

Fair kicks off this Friday

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

It is fair time in Russell County. The Russell County Fair and Horse Show begins this Friday, September 4, and will run through September 12.

The theme for this year's event is "Celebrating Traditions" as fairgoers will not only celebrate what makes Russell County great, but also 250 years of American independence.

Team roping will be the first event on the calendar. That is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Friday. Seth McKay and Moon-

SEE FAIR KICKS OFF | 2A



Shout it out loud, the Russell County Fair begins this Friday.

Maddie Marchant to compete in Miss America Pageant this weekend

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Former Miss Russell County Fair and reigning Miss Virginia, Maddie Marchant, will be competing for the title of Miss America this weekend.

The Lebanon native was crowned Miss Virginia on June 26 at the Berglund Center in Roanoke.

The competition will take place at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Sunday, September 6. The highly anticipated event will feature contestants from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

Marchant is the first Miss Virginia from Southwest Virginia since Pounding Mill's Kelli Quick won the title nearly 30 years ago.

Should she win the title of Miss America, Marchant would be the second Virginia native in a row to wear the crown. Current Miss America, Cassie Donegan, is a native of Smithfield, Virginia, although she currently resides in New York.

Winning the crown would be a dream come true for Marchant. In an interview earlier this summer, she said she's always dreamed of being Miss America.

"I entered my first pageant when I was eight-months old," she said, noting it was the Miss Russell County Fair pageant. "I even dressed as Miss America for career day in school."

Marchant's platform is helping those with invisible disabilities and diseases feel seen through InvisABILITY. Her goal of helping such individuals is based on her personal experiences while growing up.

She lives with celiac disease and a thyroid disorder. Marchant is also deaf in her right ear. "I was bullied in school because of my



Lebanon's Maddie Marchant will compete for the title of Miss America this Sunday.

hearing aid," she said.

Marchant said she hopes she can be a role model to children who are currently being bullied.

"You are not defined by your disabilities," she said. "You are so much more than that. God made you exactly the way you are for a purpose. Let that be your passion."

Marchant has created the Buddy Bunch Club for those with disabilities to gather and make new friends.

Her fight with celiac disease has also led her to work with state Sen.

Todd Pillion in an effort to have schools offer gluten-free meals and staff training to prevent cross-contamination of food.

A graduate of Lebanon High School, Marchant now attends East Tennessee State University, where she is majoring in media and communications, while pursuing a minor in political science.

The pageant can be watched free on the official Miss America YouTube Channel or via PageantVision. The broadcast will begin at 7:00 p.m. on September 6.

Spanberger announces AMLER funding for two county projects

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Governor Abigail Spanberger has announced \$7.3 million in strategic investments through the Virginia Energy Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program.

According to the governor's office, the projects will advance economic and community development in coal-impacted communities in Southwest Virginia through investments in job creation, healthcare, emergency services, transportation infrastructure, and improvements at UVA Wise.

Two of the five awards belong to the Russell County Industrial Development Authority.

A total of \$2.5 million will go to Project Franklin. The project will convert 88 million tons of legacy coal waste on a reclaimed former mine site in Russell County into a high-value, low-carbon pozzolan product used in green concrete manufacturing. The project is expected to add up to 95 jobs over five years.

The second IDA project is for the East Main Rural Health Clinic. The \$1.45 million in funding will support the purchase of property and improvements to an existing building in Lebanon for use as an urgent care and primary care clinic.

Other projects awarded funding include the Town of St. Paul's Regional Emergency Services and Training Facility, which received \$250,000. The funds will support construction of a facility to house the town's fire department and police department and provide dedicated space for future emergency medical services.

Buchanan County's IDA received \$1.6 million for the Coalfields Expressway paving.

A parking lot expansion at the University of Virginia's College at Wise received \$1.5 million.

"My Administration is laser-focused on creating good-paying jobs and expanding economic opportunity across Southwest Virginia and our entire Commonwealth," said Spanberger. "These new investments will help connect Virginians with steady careers, expand access to essential health and emergency services, improve transportation connections, and put formerly mined land to productive use. By supporting projects that meet local needs and build on regional strengths, we are helping make sure that Southwest Virginia continues to grow and thrive."

The AMLER Program helps coal-impacted communities turn former mine lands and related assets into productive opportunities that support new businesses, infrastructure, recreation, tourism, workforce development, and long-term economic growth. The competitive 2025 funding round drew 16 applications from 14

SEE AMLER FUNDING | 2A

2026 SOL results released by VDE

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

The Virginia Department of Education has released the results from the 2025-2026 Standards of Learning assessments.

An increase of 0.4 percentage points was found statewide in the subjects of math and reading assessments. These results are part of a longer trend of post-pandemic recovery over the last five years, in which Virginia students have increased reading proficiency rates by five percentage points and math by 19.

"Today's statewide assessment results reflect progress in our classrooms, with combined math and reading scores of students in grades 3–8 rising slightly across the state," said Secretary of Education Dr. Jeffery Smith. "Be-

hind the numbers are the dedicated efforts of thousands of students, educators, and families working hard every day to strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy skills. We also know that a lot of hard work is ahead of us, and I am convinced that together, we will continue to address learning gaps."

Outside of math and reading results, history and social sciences pass rates improved most significantly, at 3.2 percentage points between 2024-2025 and 2025-2026; however, the same progress was not seen in science pass rates, which saw a nominal decrease of 0.2 percentage points.

Locally, however, Russell County saw dips in the passing rates of English, math and science.

The passing rate in English fell from 78 percent to 75 percent. Math decreased from 71 percent to 63 percent.

Science passing rates decreased from 73 percent to 66 percent.

History and Social Sciences remained the same at 65 percent.

Belfast Elementary School saw decreases in each of the subject areas. History and social sciences dropped two percentage points from 78 to 76. Math fell from 96 to 90 percent. English fell from 98 to 92. Science fell from 100 percent to 88 percent.

Castlewood Elementary enjoyed an increase in the passing rate of English. The rate increased from 65 percent in 2025 to 68 percent in 2026.

The school saw a decline, however, in history and social sciences of 57 percent to 55 percent. Math dropped three

SEE SOL RESULTS | 2A

George Alexander Pruner, Jr.

GEORGE ALEXANDER PRUNER, JR. 8/14/1950-8/8/2026, went to be with the Lord in his Heavenly home on Saturday, August 8, 2026, while surrounded by his loved ones.

He was born in Lebanon, Virginia on August 24, 1950, and was incredibly proud of his Southwest Virginia roots. He graduated from East Tennessee State University in 1972, and afterwards, joined the United States Navy. He was honorably discharged in 1973. He had a long career as an independent insurance agent/broker and deeply valued his clients. George was a wonderful storyteller, and his laugh and smile would brighten your day.

Throughout his life he faced various health struggles, and he faced them with great courage. He was a two-time organ transplant recipient and was most likely the longest living liver transplant recipient in the state of Virginia, having lived 40 years post-transplant.

George loved the Lord and was a

member at First Baptist Church Roanoke for over 37 years.

George was preceded in death by his parents, George A. and Pauline Gibson Pruner; and his two brothers, Dr. Robert A. Pruner and Joseph H. Pruner.

Those left behind to cherish his memory include his wife of 43 years, Susan A. Pruner; daughter Laura Pruner Coffey and husband, Eric; his precious granddaughter Charlotte Grace, whom he loved to call "Gracie;" his brother-in-law, Eric Akers (Teresa); his furry friend Snowflake; sister Jennie Smith (James Gooch); and many nieces, nephews, and special friends including Mary Lou Blevins, Brian Blevins, and Meredith Pastore.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church Roanoke. The family will receive friends 1 hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, charitable contributions may be made to God's Pit



Crew (2499 North Main Street, Danville VA 245840) or Feeding SWVA (1025 Electric Road, Salem, VA 24153). Arrangements by Simpson Funeral Home Electric Road Chapel. (540) 632-4200.

AMLER FUNDING

FROM PAGE 1A

organizations seeking more than \$39.3 million. The awards announced today will obligate 91.5% of the \$79 million available for the program.

"AMLER is a powerful tool for helping coal-impacted communities transform and innovate," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Carrie Chenery. "From converting legacy coal waste into a lower-carbon material for concrete to strengthening public safety, health care, and regional infrastructure, these projects will deliver practical, lasting benefits for Southwest Virginia resi-

dents and businesses."

"Southwest Virginia deserves investments that create jobs, strengthen public services, and support the communities that have powered our Commonwealth and nation for generations," said U.S. Representative Morgan Griffith. "These AMLER awards will help communities across the region advance projects that improve quality of life and create a stronger foundation for future economic development."

FAIR KICKS OFF

FROM PAGE 1A

shine Rivals will be performing at 8:00 p.m.

The action starts early on Saturday, September 5. The dirt bike race, archery tournament and registration for the demolition derby will all be at 10:00 a.m. The youth rodeo will follow at 11:00 a.m.

Tractors will take the spotlight for much of the evening. The tractor parade is at 4:00 p.m., with tractor games following at 4:30. The antique tractor pull is at 6:00 p.m. The demolition derby is also slated to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday's music entertainment gets underway at 7:00 p.m. with Noah Spencer. Honeybadgers will follow at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday will be registration for the home economics/art/agriculture entries. Registration for the scarecrow competition will also be held on Sunday and vendors will set up in the Commercial Building. All those events are scheduled from 2:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Monday, September 7, is Veterans Day. Veterans will be admitted free of charge until 2:00 p.m. The free veterans' breakfast will be held at the Pavilion at 9:00 a.m. The breakfast is sponsored by Bonanza.

Judging of the home economics/art/agriculture/barn quilt square exhibits will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Halter beef judging is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. The strongest farmhand competition will be at noon.

The Barbie Jeep race is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. The 4H market lamb show will follow at 4:00 p.m. The pie eating competition is

scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Monday will also see a soft launch of the carnival at 6:00 p.m., meaning a portion of the attractions will be open.

Drag racing gets underway at 7:00 p.m. with fireworks to follow. Midlife Crisis will headline the main stage at 8:00 p.m.

Classroom Day is Tuesday, September 8. The full carnival will open at 6:00 p.m.

The rabbit show and bull riding will both start at 7:00 p.m.

In addition to being Classroom Day, Tuesday is special as it is the first of two gospel music nights. Calvary's Chosen will get the show underway at 6:00 p.m. Following Calvary's Chosen will be Valley Grass, The Jessee Family, and the ChuckWagon Gang.

