grapplers under his charge surpassed 100 career victories and his son Isaac was a two-time state champion in addition to the culmination of winning the team title last year.

"When selecting our winners we look at not only his/her overall career in terms of wins and losses, but also look for character traits such as work ethic, sportsmanship, leadership, and the coach's contributions as a positive role model for our student-ath-

Continued on page 9



Photo by Carl Holcomb

Moorefield Wrestling coach T.J. Van Meter was presented with the NFHS State Wrestling Coach of the Year award by WVSSAC executive director Bernie Dolan and assistant Wayne Ryan in Huntington.

Cougars roar past Union in semifinal play

By Carl Holcomb
Moorefield Examiner

The Cougars commenced the Class A Region II Section 1 Boys Basketball semifinal playoff game with a 12-nil run against Union and knocked down 13 perimeter buckets en route to a roaring 87-58 victory on Tuesday in Baker.

The Tigers drilled seven 3-pointers to bring the total amount of long distance calls to 20 overall for the playoff contest and both teams combined for ten of those shots in the final stanza.

"That's our game. I was surprised how Union came in with a lot of confidence and a lot of fans. I think that really got us focused and ready to play," East Hardy coach Chris Hahn commented.

"After beating them twice, I was hoping we wouldn't get ahead of ourselves. Our kids did a great job of focusing and the crowd kept us in the game. We got in and got this game into a flow that we prefer. It was fast paced and run-and-gun. That is my preferred style of basketball to play. When they ran with us, that fell into our game plan. We were better focused running into the third and fourth quarters as they got mentally and physically tired. We wore on them and got some turnovers and easy buckets. When we got the big runs, they just couldn't keep up with us. We know moving forward, we don't have a lot of size. The game will get a little tougher and rebounding will be tougher. We hope to get the looks like we did tonight and knock down more 3-pointers. We were glad to have such a great atmosphere tonight. We will put our best foot forward and see what happens."

East Hardy (10-13) made a statement starting by punching in a 3-pointer within 18 seconds of the tip-off as Jordan Teets drilled the basket with chants from the student section about him being a freshman, then brother J.W. Teets swiped the ball with a foul from the Tigers (7-16) preventing points.

Union stalled the game prior to missing the next three shots over a span of a minute and a half which included a turnover by the Cougars.

The Cougars struck again with a jumper by Justin Teets at the 5:59 mark for a 5-0 edge.

J.W. Teets stole the ball, but the Cougars hit the rim thrice before a steal by Dawson Price resulted in a putback from Justin Teets at 5:07.

Price blocked a shot and forced a jump ball in the process, then the Tigers fumbled the ball out of bounds.

Justin Teets nailed the first of his five 3-pointers at the 4:34 en route to 23 points on the night, then stole the ball and netted a layup



Photo by Carl Holcomb

East Hardy's Jordan Teets launches a shot in the paint over Union's Devin Gaither during the Class A Region II Section 1 Boys Basketball semifinal game in Baker.

within ten seconds to cap off the East Hardy run at 12-0.

Union got on the board at the 4:16 mark during the next possession as Daniel Savage hit two foul shots to spark his team-best 15 points.

Jordan Teets snatched an offensive rebound and put the ball through the net on the next East Hardy series.

Justin Teets grabbed a defensive carom, then Noah Lang fed J.W. Teets for a layup sparking his game-high 29 points in the Cou-

gars win.

The Cougars pressure forced a turnover with the ball ricocheting into the bench, but failed to convert and Union came up empty twice on the following possession.

East Hardy's J.W. Teets hit a jumper at 2:37 for an 18-2 advantage.

The Tigers answered with a basket in the paint from Devin Gaither, who netted 11 points on the night.

East Hardy's Andrew Hahn notched a perimeter shot in response within 15 seconds.

The Cougars outscored Union 7-2 in the last minute of the first period for a 28-9 score with J.W. Teets making a pair of jumpers and Nate Smith knocked down a 3-pointer before the buzzer.

Entering the second period, East Hardy's Dawson Price hit a shot from downtown for a 31-9 lead at 7:44.

After a defensive rebound by Justin Teets, the Cougars walked and the Tigers pounced for a 3-pointer from Samuel Jones.

