

Wyoming County Essay

Wyoming County, West Virginia is a wonderful place to live all around. Although a few years ago it seemed rather undesirable, it is now a thriving county with many new additions. Over the last few years, Wyoming County has expanded its local business spectrum. There are many additions to Wyoming County including new businesses and a new thriving four-lane road. Citizens are ecstatic to have life restored in their small towns.

A few local businesses added in Pineville include an arcade, furniture store, and flower shop. Heather Hood started the trend of adding businesses on Main Street in Pineville. Although it is no longer open, Heather began with a coffee shop on Main Street. That coffee shop is now a flower shop, called Peaches' Flowers. Following Heather, others began to add to Main Street. Rachel Cook added Nosin' and Shoppin' and says she wants to build a business with longevity that will last in a small town like Pineville. Rachel said in a student interview that she accidentally made her brand. It started by going to flea markets and selling items. With more orders coming in, she began selling right off her front porch. She now has her thriving business on Main Street, Nosin' and Shoppin'. Another business is The Gamer's Arcade and Game Room. The owner of the new business, Pat Armstrong, is also the owner of Pat's Fashion and Tax Service. All these additions to Pineville help show its future potential for the rest of the county.

In October of 2020, the first 4-lane road opened in Wyoming County. Randy Damron said in the Register-Herald, "There's concrete, there's asphalt, and there's guardrail, but it's much more than that. This truly is a road to prosperity." (Brooks). This fantastic addition has brought and will hopefully bring more people to Wyoming County.

Among many other additions to Wyoming County, county officials have made a weighty decision. The county came together to decide to restore The Wyoming Hotel. Although it was untouched for decades the county decided to renovate it because of its legacy and beautiful memory. WVVA News states, “The ‘Hotel Wyoming’ was once a symbol of everything grand and prosperous that the industrial age brought to the county. Legends such as Mark Twain, baseball giant Babe Ruth, and President John F. Kennedy all stayed there at one point during the hotel’s storied history.” (Steelhammer). They hope to see the old light in this old historic building that they once knew. Although they have found a place to finance the renovation, they are still looking for more money for this project. Christy Laxton said on 59 News, “It’s something that can be, the redevelopment of it could be exciting for Mullens and the entire county. It brings back the feeling of how it used to be.” (Phillips). Many locals are overly excited about this renovation. Brighter days are ahead in Wyoming County.

The local Hatfield and McCoy riding trails attract many. These trails are miles long, and they connect to each other. The Hatfield and McCoy Trail system gets its name from the famous Hatfield and McCoy feuding that took place in southern West Virginia. Several of the trails are located where the feud took place. The Buffalo Mountain, Bearwallow, Devil’s Anse, and Rockhouse trail systems are located near historical sites such as Blair Mountain and Matewan. (Hatfield-McCoy Trail Systems). The Hatfield and McCoy families hated each other and had the urge to protect their kinfolk. The first event of the awfully long and terrible feud was the 1865 murder of Asa Harmon McCoy. The two families depreccated for the next decade until they flared up over a small matter, a hog. In 1878, Randolph McCoy accused Floyd Hatfield, Devil Anse’s cousin, of stealing one of his pigs. These pigs were valuable in the poor region. There became a trail. The McCoy’s were terribly upset over the charges being dropped. Two years later, three

McCoys were killed by the Hatfield's including Paris, Sam, and Staton. (History is Alive).

Although this feud lasted decades, it transformed into the locally known trails.

Since the local riding trail has become a momentous success for tourists, residents decided to add lodging for the riders. Lodging and camping sites have been added all over the county to attract and accommodate tourists. One of the lodging houses is located in Mullens. There are different houses within this business, but one can house up to nine people. Jeff Bean, owner of the cabins, said on 59 News, "For a month and a half we drove all over the Hatfield McCoy country trying to pick the spot that would work and we kept coming back to Mullens. So just great people. Everybody was great to us. You have a new four lane coming right into town." (McVey). They chose Wyoming County because it is home to great people. Locals are also choosing to expand the lodging sites and add more attractions to the county. Although Wyoming County is a wonderful place to live, locals are choosing to add to the wonderful communities to bring in more people.

Alongside the wonderful scenery, Wyoming County is home to wonderful restaurants that serve outstanding food. Wyoming county has restaurants that serve Mexican, Italian, Barbeque, desserts, fast food, and home cooked meals. All locals and tourists appear to love all the restaurants in the County. Nowadays, it is hard to find wonderfully cooked meals that are owned locally by people you know and that have a wonderful staff. Recently a few new restaurants are already thriving.

Another local and thriving event is the Mullens Dogwood Festival. This festival has been held each year since 1979, excluding one year to Covid-19. ("The Mullens Dogwood Festival, Inc. (2022-04-27 18:00:00) - Visit Southern West Virginia"). There are always great carnival rides

and games. There are also certain traditions being held like an eating contest, rubber duck race, singing contest, etc. There is also plenty of amazing carnival food. Throughout the festival, there are concerts and an amazing firework display at the end of the festival. Locals are always ecstatic about this event.

Wyoming County, West Virginia is a wonderful place to live. There are many wonderful additions being made that are making it extraordinary. The locals continue to bring in tourists which helps expand the county. Citizens will continue to be ecstatic to have life restored in their small communities.

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