Special Needs Day is September 9 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

A cornhole tournament and goat show will get underway at 6:00 p.m. Bull riding will begin at 7:00 p.m. and the 4H market goat show is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Mountain Highway will provide musical entertainment at 8:00 p.m.

Senior Citizens, those 55 and older, will be admitted free from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., as part of Senior Day.

Pen cattle judging will begin at 2:00 p.m. The horseless cowboy contest is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. The Russell County Horse Show is also scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

Gospel acts performing that night will include the Holston River Boys at 6:00 p.m., followed by The Hub-

bard Family, The Jackson Family, Mike Upright, and Jeff Tolbert and Primitive Road.

School Day is Friday, September 11. School-aged children will be admitted free until 3:00 p.m.

Activities for that day include the youth tractor driving contest at 9:00 a.m., School Day activities beginning at 10:00 a.m., baby crawling contest at noon, toddler stickhorse race at 12:15 p.m., and the carnival will open at 1:00 p.m.

The open poultry show is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. The truck pull will start at 6:00 p.m., with the horse pull beginning at 7:00 p.m. The 4H poultry show and sale is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Gents and Liars will take to the stage at 8:00 p.m.

The last day of the fair, Saturday, September 12, will be a busy one. The Open Western Horse Show, side-by-side race, lineman rodeo, breeding sheep show and horseshoe pitch tournament are all scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m.

The commercial sheep show will get underway at 11:00 a.m. Double elimination horseshoe pitch will start at noon, as will more side-by-side races.

The chainsaw demonstration and competition are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. The pet show will start at 2:00 p.m.

Weighing of market hogs is at 3:00 p.m., the market hog show at 5:00 p.m. and the open horse show at 6:00 p.m.

Kickn' Up Dust will headline the main stage at 8:00 p.m.

Daily tickets to the Russell County Fair are \$10.

Children ages 6-17 are \$5 and children under 5 years old are free. Season tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for children.

CAPTIONS:

1: Shout it out loud, the Russell County Fair begins this Friday.

2: The fairgrounds will be packed once again from September 4-12.

SOL RESULTS

FROM PAGE 1A

points from 58 to 55 percent. The school's biggest decline was in science, which witnessed a drop from 69 percent to 39 percent.

Honaker Elementary's passing rate in science increased eight percentage points, going from 82 to 90.

HES saw a decrease in the other subject areas. History and social sciences fell 10 points from 89 percent to 79 percent. Math declined from 81 percent to 77 percent. English saw a decrease of 85 percent to 79 percent.

Lebanon Elementary was the only county school to see an increase of passing in every subject. English increased two percentage points from 73 to 75. History and social sciences increased 10 percentage points from 74 percent passing to 84 percent passing. Math saw the largest increase from 66 percent to 77 percent.

Lebanon Middle School's passing rate in science increased from 55 percent to 57 percent. English fell from 72 percent to 68 percent.

Math decreased from 64 percent to 59 percent. History and social sciences declined from 76 percent to 68 percent.

Castlewood High School's test results saw a decrease in each subject. History and Social Sciences fell from 55 percent to 42 percent.

Math fell from 76 percent to 53 percent. Science decreased from 78 percent to 66 percent. English fell one percentage point from 75 percent to 74 percent.

Honaker High School's passing percentage increased in math, as well as history and social sciences. The math passing rate increased from 67 percent to 68 percent. History increased from 46 percent to 53 percent.

The passing percentage of HHS students in English fell from 84 to 79. Science fell from 78 percent to 71 percent.

Lebanon High School's passing percentage in history and social sciences climbed from 54 percent to 66 percent. English remained the same at 81 percent.

Science at LHS declined from 71 percent to 64 percent. Math saw a loss of 29 percentage points from 72 percent passing to 43 percent passing.

NBD INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

Your One-Stop Solution for Industrial Needs!

Custom Fabrication • Mobile Welding & Repairs
Equipment Maintenance • New Construction
Iron Work • Demo & Clean-Up • Metal Roofing
Painting • Pressure Washing

(276) 345-5848
Call Today for a Free Estimate!

Reliable. Experienced. Insured.
All employees are MSHA certified.

RICHMOND LODGE #6 OF THE GOOD LIONS

GAME ROOM

MISSION STATEMENT

“TO PROMOTE THE COMMON GOD, POSITIVELY IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY SOCIAL WELFARE, MORALE AND UNITY THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF FRATERNITY, NEIGHBORLINESS, SHARED EDUCATION, AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES, FELLOWSHIP AND CAMARADERIE”.

PHONE # 276-883-5000

RUN BY BILL AND DIANE SNODGRASS

RUSSELL COUNTY SHOPPING CENTER

1788 EAST MAIN ST. LEBANON

MEMBERSHIP ONLY \$10 YEAR

.....

COME BE A LION — AND — Help Us To HELP OUR COMMUNITY.

HOURS:

SUN 1-7PM	CLOSED MONDAY'S	TUE-SAT 12-10PM
-----------	-----------------	-----------------

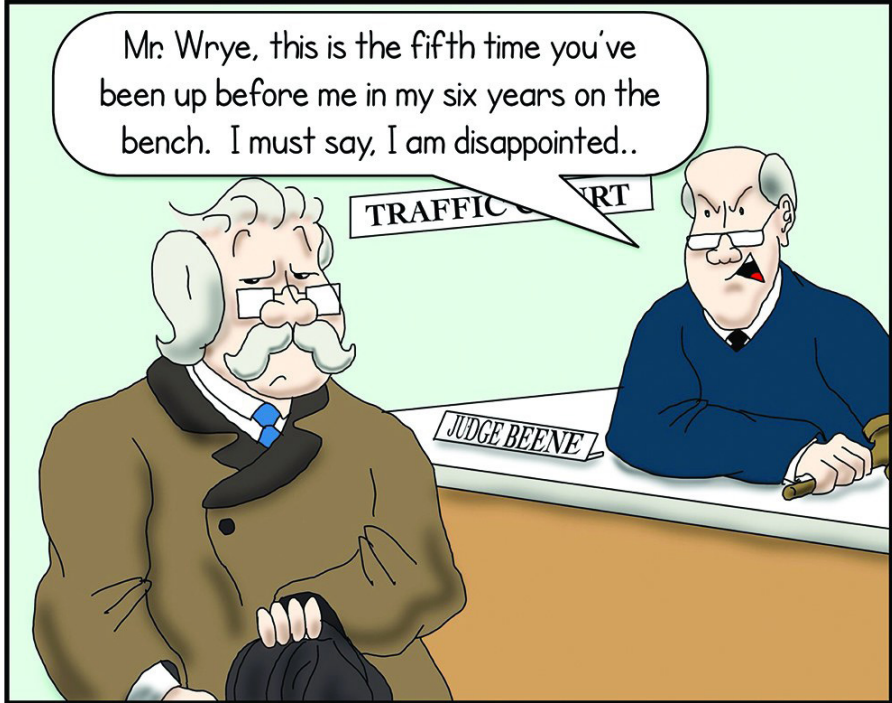
RAISING MONEY THROUGH CHARITABLE GAMING TO HELP SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, FOOD BANKS, OTHER CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS AND THOSE IN NEED.

20 YEARS TOTAL EXPERIENCE	Licensed through Virginia Charitable gaming	ABC LICENSE
---------------------------	---	-------------

The fairgrounds will be packed once again from September 4-12.

Rueben

By R.G. Holmes © 2026



DONT MISS THURSDAY NIGHT'S EXTRAVAGANZA

From the Grand Ole Opry

SEPTEMBER 14 At 8:00 p. m.

VARIETY SHOW

Also Featuring Shirley Hunter from WRVA's Barn Dance! Virginia's Top Country Music Singer!

Also Featuring the Shelton Bros. and their Country Music Group from Kingsport

Norma Jean Appearing at the RUSSELL FAIR 8 P. M.

Porter Wagoner Appearing at the RUSSELL FAIR 8 P. M.

FEATURING IN PERSON FROM W. S. M. "GRAND OLE OPRY" Porter Wagoner, Miss Norma Jean and Others

This ad in a 1967 issue of The Lebanon News helped create one of the worst nights in the career of Dolly Parton.

Russell County Fair remembers Dolly Parton, awkward 1967 appearance

BY: SHAWN STREET shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Inside the September 13, 1967 issue of The Lebanon News was an advertisement for the Russell County Fair's Variety Show.

According to the ad, among those performing would be the Grand Ole Opry's Porter Wagoner and Norma Jean. Unbeknownst to the crowd gathering on the fairgrounds, which was in Lebanon at the time, Norma Jean had stepped away from touring following her marriage to Harold Taylor.

When the show started, a 21-year-old blonde from Sevier County, Tennessee stepped onto the stage. It was her first concert as a member of the Porter Wagoner Show and her name was Dolly Parton.

To say the crowd was disappointed would be an understatement. Boos rang out before giving way to the chant of, "We want Norma Jean!"

The reaction was so hostile, Wagoner joined Parton onstage. He put his arm out, calling for calm, and told the audience, "Give this girl a chance. She's trying to make a place for herself."

Her performance in Lebanon left her so shaken that Parton reportedly cried all the way back to Nashville. She never performed in Russell County again.

Of course Parton did



Appalachian Royalty Dolly Parton passed away last week.

more than "make a place for herself." She became a hillbilly equivalent of the Midas touch – everything she touched turned to gold.

Whether it was music, television, movies, amusement parks or business, Dolly Parton succeeded well beyond anyone's expectations.

She passed away on August 25, 2026, at the age of 80 following a brief battle with cancer.

Nearly 60 years after that awkward experience in Lebanon, members of the

Russell County Fair honored Dolly Parton with the following statement:

"We are all so saddened, frankly in disbelief by Dolly Parton's passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family, friends, of which she had so many and to all of her millions and millions of fans.

"We believe that Dolly was Appalachian Royalty and her kindness, generosity and grace will not easily be matched!

"Rest in Peace Dolly."



Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Calling all Veterans, Active-Duty, Guard and Reserve members! Join us for the FREE Southwest Virginia Veteran Benefits and Resource Fair in Lebanon, Virginia September 10 from, 9 am to 3 pm at the Russell County Conference Center, 139 Highland Dr., Lebanon, VA 24266. Connect with benefits experts from the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, potential employers, and local support organizations. Everyone is welcome!