Continued on page 9

Moorefield tops Frankfort for sectional championship

By Chapin Jewell
Mineral Daily News-Tribune

In two previous meetings this season, Moorefield and Frankfort had each earned their pound of flesh with wins against the other. Friday's matchup between the two PVC rivals at Petersburg would function as the rubber match, and the one that counted the most. In the end, regulation play would not be enough as Moorefield topped Frankfort 59-57 in overtime for the sectional crown.

In addition to earning the Yellow Jackets the sectional championship, the win gives Moorefield (11-12) a right to host a regional-co-final game against Braxton County (13-12). Frankfort, (4-17) by contrast, must now travel to South Harrison (22-1) in the other regional co-final. Both games will be Thursday, March 10 at 7 p.m. The winners advance to the state tournament in Charleston. The losers will see their seasons end.

Moorefield coach Scott Stutler was proud of the effort showed by his team, "That was a great game, it was a great sectional final. It was exciting to be a part of. Our kids showed a lot of heart, and we just didn't quit. We got down a couple of times, but we made some good runs at the end to win it."

Disappointed by the loss, Frankfort coach Scott Slider was also proud of the effort of his squad, "Give credit to our kids, we played great defensively. There were a couple of opportunities, probably right there at the end, where we didn't have our guy like we should have. It hurt us, giving them some open shots. But overall, we played very solid defensively."

It was a game in which Frankfort led after each of the first three quarters. The Falcons opened play by earning a slim, one-point, 10-9 lead at the conclusion of the first quarter. Frankfort again edged Moorefield 11-9 in the second frame to take a 21-18 lead into the locker rooms at halftime.

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Coach of the Year

Continued from page 8

letes," WVSSAC Assistant Executive Director Cindy Daniel, Ed.D. stated.

Van Meter spent nine years as the Moorefield Youth Wrestling head coach before starting the East Hardy High School Wrestling program in the 2015 season.

After planting that seed, Van Meter joined Larry Schoonover to lead the Yellow Jackets and both programs have grown exponentially over the years.

"I love coaching wrestling and I love being around it. I think it's a great sport. It teaches kids a lot of things as far as heart and determination and effort. All of the good things about sport in general personified through wrestling. All the life lessons it can teach kids about advancing through hard work and determination. Wrestling is growing in the county and there is sustainability of the programs in each of the schools," Van Meter noted.

Moorefield's success as the state team champion ushered in more dedication plus recognition and an invitation to the West Virginia Duals State Championship Tournament as the regional champions this season.

"I think winning a state championship as a team probably helped in recruiting some

of the younger guys. Ultimately, though, the energy and determination has to be there already. Everybody wants to win. Everybody thinks they're willing to do what it takes. Everybody thinks they know what hard work is. The fact is most aren't willing to sacrifice the time, energy, and overall commitment it takes to win, let alone become a state champion. Last year's team understood what it would take. This year, our top guys know. Our younger guys are learning what it takes and that is completely okay. So far, they've shown a willingness to learn, a willingness to work, and a willingness to put in the daily grind that is high school wrestling."

Members of the Moorefield Wrestling program have been involved in camps, town beautification projects, mentoring youth and other community-minded initiatives to improve the lives and atmosphere for those in this area.

This NFHS began in 1920 and has presented coaches at the state level with awards since 1982 based on the coaching record, school and community involvement and coaching philosophy.

Wrestling coaches awards began in the 2002 season and Van Meter is just the second coach from the eastern panhandle to be recognized as the coach of the year with Hedg-

esville's Bill Whittington earning the distinction in 2007.

Van Meter's philosophy envisions chess, being in the right position and being fearless.

"As a team, we prioritize position, points, pin. Basically, stay in good position so you can score and you're hard to score on. Score your points when and how you can. Take what your opponent gives you and try to build a lead. Once you have a lead and you've broken your opponent, pin them when possible. I want the pins. Pins are like touchdowns, six team points," Van Meter commented.

"Every coaching experience is a little bit different and if you are open to it, will teach you different things, Older kids present different challenges and different rewards. I think anytime you can gain coaching experience it will help you in the long term. I think of wrestling as physical chess. You have to have a plan. I want our guys to know what they are going to do and not necessarily worry about what the other guy is going to do. If you can go out there and impose your will, then don't worry what the other guy might do. That is out of your realm of control, just go out and do what you can do and do it very well. We want wrestlers that are fearless competitors, not afraid to make mistakes. Mistakes happen all the time and we are going to make

mistakes as athletes and as coaches, but we need to be fearless. Our mentality and our approach into how we go into a match needs to be the same and that means to know what I am going to do and I am going to go out there and wrestle my match going 100 percent for the whole six minutes. They need to be prepared to do that every time they step out on a mat for a match."

Character and integrity are key values held by Coach Van Meter and instills the mindset of hard work in his athletes with constant drills building muscle memory.

"I find a lot of times during a match that muscle memory comes into play. We drill, drill, drill. Wrestling practice can be a very boring and grueling event, because you have to develop that muscle memory. I talk to the wrestlers a lot about tying their shoes, because that is the start of the learning process. At five years old, you probably couldn't tie them in the dark and now you probably could tie your shoes no problem in the dark if need be. What happens a lot of time is the reactions, because it is very fast paced. A lot of times you see something in a match and by the time you get ready to yell it out, the opportunity is missed. That's where the muscle memory comes into play, for the wrestler to know where they are at and how to react. As

a coach, it becomes more important to coach a less experienced guy to keep in good position, control the hands, and know the stance on the mat. When you get two very experienced wrestlers, wrestling in a very close match, I find myself saying very little, because the match is so fast paced and by the time I see something the window of opportunity is gone."

"We like to select coaches that have been successful for a solid period of time, but really is our discretion of success, integrity, and of high character in their sport." WVSSAC Assistant Executive Director Greg Reed noted.

Coach Van Meter holds a Big Move Monday during Thanksgiving week for the wrestlers to learn how to accumulate five points in one combination move and in wrestling one must control the three H's: The Head, the Hands and the Hips.

Coach Van Meter has developed a winning culture within the wrestling programs and they continue to reap success from the seeds planted and this coach of the year award proves the right cultivation works to become better individuals on and off the mat.

Moorefield vs Frankfort

Continued from page 8

After intermission, the trend of a Frankfort lead continued. A 13-11 Falcon edge gave Frankfort a 34-29 lead entering the games fourth quarter. In that fourth quarter, Moorefield would rise to the occasion, topping Frankfort 22-17 to equalize the game at 51-51 and force the extra session.

In overtime, Moorefield would finally gain the advantage for good, topping Frankfort 59-57 in a thriller.

In total, the Yellow Jackets would be led by four players scoring in double figures. Ryan McGregor led the way with 16 points,

Dean Keplinger and Coleman Mongold were next with 12 points each, then came Ronny Griest with 10 points. In addition, Blake Funk tallied four points, Silas Inskip three points, and Karson Reed two points.

In the loss, the Falcons were led by Tyson Spencer with a game-high 19 points, followed by Cam Layton with 11 points, Cam Lynch with nine points, and Luke Robinette with eight points. In addition, Bryson Lane tallied seven points, and David Jackson three points.

Frankfort won the first battle between the two schools by 14 points in Short Gap. Moorefield won the second battle between

the two schools by 20 points. Both coaches expected a battle going into this contest. It was a battle and more.

"We knew coming in that it was going to be a game. We knew it was going to be close. We fully expected a game like this," Moorefield's Stutler stated.

Frankfort's Slider expected the same, "I felt like it was going to be like it was Tuesday night when we played Petersburg. I knew it was going to be a dogfight. Both teams had equal footing and so forth, and obviously we were playing on this neutral court. But I felt like we could go out and compete with them and get a win, just as easily as they could

come out and compete with us and beat us."

From Moorefield's perspective, balance was the name of the game with four scorers in double figures.

"It was just a good overall effort by everyone. I couldn't even tell you without looking who the leading scorer was. We got the baskets when we needed them," Stutler explained.

There's added excitement for the Yellow Jackets as they now host a regional co-final, "Hosting a regional final, that's always a good thing. I'm excited about it. That's going to be a game. We haven't been in a game all year that was lopsided, so we know it's going

to be a game. We're going to do everything in our power to come out on top."

From Frankfort's perspective, learning to play with the lead has been a challenge.

"That hurt us down the stretch here today, even when we had the lead in the fourth quarter. We probably could have been a little more wise than we were," Slider explained.

For both the Yellow Jackets and Falcons, the ball is now in their court, win and advance, lose and go home. On Friday night, however, they provided all in attendance with quite a thrill.