Get face-to-face assistance with:

- VA disability claims and appeals
- VA healthcare enrollment
- Education and Housing benefits
- Employment Assistance
- Veteran and Family Support Programs



VIRGINIA IS FOR VETERANS

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS



Scan Here to Register

www.dvs.virginia.gov

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS is just a click away!

LOCAL NEWS Stay informed on what matters most.

SPORTS Follow your favorite teams and athletes.

OBITUARIES Honoring lives and sharing memories.

COMMUNITY EVENTS Discover local events happening near you.

The Lebanon News

Find us online at www.thelebanonnews.com

Congressman Griffith: Labor Day and Memories of Tragedy

On September 7, Americans will celebrate Labor Day. The American worker serves as a backbone for our economy. Thanks to the fruits of their labor, our communities reap the rewards of more opportunity, business growth and expanded access to goods and services. Even in times of hardship where industries face new challenges, and when innovative technologies emerge, the American workforce shows resilience by adapting. This resilience takes shape in the belief that hard work is central to our communities. We see numerous investments that drive this belief for our region's workforce.

In the last year, Henry County celebrated various company investments resulting in a cumulative total of more than \$100 million. There is also Narro Trucks which recently launched in Pulaski County. The electric utility vehicle company will power new jobs for the New River Valley.

Further, thanks to a new industrial investment, Bland County's Virginia Steel and Fabrication is set to expand operational capabilities.

Earlier this year, I toured the Virginia Steel plant in Bastian to receive updates on its operations and leadership.

These industry decisions, among others, will support regional jobs, generate friendly climates for small businesses and deliver renewed hope for our communities.

Because these investments mean so much, I am an advocate for federal policies that help the American worker access opportunity for work.

From job programs, including ones that develop skills, to friendly tax environments, we can use policy to strengthen this access.

As we rest for Labor Day weekend, join me in celebrating the American worker.

Days after Labor Day, I will join our communities to recognize solemn occasions.

September 10 marks the one-year anniversary of the assassination of a conservative icon. In broad daylight on a college campus, Turning Point USA CEO Charlie Kirk was murdered by an individual seemingly indoctrinated by



MORGAN GRIFFITH

WEEKLY REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL

radical gender ideology.

My family shared the shock and grief with millions of Americans stunned by Kirk's murder. Following the slaying, I supported Kirk's legacy and memory, visiting Virginia Tech with Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears for a candlelight vigil.

Outside of my DC office along with countless other Congressional offices, I displayed a poster of Kirk. Additionally, I voted with 309 of my House colleagues to honor Kirk's life and legacy. It was disappointing to see more than 100 Democrats refrain from supporting the House resolution, but I remain committed to protecting the conservative values and freedoms that Kirk constantly worked to defend.

Perhaps nothing meant more to Kirk's movement than the freedom of speech, a cornerstone of our country's founding and the U.S. Constitution.

We must never forget that disagreements, discourse and debate are healthy for our government. Kirk provided a venue for our younger generations to recognize this fundamental truth.

Silencing Americans is never a solution. I will continue to support policies that protect the freedom of speech.

Please join me on September 10 to not only pray for Charlie, but to ask that God helps with healing for Charlie's widow, Erika, their two young children and the entire Kirk family.

Americans will also reflect on the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

To this day, the attacks are a painful memory for millions of Americans as well as many across the entire world.

I have the memory of working that morning in my law office when my bookkeeper, Terry Haynie, grabbed my attention. She informed me that a plane struck a tower of the World Trade Center.

After turning our eyes to the television to see the events live, we watched the second plane crash into the South Tower.

The Pentagon was also hit, while a thwarted attempt resulted in a plane crash in Pennsylvania.

When passengers of Flight 93 knew the end was coming, they would not allow that plane to be used to attack America. It is believed that plane was headed for the U.S. Capitol where I now work.

In total, more than 3,000 innocent lives were taken from us that day.

While the terrorists sought to strike fear, they failed to break the enduring spirit of the American people.

Following the tragedy, I drove to Salem's Kmart store to buy an American flag. I proudly displayed it outside my office.

I plan to attend a 9/11 wreath laying with former Governor Glenn Youngkin at the National D-Day Memorial.

With these events on the horizon, it will be an emotional time for many.

But over the Labor Day weekend, we will rejoice that the American worker is the most efficient, hardworking labor force in the world.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. You can call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405 or my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671. To reach my office via email, please visit my website at <https://morgangriffith.house.gov/>.

Another letter from your Mountain Cousin

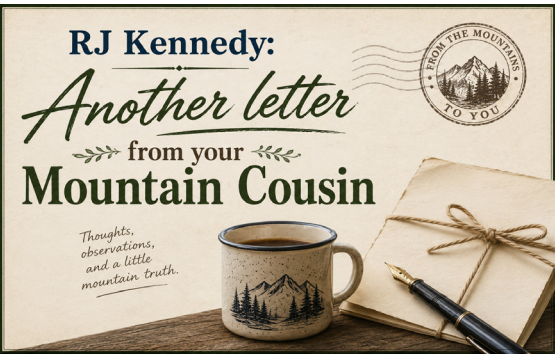
Dear Cousin,

Well it is 4:17 AM and I woke up with a headache at 3:30 AM and finally gave up and got up. Coffee usually helps. I think the headache is from the muscles being tight in my neck from swinging that Stihl weed eater for hours on end, cutting weeds that grew so fast from that month and a half of rain. Even with all the rain our pastures are a bit short and soon we will have to move the big February calves over to Mom's farm where there is more grass.

We had to cut up another tree cuz. So far, we have had one tree fall in the farm road, another on the boundary fence, one on the truck, one treetop on the power lines, one over the ditch and farm road and this one in the goat yard. I guess all the rain made the walnuts heavy and the tree had been damaged (probably when the farm was logged in the past) and so it broke right where the trunk was skinned up.

Thankfully, it missed the power lines but fell over the creek, on top of the goat's water tank, into a tree and over the electric fence. There was a risk of it falling the rest of the way down, so it had to come down before it squashed a goat. First, we had to take the electric fence out.

And the young calves are still breaking into the hay patch; we are planning



on putting in more lines. We have walked the fence line removing fallen dead trees and limbs that every storm seems to bring down. I have decided an electric fence is useless if there are deer or trees nearby. They are nearly impossible to keep running, but this was a government grant idea, not ours. You might as well cut any tree that can reach the fence when it falls, because eventually they are going to fall. And as far as the deer go, every spring/summer we have a new crop of fawns who don't understand the fence just like the new calves.

As far as out there in the world cuz, daily we have watched as there are so many earthquakes all about the ring of fire. Almost every day there is a new one. There is a whole lot of shaking going on. Many wonder what is about to happen. The ground in Yellowstone is slowly rising and many fear that the old volcano

that probably blew around the time of the flood, I believe is going to awaken and blow again.

And we are planning to have an evening Baptism if the river is down enough. A baptism and supper picnic at the park. It is wonderful that there are still children being saved and following Jesus.

And of course cuz, [Verify before publishing] I remember watching her on the Porter Wagoner show as a young girl.

Thursday Morning: 5:05 a.m. (and change all other AM instances to a.m.). Up early again this morning cuz. I woke up around 4 AM and started my day. Yesterday we finished the walnut tree in the goat pasture; it made a lot of good winter firewood. The goat yard is much brighter now and the sun is drying up the mud. It will be a bit hotter now as the goat house and chicken house will not get the shade. However, the goats had lots of fun eating the walnut

leaves and walking across the trunk of the tree before we got it all the way down.

And pray for the people of Nepal and China cuz, that flood that came down the river after it was dammed up by a massive ice, rock, snow landslide/avalanche was terrible to behold. They lost so many people. Some I'm sure will never be found. It reminded me of the Johnstown flood, as it wiped places clean off the face of the earth. No doubt, thousands died or will never be found again.

And tonight is the big face off about the Data center. If they put it in they should buy out every home in Clinchfield, no one wants to listen to noise around the clock. Of course, people have forgotten about how noisy the "prep plant" was for years. I sure hope we will not be able to hear it all the way over here! I think the cows will not be happy. I heard people were visiting the site. Maybe that explains that helicopter flying over the farm so much lately heading back to the Northeast.

Sure wish I could go to the board of supervisor meeting but I believe it's right when we have to be rounding up the teenage chickens and shutting up the big chickens and goats for the night.

Until next week, pray for the folks of Nepal!
RJ Kennedy

Adult education connection

Returning to school as an adult is a courageous step. Adult students often balance classes with work, family responsibilities, finances, and other commitments.

Because of these responsibilities, it can sometimes feel easier to struggle quietly than to admit that help is needed. However, asking for help is not a sign of weakness; it is an important part of being a successful student.

Many adult students bring valuable life and work experience to the classroom, but they may also be returning to subjects or study habits they have not used in years. Adjusting to assignments, technology, testing, and academic expectations can take time.

Schools and colleges recognize these challenges and provide resources such as tutoring, advising, technology assistance, writing support, and career services. Knowing when and where to seek assistance can make the educational journey much more manageable.

Some adults hesitate to ask questions because they worry that others will think they are not capable. Others may believe they should be able to figure everything out on their own.

In reality, successful students understand that learning sometimes requires asking questions and seeking guidance. Academic support resources specifically encourage students to reach out rather than struggle alone. Asking for help demonstrates that you care about your education and are willing to take responsibility for your success.

It may seem that asking for help makes a person feel less confident, but the opposite can happen. Each time an adult student asks a question, receives guidance, and successfully applies what they have learned, they gain another reason to believe in themselves.

Adult students sometimes feel pressure to have all the answers because they have responsibilities and experience outside the classroom. Remember that being an adult does not mean knowing everything. Education is supposed to be a place where you learn, make mistakes, ask questions, and grow.

Asking for help is an important part of the adult education journey. It can reduce frustration, strengthen confidence, improve understanding, and help students stay on track toward their goals. Most importantly, it reminds adult learners that they are part of a community that wants to see them succeed. If you are interested in getting help with your educational journey, please contact Southwest Regional Adult Education at 276-889-5424.



BEVERLY PRATER ASHBY

Debbie Gibson: Leaning on the story

My daddy was probably the happiest man in heaven yesterday. Dolly Parton arrived. As long as I can remember, she was the be-all and end-all for my father. He was fascinated by her story, her music, and her larger-than-life persona. He said one time that she could have snagged him for marriage, but my mother got to him first. But he never forsook his love for Dolly. Never.