East Hardy vs Union



East Hardy's J.W. Teets swoops in for a layup after a steal and releases the ball ahead of the leaping defense of Union's Devin Gaither during the Class A Region II Section 1 Boys Basketball semifinal game in Baker.

Union's Josh Burdock and Daniel Savage added several free throws over the next minute, while East Hardy hit the rim four times.

East Hardy's two-minute dry spell came to an end with a basket from J.W. Teets coming down the baseline for a 33-15 score.

The Tigers had a couple more trips to the charity stripe for three additional points, while the Cougars missed at their visits to the line.

Justin Teets swiped the ball and dished to J.W. Teets for a bucket in the lane at 4:50.

There was a crash on the floor with a foul on the Tigers which caused one of the Union fans to become irate and be ejected.

On the positive side of the fan atmosphere, Union had a pep bus of students and the Cougars student section was in full force for the play-off cheering.

Moments later, Justin Teets gar-

nered a 3-pointer to make it 38-19.

After a layup by Union's Daniel Savage, both teams hit the rim prior to J.W. Teets swooping in for a pair of shots in the paint with the latter coming off a steal by Smith.

Smith stole the ball again and set-up Justin Teets for a perimeter basket creating a 45-21 advantage with 2:05 remaining in the first half.

The Cougars forced a turnover and J.W. Teets notched a basket, then Union committed a charge and Smith grabbed a rebound prior to an offensive foul.

J.W. Teets commandeered the ball and executed a layup at 1:08 for a 49-21 lead.

Union's Ryan Bennett made two free throws and Jones sank a 3-pointer to close out the first half trailing 49-26.

The Tigers took a slight scoring advantage in the third period 13-10, but East Hardy still held a 59-39

lead and both teams combined for 18 missed field goals in that frame.

East Hardy's Noah Lang rifled in a 3-pointer at the 7:14 mark of the fourth period to start a 16-0 run.

Both teams hit the rim, then a steal by J.W. Teets would develop into a layup by Jordan Teets.

It took a minute with errant opportunities prior to a takeaway by Jordan Teets creating an old-fashioned three-point play by J.W. Teets at 5:55.

Jordan Teets grabbed a rebound and dished to J.W. Teets for a layup giving the Cougars a 69-41 lead.

East Hardy's Justin Teets collected a 3-pointer on the following series, then Lang and Price blocked Union shots.

Andrew Hahn and Justin Teets sandwiched perimeter baskets around a putback by the Tigers within 23 seconds as the Cougars shredded the scoreboard for a 78-43 ad-

vantage with 4:05 left.

Union's Josh Burdock hit a trey on the next possession, then a steal and layup was made by Hunter Gaither.

Savage scorched the nets with 3-pointers thrice down the stretch for the Tigers, but it wasn't enough to climb out of the hole in the Den.

East Hardy finished off the game with a pair of trifectas from Hahn and Smith to culminate an 87-58 playoff win to advance to the section championship tilt in Parsons.

The Cougars battled in a defensive contest against Tucker County, but the Mountain Lions had the edge 40-31 to claim the Class A Region II Section I championship.

East Hardy (10-14) visits Pendleton County (18-3) and Tucker County (22-2) hosts Tygart's Valley in the Co-Region II championship games tonight with state tournament berths on the line.

Girls' Basketball Division 2 All PVC list released

Petersburg

Braylee Corbin
Mickala Taylor
Kennedy Kaposy
Tucker County
Kadie Colebank
Jayden Kuhn
Macy Helmick

Moorefield

McKenna Crites
Pendleton County
Anna Young
Pocahontas County
Olivia Vandevener

BOWLING NEWS

Submitted by Larry Walp
Golden Lanes Petersburg

ODD COUPLES MIXED LEAGUE 02/22/2022

TEAM STANDINGS: Vetter's Guns & Ammo 70.5 - 29.5, WELD 70 - 30, Strike Force 60.5 - 39.5, Livin on a Spare 56.5 - 43.5, Split Happens 52 - 48, The Tidy Bowlers 49 - 51, Country Cars & Trucks 47.5 - 52.5, Terminators 36 - 64, Lucky Strikes 33 - 67.

HIGH GAME MEN (SCRATCH): Larry Walp 245, Jon Hedrick 238, Terry Watchford 235, Kevin McDonald 233.

(HANDICAP): Kevin McDonald 273, Larry Walp 269, Jon Hedrick 250, Terry Watchford 247.

HIGH SERIES MEN (SCRATCH): Jon Hedrick 677, Larry Walp 636, Terry Watchford 604, Ed Wompler 604.

(HANDICAP): Jon Hedrick 713, Larry Walp 708, Kevin McDonald 698, Ed Wompler 664.

HIGH AVERAGE (MEN): Jon Hedrick 206.64, Ed Wompler 195.91, Richie Burgess 195.25, Roger Earle 194.59.

HIGH GAME WOMEN (SCRATCH): Sarah Earle 213, Peggy Wompler 183, Dee Anna McDonald 181, Emily Stark 179. (HANDICAP): Sarah Earle 253, Peggy Wompler 249, Emily Stark 232, Sheri Arbogast 232.

HIGH SERIES WOMEN (SCRATCH): Sarah Earle 565, Dee

Anna McDonald 507, Carissa Michael 476, Peggy Wompler 470. (HANDICAP): Sarah Earle 685, Peggy Wompler 668, Andrea Landis 668, Teresa Sullivan 651.

HIGH AVERAGE (WOMEN): Carissa Michael 177.70, Dee Anna McDonald 169.16, Denise McGreevy 155.00, Emily Stark 153.76.

THURSDAY NIGHT MENS LEAGUE 02/24/2022

TEAM STANDINGS: Builders Center 56 - 36, Vetter's Mini Mart 55.5 - 36.5, Petersburg Oil Company 45 - 47, Strike Force 43 - 49, Golden Lanes 40 - 52, Country Cars & Trucks 36.5 - 55.5.

HIGH GAME (SCRATCH): Roger Earle 269, Gary Leatherman 256, Richie Burgess 239, Jon Hedrick 238, Terry Watchford 233. (HANDICAP): Roger Earle 284, James Hope 274, Gary Leatherman 268, Terry Watchford 266, Mike Smith 259.

HIGH SERIES (SCRATCH): Gary Leatherman 725, Roger Earle 680, Richie Burgess 659, Jon Hedrick 645, Tyler Halterman 623. (HANDICAP): Gary Leatherman 761, Roger Earle 725, Terry Watchford 7230, James Hope 708, Tyler Halterman 707.

HIGH AVERAGE: Terry Watchford 210.85, Jon Hedrick 207.00, Gary Leatherman 206.44, Roger Earle 202.70, Richie Burgess 202.70, Larry Walp 195.48.

THE OLD MASTER

By JAY FISHER

WVU finally ended its seven game losing skid with a win over TCU. It was the home finale, so it was good for the team to get to go out on a high note. A big key was rebounding, where the Mountaineers actually won the rebounding battle. They wrap up the regular season at 15-16 (4-14 in conference play).

Next up is the Big 12 tournament, where WVU is the 9-seed (they would be the 10 seed, but Oklahoma State is ineligible for the post-season). They face #8 Kansas State on Wednesday at 7:00pm (ESPNU). They split the season series, with WVU winning at home by 3, and KSU winning at their place by 5. The winner of the rubber match will play top seed Kansas on Thursday at 3:00pm (ESPN or ESPN 2).

The Big 12 also handed out season awards. Taz Sherman was on the All-Big 12 Second team, and Sean McNeil was honorable mention. Gabe Osabuohien was on the All-Defense team, and was also a Co-Defensive Player of the Year.

Football will be starting spring practice, which will end with the Blue-Gold Game on April 23. Two of the problems last year were offense and kickoffs. To address the offense, the big change was bringing in new Offensive Coordinator Graham Harrell, who will also call the plays. How the offense performs in the spring will be of high interest for fans. The kickoff issues may have been addressed with the announcement of ex-Florida State kicker Parker Grothaus. He was a kickoff

specialist for the Seminoles, and will be a grad transfer to WVU, with one year of eligibility left.

The wrestling team competed at the Big 12 Championships, and did pretty well. Nearly everyone finished at or above their seed, and that included Killian Cardinale winning at 125 pounds. He is the third WVU wrestler to win a Big 12 title. Another great performance was by Payton Hall, who was runner-up at 165 pounds. The wrestler who beat him is ranked second in the nation, although Hall is top 10 himself.