Now, to the story.

My father had bought a brand-new Dodge Charger. He wanted to protect it from the elements, and every day he parked that baby in the garage. He was cautious pulling in and getting out, but he was deeply bothered by the concrete section that was the step-up to his workspace at the very front of the garage. Pull in too far, and his shiny new bumper was going to be scratched, dented, or crumpled. He was having none of that.

So one day, he went for a ride in that Gray Goose (as I called it) and came home with a poster. It was all wrapped in cellophane, tightly rolled, and not a soul asked him what he was doing as he headed to the garage with the poster in his hand. He was gone a while, and the garage door could be heard opening and shutting repeatedly.

Imagine our surprise when the next time we went to get in the car, we were met by a picture of Dolly reclined against a nest of hay, wearing a short little blue and black hot pants outfit, blonde hair teased to heaven, and staring sensuously in our direction. My mother muttered something that sounded like "Grow up," and my brother went



DEBBIE GIBSON

to whistling and gawking. My sister and I just chalked it up to old people doing old people things, but we all got in the car.

He didn't start it up immediately. He just sat there, staring out the driver-side window, and said, "Now would anyone like an explanation for Dolly's placement?" as Consider removing the second "as he gazed lovingly out his driver-side window" (already stated immediately before). My mother's answer was, "Not really, but I know you're going to tell us."

And tell us he did. He gave us a synopsis reaching way back to the first time he'd ever laid eyes on Dolly. He said he'd never liked Porter Wagoner and he was glad Dolly had parted ways with him. He sang a few lines from some of her hits, and then he told us the truth. The truth was that Dolly was protecting the Gray Goose from getting her front end scuffed up by the concrete step up to the work-

shop. He had devised a way to pull in until his eyes met Dolly's, and he knew to stop. It worked like a charm. He could ease on into the garage every day, and never have to worry about crunching anything. That poster hung there for years. Even after my dad's death, Dolly was out in the garage waiting for him. He loved her.

So when the news came yesterday about Dolly's death, the only thing I could do was to sit down and cry. She was light in a dark place. She was a beacon of hope to the hopeless. She was smart, shrewd in ways that made great business sense. She cared about children even though she never had any of her own. We were all Dolly's children.

I suppose we should all be grateful that her life was composed of eighty caring years. Eighty years is a good piece of time, but a little more time with the Queen would have been nice.

She did, however, leave us a present. There is "My Place in History"

I probably won't be alive when the Dream Box is opened, but I bet my daddy has already asked her to sing that song to him. And I bet he's told her how much he appreciates her protecting the Gray Goose.

Me? I can simply listen to the songs she penned and sang in my ear for sixty years. I leave you with my favorite.

"Little sparrow, little sparrow
Precious fragile little thing
Little Sparrow, little sparrow
Flies so high and feels no pain."
Fly high, Dolly. We know you feel no pain.



Food City Assistant Manger Jeff Smith and Human Relations Coordinator Renea Salyers presents a check to SPES Principal Karen Dickenson and Assistant Principal Gina Alamrode.

St. Paul Elementary receives over \$2,000 thanks to Food City School Bucks

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Each year, the Food City School Bucks program awards \$800,000 to more than 1,000 participating schools. Company officials are currently presenting checks from the 2025–2026 program.

As part of the presentation program, Food City officials were in St. Paul last week to present a check worth \$2,276 to St. Paul Elementary School.

“Food City is committed to supporting the education of our youth,” said Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer. “Our School Bucks Program provides much-needed support to schools across our market area. Since the program’s inception, we’ve awarded more than \$24.5 million to participating schools.”

Food City has also pledged an additional \$800,000 in

contributions for the upcoming school year. Through the School Bucks Challenge, earning rewards for your school is simple—customers earn one point for every dollar spent using their Food City ValuCard.

This year, Food City has introduced a new feature to make point collection easier than ever. During designated Spirit Weeks, customers can earn bonus points by purchasing participating items.

The 2026–2027 School Bucks Challenge will run from July 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027. To ensure points are credited to your school of choice, visit foodcity.com/schoolbucks and link your ValuCard to your preferred school. Funds are distributed based on the percentage of customer purchases assigned to each school, and schools can track their progress online at foodcity.com.

For more information about the Food City School Bucks Challenge, contact your local school, visit foodcity.com/schoolbucks, or reach out to School Bucks Coordinator Lisa Johnson at 1-800-232-0174.

Sheriff’s office offers safety tips for college students

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

The Russell County Sheriff’s Office is offering a number of safety tips to those attending college this fall.

“As college begins, whether a local college or distant college, we would

like to remind college students to be safe out there,” the sheriff’s office said in a statement. “Parents and college students make a safety plan and have a conversation.”

The statement added, “Get to know your college safety resources. Be careful posting your location on

social media. Learn about safe apps, and download the Life 360 app as a family and with friends. If something doesn’t sound or feel right, remove yourself safely from the situation.”

Other tips include:

- Learn available support services, including blue light phones and

- campus escort services.
- Get to know campus safety personnel as they are equipped to handle emergencies and provide assistance.
- If you feel unsafe or even just uncomfortable, trust your gut and get out of the situation as quickly and safely as possible.
- Be sure to regularly stay in touch with friends, family and roommates, on and off campus.
- Travel in groups as there is safety in numbers, especially at odd hours.
- Always arrange for a designated driver or alternative transportation.
- Choose well-lit and populated paths and consider walking in groups during late hours.

Volunteers needed for Cleveland Community Center renovation

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Volunteers are needed for a project in Cleveland next Tuesday.

The Town of Cleveland and The Nature Conservancy are partnering to improve the Cleveland Community Center’s outdoor restrooms and pavilion.

Volunteers are asked to help paint and all painting materials will be furnished by the town and the Nature Conservancy.

Lunch will also be provided.

The date of the project is Tuesday, September 8. Work will begin at 2 p.m. and is expected to conclude at 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the Cleveland Town Hall at 276-889-4365.

Castlewood Fire and Rescue highlights Dolly Parton’s impact on all of Appalachia

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Much has been said in recent days about the legacy left behind by Dolly Parton.

Her music made her the undisputed queen of country music. And it had the ability to cross genres once thought unimaginable as Mötley Crüe (verify Judas Priest claim independently).

She shared her wealth with numerous causes ranging from education to emergency services to hospitals. And she had the very unique ability to be loved by both Democrats and Republicans.

While most of the attention has been focused on her charity work in her home region of East Tennessee, her impact was felt throughout the mountains of Appalachia, including here in Russell County.

A recent post made on the Facebook page of Castlewood Fire and Rescue sums it up far better than this reporter ever could. The department’s statement is as follows:

Sometimes, a person’s impact reaches much farther than the place they call home.

Here in Castlewood, Virginia — about two and a half hours from Dollywood and Dolly Parton’s home in East Tennessee — Dolly’s impact can be found throughout our community in ways that connect directly with our children, our families, our patients, and even our firefighters.

As our local schools remember Dolly and the difference she has made, it is worth reflecting on just how far that impact reaches across Appalachia.

Through Books, Children, and Imagination

Perhaps one of Dolly’s greatest legacies is found in the hands of a child holding a book.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library was created in honor of her father, Robert Lee Parton, who could not read or write. What began as a daughter’s tribute to her father grew into a program providing books to young children and encouraging families to read together.

That impact is felt right here at home.

Children in our community have grown up receiving books through the Imagination Library from birth to age five. Those books introduce children to reading, encourage their imaginations, and begin building a foundation for learning before they ever enter a classroom.

Today, as schools across our area plan activities to remember Dolly and her contributions to children’s literacy, they are also helping continue something that began as a deeply personal tribute to her father.

Through Fire and Disaster

The connection becomes even closer when we look at the devastating wildfires that have affected East Tennessee.

When wildfires threatened and destroyed homes and communities, Dolly stepped forward to support families and communities facing tremendous loss.

For Castlewood Fire and Rescue, those fires weren’t simply something happening hours away on the news. Firefighters from our area were placed on standby and prepared to deploy to East Tennessee to assist if additional resources were needed.

It was another reminder of how closely connected the communities of Appalachia really are. County and state lines become much less important when someone’s home is burning and another community needs help.

Through Her Recognition of Firefighters

Dolly also recognized the people who answer those calls.

At Dollywood, FireChaser Express pays tribute to firefighters and the work they do protecting their communities. The attraction includes firefighting themes and has featured signed fire hoses representing firefighters and departments across Tennessee. The antique extinguishers near the queue lines have even provided context to pictures found in textbooks and provided an opportunity to review training while waiting in line.

It may seem like a small gesture compared with her larger philanthropic efforts, but those details mean something to members of the fire service.

They recognize people who often leave their own families, jobs, and communities behind when someone else needs help. For firefighters visiting Dollywood with their families, it is a reminder that their service is seen and appreciated.

Through Medical Care

There is another connection that may be even more personal for families in Southwest Virginia.

Some pediatric patients from our region who need a higher level of specialized care ultimately find themselves traveling to Knoxville.

Today, that care is provided at Dolly Parton Children’s Hospital.

For EMS providers, a hospital two and a half hours away doesn’t always feel two and a half hours away. Sometimes it is the destination associated with a critically ill or injured child from our own community who needs specialized pediatric resources beyond what is available locally.

For those children and their families, Dolly’s name isn’t simply associated with music, Dollywood, or a distant celebrity. It is connected to a place providing care during what may be one of the most frightening days of their lives.

An Impact Across Appalachia

There are certainly many more examples.

But these are some that stand out to us because we can see the connections from right here in Castlewood. We see it in the books our children receive.

We see it in our schools encouraging children to read and remembering why the Imagination Library began.

We saw it when firefighters here stood ready to travel across state lines to help East Tennessee during devastating fires.

We see it in her recognition of firefighters and first responders.

And we see it when children from our region need specialized medical care in Knoxville.

Dolly Parton proudly represented the mountains and the people who call them home. Her influence reached around the world, but perhaps some of her most meaningful impacts can still be found right here in Appalachia.

Two and a half hours away, we’re still seeing the difference she made — in a book placed in a child’s hands, in communities recovering from fire, in the recognition of those who answer the call, and in the care provided to a sick or injured child from our own mountains.

From all of us at Castlewood Fire and Rescue, we join our schools, our neighbors, and communities throughout Appalachia in remembering a remarkable legacy that reached far beyond any county or state line.

Dolly, we will always love you.

Share Your CHURCH with the COMMUNITY

Help people find a place to worship!

Your church can be featured in our **Church Listing Directory** for only **\$6.00** per week.

Your listing can include:

- Church Name
- Pastor
- Worship Service Times
- Sunday School Times (optional)
- Church Address
- Phone Number
- Website or Facebook Page (if applicable)

Whether someone is new to the area, looking for a church home, or returning to worship, our directory makes it easy for them to find your congregation.

Only \$6.00 per week

An affordable way to share your ministry and welcome new visitors every week.

Reach your community.

Share your message.

Open your doors to those seeking a church home.

Reserve your church listing today!

Wendi Craig |

advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com | 276-340-2445

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS is just a click away!

LOCAL NEWS
Stay informed on what matters most.

SPORTS
Follow your favorite teams and athletes.

OBITUARIES
Honoring lives and sharing memories.

COMMUNITY EVENTS
Discover local events happening near you.

The Lebanon News
Local News, Local Stories, Local People.

Find us online at **www.thelebanonnews.com**

Out of defeat, victory: Tigers rally to win Coal Bowl 16

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

HONAKER, Va. (August 27, 2026) – The 16th annual Coal Bowl was the most thrilling to date, with Honaker rallying to score the final two touchdowns and clinch a 21-20 win. A large crowd assembled on Thursday at Fuller Field at EMATS Stadium.

On Honaker's third offensive play, All-State quarterback Parker Lowe went down with an injury and didn't return. Another Tiger standout, Jeremiah Rose, had already

left the game with an injury. Lebanon held a 20-7 lead and all the momentum heading into the fourth frame. There was no quit in the Tigers.

On the first play of the fourth quarter, on 2nd-and-13, Levi Honaker took his first snap at quarterback for the Tigers in the game. Honaker lofted a perfect spiral to Kam Keen for a 60-yard touchdown pass.

"I saw the pocket forming around me, stepped up when I saw the defensive tackle coming at me, and I just threw it," declared

SEE **OUT OF DEFEAT** | 2B



Layne Jessee (44) was most of the offense for the Pioneers. Preston Ball Photography | For the Lebanon News



JuJu Farmer tallied 11 kills and three blocks for Honaker. Keith Ray | For the Lebanon News

Pioneers best county rivals

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

LEBANON (Aug. 26, 2026) – Two volleyball matches to start the season and two wins for Lebanon (2-0). The start hasn't gone as well for Honaker (0-2). On Wednesday at Charles C. Long Gymnasium, Lebanon pulled away for a 3-1 non-district victory over the Tigers. Set scores were 25-14, 24-26, 25-14, 25-17.

"Honaker battled," said Lebanon coach Dennis Price. "They showed they wanted to battle back and force more sets, for sure. They got after it and outthustled us. We went through a period when they were out-hustling and out-working us. We got a little down. We quit communicating."

"You know, my girls got it together. We made a big run and took the momentum. Volleyball is a crazy sport. You can go from the bottom to the top

– so fast. That momentum shift made a big difference in finishing the match, for sure."

With the Pioneers leading 2-1 in the match, Honaker raced out to a 17-12 lead in set four. A service error by the Tigers brought Lebanon sophomore Raelynn Huff to the line. Huff reeled off a dozen service points to win the set and match.

"Raelynn got it done for us," commented Price. "It's so easy to tighten up and make a mistake in those situations. But it was big for her to keep those serves going and let us keep the momentum like that. She did a great job."

"The front line played well, too. We played better tonight than in our first match. And that's what you want. You want to get better as you go."

Was there pressure on Huff, a softball standout coming to the service line?

SEE **PIONEERS BEST** | 5B

Lady Pioneers win VB debut

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

LEBANON, Va. (Aug. 24, 2026) – The Lady Pioneers opened the 2026 volleyball season on Monday at Charles C. Long Gymnasium. Lebanon defeated Holston 3-0, though the Cavaliers put up a strong fight in each set.

Jaidyn Fields led the way as the Pioneers won the nail-biter 27-25, 25-21, 27-25.

"It was an amazing first win," Jaidyn Fields noted. "We came right out of the gate. That's a great way to start the season. It was a little rocky. We struggled a few times, but hey, this is our first time playing together. It was a good win for all of us."

Jaidyn Fields tallied 14 kills and 10 assists for Lebanon.

"Jaidyn is a four-year veteran," said Lebanon coach Dennis Price. "She's been with me for four straight years. Jaidyn knows what it takes. She knows what we've got to do to get there. Jaidyn leads by example, is very positive, a good leader, and a heck of a player."

"She can play any position on the floor. Wherever I put her, she knows how to play. I'm thankful to have Jaidyn. I thought she did a great job tonight."

Set one was tied 10 times with seven lead changes.

SEE **LADY PIONEERS** | 5B



Senior Brooklyn Sutherland had 15 digs for the Pioneers. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

Struggles continue for Castlewood football with loss to Bland County

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

LEBANON (Aug. 28, 2026) – Despite numerous changes at Castlewood, including a new head football coach, the struggles continued. On Friday, at B.C. White Stadium, in their first game under Cody Smith, the Blue Devils fell to Bland County 34-7.

Miscues were numerous for Castlewood, including two lost fumbles, two interceptions, and seven penalties. Mistakes made it exceedingly difficult to put a notch in the win column.

The Bears took the opening kick-off, but the Castlewood defense forced a punt. The Blue Devils took over at their own 42 and moved down the field patiently. On the 10th play of the drive, Jacob Farmer burst up the middle for a six-yard touchdown run. Isaac Latham booted the point after, and Castlewood was up 7-0 late in the first quarter, seemingly in a good position.

"I thought we were in good shape. Then we came out and fumbled the football," Smith said. "We had a blown coverage. We got sucked in trying to play on our own, and then they popped it over the top of us. I've

preached—it's those little things. Once we take care of the little things, the big things will take care of themselves."

On the next possession, the Blue

Devil defense again stopped Bland County, turning the ball over on downs after four plays. But on Cas-

SEE **STRUGGLES CONTINUE** | 2B



Brady Hall (22) picks up yardage for Castlewood against the Bears. Natasha Mullins | For the Lebanon News

OUT OF DEFEAT

FROM PAGE 1B



2026 Coal Bowl Champions - Honaker Tigers. Keith Ray | For the Lebanon News

Honaker. “I saw Cam down there, threw it up, and fortunately it was a perfect ball.”

Honaker had struggled to move the football against a good Lebanon defense without Parker Lowe running the offense.

“It’s just like I told everybody. You lose Parker, Peyton Manning’s offensive coordinator said it. If we lose him, we’re screwed,” Honaker coach Aaron Lowe said. “It was all about our kids. We ain’t repping no one else at quarterback because Parker’s our guy. I challenged our guys at halftime. I told them it’s going to go down in history. You’re going to win this Coal Bowl without the quarterback. It’s up to you guys to go do it, and that’s exactly what they did.”

Describe a pivotal moment in the game.

“When Levi threw that touchdown to Kam Keen,” said Honaker senior Kam Beavers. “I think from then on out, we were locked in. We knew we needed to make some stops and run the clock. Levi was amazing, I’m so proud of him. He pushed through on both sides of the ball. He changed the game for us.”

The Tigers first went with sophomore Brayden Justus to fill in at quarterback. He led Honaker to their first score, throwing a 21-yard TD pass to Levi Honaker. They decided to make another change at QB at the start of the fourth.

“When stuff happens, you try to weigh all options,” declared Lowe. “Every coach on the staff threw out a suggestion. We put Levi in there at the right time. He hasn’t played quarterback since eighth grade. He threw one of the prettiest balls you’ll ever see to Kam Keen. Levi’s a warrior. This whole team is. Levi was huge on defense, too. He made play after play.”

Lebanon took the ensuing kickoff and couldn’t move the ball. The Honaker defense forced a Pioneer punt from their end zone, which gave them excellent field position deep in Lebanon territory.

On second down, Levi Honaker scrambled up the middle, fumbled into the end zone, and Beavers dove on the ball for the touchdown. Beavers, who was 3-for-3 kicking, booted the pivotal extra point to give the Tigers a 21-20 lead with less than nine minutes to play.

“This means everything. I mean, it’s my senior Coal Bowl,” Beavers said. “I haven’t won it since my freshman year, and I don’t think I played a snap in that game. It meant everything to come out here, pursue everything, and win this game.”

From that point, it was up to the defense, and the Tigers kept Lebanon off the scoreboard.

Lebanon had the ball twice. On a 4th-and-11 from the Honaker 16, a pass fell incomplete, and the Pioneers turned the ball over on downs.

After a Honaker punt, Easton Taylor had an excellent return to the Honaker 20. Lebanon drove as far as the six but lost yardage on three consecutive plays. On 4th-and-goal from the 13, Hagin Curry attempted a 30-yard field goal that hit the crossbar and bounced back as no good with two minutes remaining. The Tigers then ran out the clock.

“We had a lot of momentum going into halftime,” said Lebanon coach Hunter Norris. “Honaker made some good adjustments in the second half. They’re a well-coached football team. We didn’t capitalize when we needed to.”

Lebanon went to Layne Jessee early and often using the Power-I formation that they hadn’t used in years. Layne Jessee had 152 yards rushing on 19 carries in the first half. Jessee found yardage harder to come by in the

second half, finishing with 185 yards rushing.

“Layne got a ton of carries tonight,” remarked Norris. “We knew coming into the ball game we weren’t going to throw the ball a whole lot. That’s something you hadn’t seen from us in the last two years. Layne knew he was going to have a big workload. I thought he did a really good job. He’s a heck of a football player. We’re glad he’s playing for us.”

From the jaws of defeat came victory for the Tigers.

“Our team morale was at an all-time low,” Levi Honaker stated. “We had to go into the locker room at halftime and have an amazing, amazing talk with players and coaches. We came out here on the field and had another talk, and it just boosted us.

“This is definitely a win we can build on. We learned a lot of valuable lessons tonight that we can hopefully carry into the rest of the season.”

The Tigers face a tough schedule and will likely be without Parker Lowe for several games.

“I don’t know if I’ve ever coached as hard in my life as I did tonight,” commented Coach Lowe. “You come in with a game plan, you lose a quarterback, and then you put somebody else in. You’ve got to figure out what to run within the playbook. We went to the drawing board on some stuff.