Notes: The gymnastics team closed out its season with a very solid performance against Ball State. They won the meet with 196.25 points, which was their best home score of the year. They have a big tri-meet

against a pair of Top 5 teams (Michigan and Auburn) up in Ann Arbor, Michigan this weekend, and then have the Big 12 Championships the following weekend...The baseball team had a tough weekend in Big 10 country, beating Minnesota, but then dropping games to Illinois and Michigan State...After an injury-plagued season, the WVU women's basketball team is heading to their Big 12 Championship tournament. They are the 7-seed and play 10th seeded TCU on Thursday at 9:00pm (ESPN Plus). They did sweep the series with TCU this season. If they win, they face Iowa State on Friday at 6:00pm (ESPN Plus). The Cyclones beat WVU in both games by double digits in the regular season.



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State Wrestling

Continued from page 8

sum and that's what I wanted to do. Sierra was the first to come here and win a match. She was also the first one to come to state, so I guess I had to keep the family tradition going and place at state. This probably means more to him than it does to me. He has driven me all over the country putting in his time so he can coach me," East Hardy Wrestling state medalist Mason Miller commented.

East Hardy Wrestling finished on the Class A state wrestling team leaderboard in tenth place overall for the first time in program history and reached as high as fifth during the tournament.

"They did great. We brought five which is the most we've ever brought. We're stepping up and moving the program in the right direction. This is my fifth year and a state placer, so we are going in the right direction. I am very proud of Mason, he worked hard to get here and made up his mind last year after a poor showing, writing down his goal of what he planned to do and shared it with me. He understood what he needed to do to work the match and burn the clock," East Hardy Wrestling coach Steven Miller said.

East Hardy sophomore Milton Funkhouser (24-7) was the first to represent Hardy County in the opening round of the Class A-AA 106-lb. state championship matches and brought positive vibes with a win.

Funkhouser was methodical in observing the movement of Shady Spring's Walker Furrow and was able to find the right combination in the second period for a pin at 3:13.

Shawn Bodkin was ready to be an alternate wrestler for the Cougars potentially filling in for the fourth place representative from Region II, but another wrestler completed an earlier weigh-in slot as his moment standing at the edge of the mat came to an abrupt end as the head gear was slowly removed into his hands with a surprised look showing his disappointment.

The Yellow Jackets won the Class A state team championship last season and this year's Huntington trip for a title defense had two representatives, Riley Pillus and Ryan Hardbarger.

Moorefield freshman Riley Pillus (28-24), one of six freshmen in program history to reach Huntington, started the first round match against eventual 132-lb. state champion Braxton Smith of Nitro.

Smith made a spinning move grabbing the right leg forcing Pillus to tumble as he reached around the neck to create back points.

Pillus flipped over to his knees, but Smith repositioned pulling back on the arms for a flip placing the shoulders of Pillus down for the count as the midway first period pin took effect.

Petersburg's Thomas Ours won his first match in this division and moved all the way to the championship semifinals before settling for a fourth place state medal.

Continuing the opening round matches for Hardy County would be East Hardy sophomore Brandon Jones (16-13) battling deep into the third period in the 138-lb. weight class against eventual state champion Fairmont Senior's Kolbie Hamilton before bowing out with 32 seconds remaining.

These grapplers got tangled up with their arms with momentum carrying beyond the circle in the first period, then Hamilton gathered a takedown with Jones alertly rolling out of bounds.

Jones had his headgear slip off during a head lock trying to reach for Hamilton's leg.

Hamilton managed to counter and shred Jones into what looked like a barrel race with Jones moving his hands along the mat to the outer circle.

Hamilton earned two more points in the second period with turning move around the head keeping Jones squirming underneath.

Hamilton notched a takedown and back points in the third period to go up 9-0, then got the positioning for a

crossface hold for the pin.

Next on the list was East Hardy senior Damian Iman (22-13) in the 160-lb. weight division facing off against eventual third place medalist Tyler Consolidated's Trenton Huffman in the first round of state tournament action.

Iman made a shot for a single leg takedown, but was pushed out of bounds.

Huffman countered with a takedown and earned back points twice with Iman's arms pulled back slipping him to his head.

In the second period, Huffman made a reversal and twisted Iman for a pin at 3:15.

The arena was full of enthusiastic fans cheering for the eight matches being done simultaneously.

East Hardy junior Mason Miller (32-6) started his quest for a medal in the 182-lb. weight class with a second period pin against Williamstown's Brayden Buckley.