“It was a total testament to my coaching staff. My staff did an amazing job. They kept their composure. Coach Miller, the defensive coordinator, and those defensive guys made some crazy adjustments tonight to stop Layne. I couldn’t be prouder.”

Lebanon will host Patrick Henry on Friday. Their season is far from over. They will be favorites to win their next five games.

“We’re going to soak this one in tonight,” Norris stated. “Then we’re going to move on to Patrick Henry tomorrow. They are a good opponent. We’re going to have to bring our A game for that one. It will be good to get back to our house. We look forward to our home opener. Behind our home stands, home crowd. We’re excited for the next opportunity. On Monday, we’ll get back to work and see what we need to fix. Overall, I’m very proud to be these guys’ head coach. I’m proud of the grit and toughness they played with.”

The Tigers enjoyed a memorable victory.

“It was a storybook ending,” remarked Lowe. “It starts with our kids. They believed coming out after halftime that we were going to win this thing. And when you believe, anything can happen. And they did that tonight.”

HONAKER 21, LEBANON 20					
Lebanon	7	7	6	0	—20
Honaker	0	2	0	14	—21
First Quarter					
LEB—L. Jessee 32 run (Curry kick), 9:53.					
Second Quarter					
HON—Honaker 21 pass from Justus (Beavers kick), 10:01.					
LEB—W. Jessee 1 run (Curry kick), 6:22.					
Third Quarter					
LEB—W. Jessee 2 run (kick failed), 0:29.					
Fourth Quarter					
HON—Keen 60 pass from Honaker (Beavers kick), 11:48.					
HON—Beavers fumble recovery in end zone (Beavers kick), 8:56.					
.....	LEB	HON			
First downs	19	9		133	
Total Net Yards	286			23-64	
Rushes-yards	38-234			69	
Passing	52			9-16-1	
Comp-Att-Int	5-10-0			1-0	
Fumbles-Lost	1-0			10-71	
Penalties-Yards	11-87			6-33.5	
Punts	5-24.2				



Kam Beavers (13) celebrates recovering a fumble in the end zone for a touchdown. Keith Ray | For the Lebanon News



Jacob Farmer uses a stiff arm to get around the corner. Farmer rushed for 114 yards and scored the Blue Devils' only TD. Natasha Mullins | For the Lebanon News

STRUGGLES CONTINUE

FROM PAGE 1B

tlewood’s second play, they fumbled, and Mason Koop recovered for the Bears.

Colten Lambert got behind the Castlewood defense, and quarterback Lane Tillett launched a 32-yard scoring strike. A bad snap foiled the extra-point attempt, and the Devils clung to a 7-6 advantage.

The teams traded fumbles.

A Castlewood pass was intercepted by Bland’s Braiden Grose with 48 seconds left in the first half. That was more than enough time for Caegin Browning to sprint around the right end for an 11-yard score. The run for two was stopped and the Bears settled for a 12-7 lead at the break.

“We’ve come a long way. We got better this week,” Bland County coach Harris Hart said. “Castlewood was a good test for us, and our young men played hard. Castlewood’s young men played hard, and we got a few breaks that they didn’t.”

The Blue Devils couldn’t establish anything in the second half. Browning, a speedster, continued to be a thorn in their side, scoring on 53 and 16-yard runs to put the game out of reach.

“He’s a good athlete. He’s quick,” declared Smith. “45’s (Mason Kopp) is quick off the edge on defense. I ain’t going to take nothing from Bland. Their quarterback’s smart. Once he hit the corner on us, it’s a foot race. And we’ve got to fix our pursuit angles.”

After another interception, the Bears added a late score when Vincent Ennis scored on a 24-yard rush with less than three minutes left in the contest.

Three Castlewood turnovers led to three Bland County scores.

“That’s one thing we talked to our athletes about all week,” commented Hart. “In these first games, it’s mistakes, penalties, turnovers, things like that. That’s what wins games. So, our young men stepped up, and Castlewood’s young men played hard. I’m proud of both sides.”

Browning finished with 145 yards rushing on 14 carries, averaging over 10 yards per attempt with three TDs.

“We’re young, but we’re starting to learn, so we’ll hopefully keep improving,” Hart stated. “Browning stepped up and had a big game. Hopefully, this is a precursor to a really good season for him.”

It was a tough opener for Castlewood. Their last win was at Hurley on October 31, 2024.

“Mentality’s a hard thing to change,” noted Smith. “Staying in the fight. We have to stay in the fight. We came out flat in the second half. Bland came out in the second half and kept on rolling, and that was exactly what they were supposed to do.”

The Blue Devils have a road game, traveling to Phelps, Ky., on Friday.

“We’ve got to put the work in,” Smith noted. “It’s going to be a good, hard week of practice. When we snap it off the thigh pad, those things are correctable. Conditioning is going to help us out a whole lot, especially on these humid nights.

“This game is over. We’re looking to the next one.”

BLAND CO. 34, CASTLEWOOD 7					
Bland Co.	0	12	8	14	—34
Castlewood	7	0	0	0	—7
First Quarter					
CAS—Farmer 6 run (Latham kick), 2:35.					
Second Quarter					
BLAND—Lambert 32 pass from Tillett (kick failed), 9:31.					
BLAND—Browning 11 run (run failed), 0:41.					
Third Quarter					
BLAND—Browning 53 run (Browning run), 0:00.					
Fourth Quarter					
BLAND—Browning 16 run (Mallory kick), 6:55.					
BLAND—Ennis 24 run (Mallory kick), 2:37.					
.....	BLAND	CAS			
First downs	13			8	
Total Net Yards	277			155	
Rushes-yards	42-213			35-146	
Passing	64			29	
Comp-Att-Int	3-5-0			1-10-2	
Fumbles-Lost	3-1			4-2	
Penalties-Yards	6-45			7-60	
Punts	1-22			0-0	



Castlewood’s Dalton Keith and the Bears Lane Tillett (14) battle for a pass. Natasha Mullins | For the Lebanon News



276-873-6801
www.modernchevrolet.com

1. Patrick Henry at Lebanon

Since 1984 The Lebanon News Football Contest

\$40
FIRST PRIZE

\$20
SECOND PRIZE

CONTEST RULES

1. Anyone can enter except employees of this paper and their families. ONLY one entry allowed per person per week.
2. Teams in this week's games are listed in each advertisement on this page. Put your choice-in each game in consecutive order. Pick the total number of points you think will be scored between the two teams playing each other in the appropriate blank at the bottom of the entry. A second tie-breaker is added in case there is still a tie after the first tie-breaker has been used. If a tie still exists, the prize money will be divided evenly. The second tie-breaker is only used if the first fails to break a tie.
3. Your entry can be delivered to the Lebanon News **prior to 4:00 p.m. Friday** or be postmarked prior to 4:30 p.m. Friday each week. **NEW ADDRESS! Mail entries to "Football Contest" c/o The Lebanon News, 20 Clinch Mountain Ave., Lebanon, VA 24266**
4. If a game is postponed, cancelled, or played on Thursday, the submission will automatically be counted as correct for all entrants.
5. Children under 16 years of age NOT QUALIFIED TO ENTER.
6. Winners will be announced following each contest.
7. Decisions of judges will be final! A new contest will be announced each week.
8. Official entry form on this page must be used.

**NO OBLIGATION! NOTHING TO BUY!
USE CONVENIENT ENTRY FORM ON**

Scores from last week (8/26/26) Contest

1. Played Thursday
2. Bland Co. 37, Castlewood 7
3. Virginia High 7, Patrick Henry 0 (2OT)
4. Ridgeview 48, Southern Gap 8
5. Abingdon 62, John Battle 6
6. Wise Central 24, Eastside 23
7. Played Thursday
8. Played Thursday
9. Chilhowie 47, Marion 0
10. Holston 49, East Montgomery 16
11. Rural Retreat 56, Fort Chiswell 12
12. Radford 40, George Wythe 0
13. J.I. Burton 52, Unaka (TN) 6
14. Northwood 26, Twin Springs 0
15. Cumberland Gap (TN) 30, Thomas Walker 21
16. Floyd County 23, Narrows 0
17. Virginia 34, North Carolina State 8
18. Stanford 37, Hawaii 27
19. Florida State 34, New Mexico State 17
20. North Carolina 15, TCU 10

LAST WEEKS WINNERS!

1. Mark Ratliff (18-2), Lebanon
2. Michelle Ratliff (17-3), Lebanon

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Pick The Winner Only! No Scores

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

FIRST TIE-BREAKER

will be the total points scored between
Patrick Henry at Lebanon.

SECOND TIE-BREAKER

will be the total points scored between
Honaker at Ridgeview..

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

CLIP AND BRING OR MAIL TO:

THE LEBANON NEWS

P.O. BOX 1268

LEBANON, VA 24266



SIA
LEBANON, VIRGINIA

SHRADER INSURANCE AGENCY
"Right In The Heart Of Lebanon"

(276) 889-1701

11. Tazewell at Pulaski County

BONANZA STEAKHOUSE

Senior Bar 60+

(Includes Tea or Coffee)

MON-FRI 2-4 p.m.

\$11.99

12. East Montgomery at Rural Retreat

"Serving as we would be served"

Honaker
FUNERAL HOME

4686 Redbud Highway Honaker, Virginia
Kim McGlothlin Harris • Ashlee Cook • Josh Combs
276-873-6446

honakerfuneralhome.net

13. George Wythe at Fort Chiswell



Main St. Lebanon, VA

276-889-1919

www.lebanonfamilydrug.com

14. Holston at Narrows

MERCY
AMBULANCE SERVICE



Lebanon
276-889-3099

Richlands
276-964-9111

Grundy
276-935-8200

15. J.I. Burton at Chilhowie

Rex Stiltner

331 West Main St.
Lebanon, VA
276-415-0480

5692 Redbud Hwy.
Honaker, VA
276-873-4300



Allstate
You're in good hands.

16. Unaka (TN) at Twin Springs

FERGUSON
FAMILY DENTISTRY

GENERAL • COSMETIC • ADVANCED

138 Highland Dr.
Lebanon, VA

276-889-5141

17. Miami at Stanford

STARNES, INC.
REFRIGERATION & AIR CONDITIONING

23 Employees Strong NOW OFFERING FINANCING CALL FOR DETAILS

We offer customized installation to fit all your HVAC needs:
• Computerized Load Analysis • Our 40+ Yrs Experience Counts
• Educating Our Customers • Respect Your Property
• Quick Response • Satisfaction Guaranteed

1-800-STARNES

24-Hour Same Day Service • www.starnesinc.com

18. Liberty at JMU

Lebanon

Lube

Larry Runyon, owner

M-F 8-5 • Sat 8-12

976 East Main St, Lebanon

19. Baylor at Auburn

D.R. Price Engineering & Surveying
an **IngenAE** Company



1541 Thompson Creek Road, Honaker, Virginia 24260
Phone: 276-991-9100 - www.drpeandls.com

20. Clemson at LSU

RESIDENTIAL • LAND • COMMERCIAL



276-698-0491

25 Lehr St
Lebanon Va. 24266

Melanie Waugh
Broker

www.homelandrealestatesouthwestva.com

3. Castlewood at Phelps (KY)



Lebanon
276-889-5877

Tazewell
276-988-7994



4. Union at Daniel Boone (TN)

The Pioneer Restaurant
Monday through Sunday 11a-9p

1951 East Main St, Lebanon, VA

276-889-2922

"Great Food - Not Fast Food"

5. Southern Gap at Rye Cove

Doors Lumber Plywood Hardware



Windows Paint & Plumbing



889-2921



"Everything To Build With At A Price You Can Afford"
Metal Roofing, Pole Barns, Free Estimates & More

6. John Battle at Virginia High



Vehicles • Powersports • Buildings

Lebanon, VA

Abingdon, VA

www.autoenergy.org

7. Abingdon at Christiansburg



8. Marion at Wise Central

CHEVROLET GMC
MORGAN McCLURE
Castlewood, VA

276-762-2311

www.morganmcclureauto.com

9. Heritage at Graham



Russell County Farm Bureau
Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance
919 West Main Street
Lebanon, VA 24266

Ron Blankenship

Bradford Clevinger

Office: (276) 889-1119

"Local Makes A Difference"

Free Quotes

Auto • Home • Farm • Life • Business

10. Thomas Walker at Lee High

CLASSIFIEDS

APARTMENT FOR RENT

2 bedroom apartment for rent - Appliances, water and sewage & dish TV furnished. Internet available. Deposit required call 276 889-3125

AUCTIONS

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Promote your upcoming auctions statewide! Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audience. Call this paper or Commonwealth Media Solutions 804-521-7570, advertising@commonwealthmedia-solutions.com

CEMETERY LOTS

FOR SALE Monuments & Markers. Competitive prices year round. Call Jamie Combs 276-206-7801.

HOME IMP

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferable warranty. Call today 1-877-614-6667 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

Safe Step. North Americas #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-947-1479 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Notice Environmental Permit
PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit amendment from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to limit air pollution emitted by a facility in Russell County, Virginia.
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: September 2, 2026 to October 2, 2026
PERMIT NAME: State Operating Permit (SOP) issued by DEQ pursuant to applicable air laws and regulations
APPLICANT/FACILITY NAME AND ADDRESS: Samuel, Son & Company (USA) Inc.; 58 Samuel Way, Lebanon, Virginia 24266; Registration Number 11745
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Samuel, Son & Company (USA) Inc. has applied for an amendment to a permit for a metal storage tank manufacturing facility. The significant amendment to the permit revises the equipment list and record-keeping requirements. The permit would allow the source to emit hazardous air pollutants below major source levels.
HOW TO COMMENT AND/

LEGAL NOTICES

OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, e-mail, or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names and mailing addresses or email addresses of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit, with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit. Contact for public comments, document requests, and additional information: Stacie Jenkins; Southwest Regional Office, 355-A Deadmore Street, Abingdon, Virginia, 24210; Phone: 276-477-9087; E-mail:stacie.jenkins@deq.virginia.gov; The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above. LNR 09-2;2026

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 1-211.1;8.01-316,-317,20-104 Case No. CL23000786-00 Russell Circuit Court 83 East Main Street, Lebanon, VA 24266 Jonathan I. Roberts Stephanie D. Roberts v.

Oma Jane Ferebee, ET ALS The object of this suit is to: Partition.
It is ORDERED that Oma Ferebee, John Keen, Eli-sa Dye, Ralph Childress, Thomas Keen, Nell Stallard, Norma Honaker, Stanley Keen, Francis Street, and persons unknown appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before October 2, 2026 at 1:30 PM. LN-09-,2,9,16,23;2026

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE 1871 Campbell Hollow Road, Honaker, Virginia 24260 In execution of that certain deed of trust in the original principal amount of \$36,800.00 dated December 8, 1988 and recorded among the land records of Russell County, in Deed Book 358, Page 80 and subsequent modifications or re-recordings, if any, as amended by an instrument appointing the undersigned as Substituted Trustee dated in the land records of Russell County, Virginia, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and having been requested to do so by the holder of the note evidencing the said indebtedness, the undersigned Substituted Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the Front Doors of the Russell County Courthouse located at 53 Main Street, Lebanon, VA 24226, on: October 1, 2026 @ 11:00 AM The property described in said deed of trust located at the above street address, and more particularly described as: All that certain parcel of land, with the improvements thereon, situate in the New Garden Magisterial District of Russell County, Virginia, on the

LEGAL NOTICES

west side of and adjacent to Route 647, on Big A Mountain, and which said parcel of land herein conveyed is more particularly bounded and described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at an iron rod in the west right of way line of Secondary Route 647 and in the northwest corner of the Foster Ball property; thence, leaving said road and with the line of Foster Ball, S 77° 41' 05" W 122.08 feet to a stake; thence, N 54° 15' 48" W 140.34 feet to an iron rod at the base of a 20 inch cedar; thence, N 22° 07' 03" W 96.33 feet to an iron rod set at the base of a 12 inch dogwood; thence N 79° 00' E 211.51 feet to an iron rod; thence, N 79° 00' E 172.77 feet to an iron rod in the west line of Secondary Route No. 647; thence, with said right of way line, S 17° 51' E 272.50 feet to the point of Beginning, and containing 1.586 acres, more or less, (one parcel containing 0.886 acres, and one parcel containing 0.700 acres), and being the same real estate as shown on plat prepared by L. K. Addison Certified Land Surveyor, dated June 23, 1987. TERMS OF SALE: Cash or certified funds. A non-refundable deposit of ten percent (10%) of the successful bid price, payable in cash or by certified or cashier's check to the undersigned will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Terms of sale to be complied with within 30 days from date of sale or deposit will be forfeit and property will be resold at costs of defaulting purchaser. All real estate taxes to be adjusted as of date of sale. Seller shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by the purchaser in connection with their purchase or settlement, including, without limitation, state and local recording fees, title insurance or research, or any other costs of purchaser's acquisition. The property and the improvements thereon will be sold as is, without representations or warranties of any kind. The sale is subject to all other liens, encumbrances, conditions, easements and restrictions, if any, superior to the aforesaid deed of trust and lawfully affecting the property. Trustee shall have no duty to obtain possession for purchaser. All risks of casualty pass to successful bidder at conclusion of bidding. Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower(s) entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the Purchaser's deposit without interest. Additional terms to be announced at the sale. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Terra Abstract Virginia, Inc. 1581 Main Street Suite 20 Warrington, PA 18976 (215) 572-8111, M-F Between 8:00AM - 5 P.M. (VA20250000078) In the event of postponement of the sale, which may be done at the discretion of the trustee, the date of the postponed sale will be announced at the sale. No new or additional notice will be provided other than the announcement at the sale. LN-09-2,9,16,23;2026

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY Public Notice
An enforcement action has been proposed for the Rus-

LEGAL NOTICES

sell County Public Service Authorityfor violations of State Water Control Board statutes and regulations and applicable permit at the Dante Community Wastewater Treatment Plantfacility located in Dante, Virginia. The proposed Consent Order is available from the DEQcontact or athttps://www.deq.virginia.gov/news-info/shortcuts/public-notices/enforcement-actions. The DEQ contact will accept written comments fromSeptember 7, 2026, to October 6, 2026. DEQ contact: Enforcement Rep Name; email -joseph.r.heller@deq.virginia.gov or mail -901 Russell Drive, Salem, VA 24153 LN 09-2;2026

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE 1225 Green Valley Rd, Lebanon, Virginia 24266 In execution of that certain deed of trust in the original principal amount of \$62,500.00 dated January 19, 1995 and recorded among the land records of Russell County, in Deed Book 431, Page 59 and subsequent modifications or re-recordings, if any, as amended by an instrument appointing the undersigned as Substituted Trustee dated in Deed Book 522, Page 458 in the land records of Russell County, Virginia, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and having been requested to do so by the holder of the note evidencing the said indebtedness, the undersigned Substituted Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the Front Doors of the Russell County Courthouse located at 53 Main Street, Lebanon, VA 24226, on: September 24, 2026 at 11:00 AM The property described in said deed of trust located at the above street address, and more particularly described as: All that certain tract, piece or parcel of land which is designated as Lot No. 2 on that certain map or plat of the Scenic Green Valley Estates, which is dated May, 1976, and prepared by L. K. Addison, Certified Land Surveyor, and of record in the Russell County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Plat Book No. 5, at Page 55, to the record of which reference is here made for a more full and complete description of said lot. TERMS OF SALE: Cash or certified funds. A non-refundable deposit of ten percent (10%) of the successful bid price, payable in cash or by certified or cashier's check to the undersigned will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Terms of sale to be complied with within 14 days from date of sale or deposit will be forfeit and property will be resold at costs of defaulting purchaser. All real estate taxes to be adjusted as of date of sale. Seller shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by the purchaser in connection with their purchase or settlement, including, without limitation, state and local recording fees, title insurance or research, or any other costs of purchaser's acquisition. The property and the improvements thereon will be sold as is, without representations or warranties of any kind. The sale is subject to all other liens, encumbrances, conditions, easements and restrictions, if any, superior to the aforesaid deed of trust and lawfully affecting the property. Trustee shall have no duty to obtain possession for purchaser. All risks of casualty pass to successful bidder at conclusion of bidding. Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to

LEGAL NOTICES

the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower(s) entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the Purchaser's deposit without interest. Additional terms to be announced at the sale. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Terra Abstract Virginia, Inc. 1581 Main Street Suite 200 Warrington, PA 18976 (215) 572-8111, M-F Between 8:00AM - 5 P.M. (VA202500000121) In the event of postponement of the sale, which may be done at the discretion of the trustee, the date of the postponed sale will be announced at the sale. No new or additional notice will be provided other than the announcement at the sale. LN-08-26;09,2,9,16;2026

VA ABC NOTICE Full Name of owner: SN3911 LLC Trading as: County Mart 3911 Swords Creek Rd, Swords Creek, Russell County, VA 24649 The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a convenience grocery store, beer, wine, consumed off premises license

LEGAL NOTICES

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sohail Makani, Owners. Note: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200. LN-08-26,09-2;2026

SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$525.00 + \$89.00 court cost. **WILLS**-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorney-va.com

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-262-5564

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-844-216-5028



IDA
Russell County, VA
HIRING

The Russell County Industrial Development Authority is hiring a part-time Administrative Assistant. Cover letter & resume can be sent to laura@russellcountyyida.org. More information can be found at www.russellcountyyida.org. All applications should be submitted by September 11, 2026.