Miller notched a takedown in the opening minutes and held Buckley's arm back as time expired.

Buckley was on top in the second period, but Miller created an escape before getting a takedown and pin at 2:59.

Moorefield junior Ryan Hardbarger (37-9) competed in the 195-lb. weight class and started the first round match against East Fairmont's J.T. Miller.

J.T. Miller edged out Hardbarger with a 6-3 decision

Hardbarger initially grabbed Miller's leg and wasn't able to get the lift high enough to topple him, so Miller countered with a half-Nelson to bring Hardbarger to the mat.

Hardbarger notched an escape and both locked arms to retire the period.

Momentum of an attack by Hardbarger took both grapplers tumbling towards the scorer's table.

Hardbarger used an arm bar move to flop Miller for takedown points equalizing the match.

Miller managed to get an escape and takedown for a 6-3 edge.

Miller rode on top of Hardbarger to end the second period.

Hardbarger appeared to make a reversal in the third period, but wasn't awarded the points and Miller was able to reach around for a headlock and kept the pressure going for the 6-3 win.

Miller advanced and eventually earned a fourth place medal.

"It's a hard place to win and I wish I could have gone farther. I was glad to get a win. They were as strong, if not stronger than me in those matches. I will have to work harder for next year," Moorefield junior Ryan Hardbarger noted.

East Hardy 220-lb. junior Matthew Harman (26-10) was pinned just before the buzzer of the first period by Independence's Atticus Goodson.

Goodson garnered a takedown and crossface spin to collect back points and continued to pressure from the top to keep Harman from getting free.

Funkhouser began the second session against eventual state runner-up Logan Davis of Oak Glen on Friday morning going three full periods before losing by major decision 9-1.

Funkhouser was quick to his knees looking for an opening as Davis blocked attempts with his hands.

Davis lifted Funkhouser up and back down for a takedown, then again up in the air and slammed out of the circle.

Funkhouser was able to twist from the waist hold to grab a leg, then spun to the boundary as time expired.

Davis was on top in the second period making a head lock and Funkhouser was able to stretch out to prevent a cradle prior to being shifted for a hard exit out of bounds.

Funkhouser was on top in the third period with both wrestlers standing up as Funkhouser snatched the left leg, then Davis made a reversal.

Davis made a takedown, then Funkhouser countered with an escape.

Davis wrapped around Funkhouser pulling the neck down to gather back

points before rolling out of bounds finishing out the win.

Pillus earned his first victory in the first round of the consolation bracket with a pin in the initial period at 1:41 over Independence's Ashton Goodson.

Pillus executed a double leg takedown and positioned Goodson on his back.

After a restart, Pillus made another takedown and wrapped his arm around the torso and neck for a pin and got up with enthusiasm and big smile rushing to the coaches after having his hand raised.

"I was really excited to be here and it was a good experience. Not many people get to make it down here, so I enjoyed it. I was glad to get a win, so I didn't go 0-2. It took a lot of time and effort to make this happen," Moorefield freshman Riley Pillus stated.

Nitro's Braxton Leydis eliminated East Hardy's Brandon Jones with a 7-nil decision.

There was pushing early in the match as the grapplers looked for an opportunity to shoot and an initial attempt by Jones was blocked.

Jones was on top in the second period and the momentum carried both out of the circle, then Jones was whistled for stalling moments later.

Leydis made a headlock and flipped Jones down to the mat and collected back points.

In the third period, Leydis wrapped around forcing Jones to kick his feet in the air from the mat and couldn't break free in the decision loss.

Iman pinned Logan's Malicah Campbell in the third period at 4:02 for his first win of the state tournament as Cougars' success looked promising.

Iman made a takedown in the first period for the only points given.

The second period started with a leg grab and Campbell managed to hop out of trouble.

Iman garnered a bear hug and lifted Campbell out of bounds in the second period.

Iman flipped around for a pin in the third period.

Greenbrier West's Cole Vandall shutout Miller with a 7-0 decision to advance to the championship semifinal and would finish fourth overall.

Vandall notched a takedown and cradle before Miller countered rolling out of the circle.

Vandall collected back points as Miller tried to twist free.

Vandall spent most of the second period riding on top and again in the third period pushing down on Miller.

Hardbarger picked up a win for the Yellow Jackets with a first period pin against Independence's Joshua Hart in just one minute and five seconds.

There was some hand-to-hand combat for wrist control, then the pair locked heads.

Hardbarger was able to shift his arm around causing instability to slam Hart to the mat and squeezed for the pin.

East Fairmont's Logan McElfresh eliminated East Hardy's Matthew Harman with a first period pin at 1:48.

Harman earned the first two points with a reversal in the first period and the same occurred in the second frame for McElfresh garnering the pin with the move.

"This atmosphere is something else. There are a lot of good people down here. Unfortunately, I was eliminated. I made a mistake getting on my knees and he caught me with the reversal. One mess up can cause you to lose a match," East Hardy junior Matthew Harman commented.

Funkhouser had a rematch of the Region II championship against Elkins' Gavin Boland in the consolation bracket.

Boland eliminated Funkhouser with a major decision with a score of 9-1.

There was no scoring in the first period as Funkhouser managed to avoid the shooting at the legs as time expired after a tug of war to commence the match.

Funkhouser made a leg grab, but Boland managed to turn to the top and got the reversal points.

Boland couldn't execute a cradle as

Funkhouser stretched out on the mat like it was a giant mattress.

Boland kept twisting around on the top, then Funkhouser rolled out.

In the third period, Boland magnets back points and was able to hold control on the top.

Pillus would be the next to fall out of the state tournament as the Moorefield freshman was pinned by Point Pleasant's Ciah Nutter.

Ravenswood's Ethan Tanner edged out East Hardy's Damian Iman in the second round of the consolation bracket with a 6-4 decision.

Iman wasn't able to counter the final ride by Tanner in the third period, but battled his heart out to the end and will turn his attention to the gridiron at Shenandoah University in the Fall.

East Hardy's Mason Miller earned medal contention with a 6-5 decision over Tyler Consolidated's Sean Winfrey.

Miller brought Winfrey to the mat, then Winfrey countered with a reversal.

During the second period, Miller notched an escape and a reversal to gain the lead.

Miller latched on to Winfrey's back and flipped him for points with his shoulders hitting the mat.

After a caution, Winfrey made reversal.

Miller escaped the next hold, then made consecutive dives out of bounds to elude an ankle takedown.

Miller kept Winfrey from turning the tide and was ecstatic at the end, lifting his arms in the air as Winfrey remained on the mat in disarray.

"I had no clue I won [securing podium spot], then I looked over and saw I won 6-5 and was very happy. Everyone down here is really good and a lot of diehard fans. When it comes down to close matches like that one, when you win it means everything. That's stalling at its finest. I knew if he got to me that was it, so every time he shot at me I booked it out of there. I listened to country music before that match, so I could be cool, calm and collected. I chilled out and went out there calm to win the match," Miller noted.

The last hope for a Moorefield medal came down to Ryan Hardbarger, but Winfield's Evan Fuelhart dashed those dreams with a first period pin midway through the frame gaining a reversal and lock for the win.

Miller moved on to the Saturday session battling in the consolation semifinals against Nicholas County's Connor Jones with the potential of getting into the third place match.

Miller tangled with Jones as both fell to the mat without points assessed.

Miller recorded a single-leg takedown, but Jones countered with a reversal and Miller flipped back around to take the lead.

Jones was able to twist around and gathered Miller in a tight squeeze gaining the pin with a second to spare.

Miller had a regional rematch against Braxton County's Bryce Leegan in the state tournament fifth place match.

Miller was quick to his knees looking for an opening, then Leegan got around the arm and made a takedown.

During the second period, Miller hoisted Leegan up and back down out of the circle.

Miller made another lift and returned Leegan to the mat, but no points were collected.

Miller grabbed the leg and Leegan hopped out of danger.

Miller rode on top to close out the second period.

Leegan garnered an escape coupled with a takedown in the third period taking a 4-2 edge.

Leegan held on for a 6-3 victory as Miller ended the state tournament with a sixth place medal to grace the East Hardy halls for the first time in program history.

It wasn't quite the finish desired in Huntington for the Hardy County grapplers, but valuable experience was gained having the coach of the year and a first time medalist made the journey a bit more rewarding.



195 Ryan Hardbarger, Moorefield



132 Riley Pillus, Moorefield



106 Milton Funkhouser, East Hardy



220 Matthew Harman, East Hardy



160 Damian Iman, East Hardy



138 Brandon Jones, East Hardy

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