Russell County IDA is an equal opportunity employer.



NOW ACCEPTING

The Town of Lebanon is accepting applications for the position of Farmers Market Director for the 2027 season. Approximately 10 hours a week at the rate of \$12.77 per hour.

Applications can be obtained at the Lebanon Town Hall, 405 West Main Street, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. The deadline for applications is Friday, October 2, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

The Town of Lebanon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



We are pledged to the letter and spirit of Virginia's and HUD's equal opportunity housing policies. Virginia's fair housing law makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status or handicap. This newspaper (**The Lebanon News**) will not knowingly accept advertising for real estate that violates the fair housing law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. For more information about Virginia's Fair Housing Law or to file a fair housing complaint call the Virginia Fair Housing Office at (804)367-8530. Toll free call (888)551-3247/ For the hearing impaired call (804)527-4290.

**LOCAL NEWS**
Stay informed on what matters most.

**SPORTS**
Follow your favorite teams and athletes.

**OBITUARIES**
Honoring lives and sharing memories.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**
Discover local events happening near you.



 Find us online at **www.thelebanonnews.com**

LADY PIONEERS

FROM PAGE 1B



Jaidyn Fields with a slam at the net in the Lebanon win. Fields had 14 kills and 10 assists against the Cavaliers. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

The Cavaliers were up 25-24, one point away from the win, on serve. A service error to tie the score was their undoing. Holston was called for a carry, and Kaytie Lampkin ended it with a block to give Lebanon the set.

"I felt like I was playing behind the whole night," declared Price. "When we took the lead, we held them off. But Holston played smart. They kept the ball in play and did a good job defensively digging it up. We struggled a little bit."

The Cavs rolled out to a 10-4 advantage in set two. The Pioneers kept their composure and took the lead at 13-12 and never relinquished it.

"The new girls stepped up, especially on the front line," remarked Fields. "Abby (Mullins) and Raelynn (Huff) showed out. I was proud of everyone because I know the first game can be really scary. That was me once, and I was so scared."

Holston again led most of the way in set three. The Cavs held a 16-11 lead.

"We took a lot of timeouts, and Coach Price regrouped with us," Fields said. "He gathered us all together, and we realized we don't need to be losing right now. This isn't us. Coach helped us during the timeouts, talked some confidence into us, and then we went back out there and did our thing."

The Pioneers rallied down the stretch for the sweep. "We were right there in every set," Holston coach Jason Delp stated. "I told our girls there after one of those sets, we've been in a lot of these with teams that people kind of count us out on. We've been in a lot of these, and we rarely win them – we're close. It's just a matter of time

until we break through, but these girls have come a long way."

Bailee Singleton pounded 10 kills and also led the defense with 16 digs. Desk verify stat lines for both teams. Haleigh Dutton distributed 14 assists.

"My girls play awfully hard," commented Delp. "There's nobody who plays any harder than us. We're getting there, learning to play with each other. We graduated several. We've got a couple of freshmen out there playing a lot and contributing. It's just one of those deals. When we get it all together, at some point this season, we're definitely going to be a team to be reckoned with."

The Cavs are close. What will it take to get them over the hump?

"The girls need to believe in themselves more now than they ever have," Delp stated. "I think we've had teams in the past that really felt like they could win. But I think this team is starting to feel that way when they walk into a gym. At some point, they're going to feel like they're the team to beat. And when they get to that point – we're going to be a dangerous team."

In addition to Jaidyn Fields for Lebanon, Lampkin and Rhealyn Barton added four kills each. Carlee Ingram totaled 17 assists. Libero Kenlie Fields powered the defense with 30 digs.

"I felt our backline players played well," remarked Price. "We graduated almost our entire backline from last year. I thought they did a great job in the first game. We've got a long way to go. We'll just keep at it and see how it goes."



Jaidyn Fields (2) with a spike in the Lebanon win against Honaker. Keith Ray | For the Lebanon News



Raelynn Huff with a tip at the net for Lebanon as JuJu Farmer (15) goes up to defend for the Tigers. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

PIONEERS BEST

FROM PAGE 1B

"I was doing my best just to hit my spots," remarked Huff. "I love volleyball. It's super fun. I don't think it's as stressful as softball. I like volleyball a lot."

Huff finished with 17 service points, including three aces. She was also a factor at the net with four kills.

"Practicing with Coach (Kevin) Farmer has helped me a lot with my hitting approach and blocking," noted Huff. "My coaches have helped me a lot."

"I feel great about this team. We will have a big year."

The Tigers had some opportunities.

"When we play our game, we're all right," Honaker coach Lindsey Marshall said. "I have a young crew, and we've got to learn to play out the whole set."

Juju Farmer was outstanding for the Tigers

with 11 kills and three blocks. Cadence Rose added five kills. Alivia Keene dished out 13 assists.

"Again, if we play our game, we're good," noted Marshall. "The second we show any weakness, it just spirals downhill from there. I have to remember they're still young and getting used to each other. It's only our second game. I know we've still got jitters, but we've got to work them out."

Jaidyn Fields and Carlee Ingram totaled 11 kills each for Lebanon. The two, Fields (17 assists) and Ingram (11 assists), also directed the offense. The Pioneers had a big advantage at the net, 37-21 in spikes.

"We got a little mixed up a couple of times," Price said. "We're still working on the net and our blocking. I liked our rotation. We're trying to find that. Things are going well for us. It's early, with a lot of new faces. I'm happy for the girls. It's always a big game when we play Honaker."

The two clubs will meet again next week.

"We play at Honaker on Thursday. We have nothing but respect for them," declared Price. "We have to regroup and get back after it. I'm proud of all the girls. I thought they did a great job for us."



Kaytie Lampkin with a tip as Bailee Singleton (5) jumps to defend for the Cavs. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

POSITION AVAILABLE



The Town of Lebanon Police Department is accepting applications for the position of Community Police Officer. This is your chance to work with an excellent group of professional men and women in a very rewarding career field. Benefits include Virginia State Retirement, Medical, Dental, and Vision insurance. Pay range Uncertified Applicant \$37,500-\$39,487 and Certified Applicant \$51,000-\$54,000. Paid Overtime, Paid vacation/sick leave, paid holidays, and paid

training opportunities. Take home vehicles are available to officers within a 30-air mile radius of the town.

Current Virginia Law Enforcement Certification is preferred. The ideal candidate will have some knowledge of Law Enforcement procedures as they apply to a community oriented police department, demonstrate the ability to conduct thorough investigations, collect and preserve evidence, provide courtroom testimony, understand law and regulations, comply with department procedures, deal respectfully and tactfully with the public, communicate effectively, work cooperatively with the department and all other town personnel, and must be in good physical condition to meet the physical demands of the job. Candidates must pass an extensive background check and meet academy entrance standards which include completing 1.5 mile run in under 18 minutes and completion of the Law Fit obstacle course in under 1 minute 30 seconds.

All applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent, valid VA driver's license and must be 21 years of age by the date of employment to be a qualified applicant.

Applications can be obtained at the Lebanon Town Hall, 405 West Main Street, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. The deadline for applications is September 8th 2026 by 4:00 PM or until the position is filled.

The Town of Lebanon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Transform Your Bathroom and Change Your Life.

FREE TOILET + \$1,500 OFF*

For your FREE information kit and our Senior Discounts, Call Today Toll-Free

1-877-591-9950



safestep

*Free toilet with purchase and installation of a walk-in tub or walk-in shower only. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Market restrictions may apply. Offer available in select markets only. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445 13VH11096000



SAVE \$350 when you transform your patio into an outdoor oasis.



Call 1-844-746-2332 now to SAVE \$350 TODAY!

- Instant shade at the touch of a button.
- Enjoy more quality time with family and friends.
- Up to 10-Year Limited Warranty.

Sports: Day-by-Day

Monday (8/24)
Eastside 3, Honaker 1 (Volleyball)

Harper Mullins delivered an outstanding performance with 12 digs, eight kills, and two aces, helping the Spartans secure a 26-24, 15-25, 26-24, 25-22 victory at A.P. Baldwin Gymnasium.

Lexi Nixon contributed with 28 assists and six aces. Meanwhile, Heidi Craiger (seven kills), Abby Ward (five kills), and Dakota Clay (14 digs) played important roles for Eastside.

Cadence Rose (six kills), JuJu Farmer (four kills), and Tayler Honaker (four blocks) powered the Tigers.

Clinch Concert Series continues with Sister Sadie



Sister Sadie will be performing at The Russell on September 6.

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

The Russell Theatre's Clinch Concert Series continues this weekend with a performance by Sister Sadie.

The concert series brings to Lebanon some of the biggest names in bluegrass music.

"We are thrilled to announce the highly anticipated appearance of the remarkable Sister Sadie at the Clinch Concert Series," stated The Russell director Shane Farmer. "This extraordinary group has garnered significant acclaim, being nominated for a prestigious Grammy Award and recognized with multiple International Bluegrass Music Association Awards."

Sister Sadie will be at The Russell on September

6. The concert is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

Sister Sadie is enjoying a banner year and riding a wave of momentum. In the past year the band has earned five IBMA nominations as a group, including Entertainer of the Year, Vocal Group of the Year, Album of the Year, Music Video of the Year and Collaborative Recording of the Year with The Po' Ramblin' Boys.

"It feels like we're standing on really solid ground right now," said fiddler and bandleader Deanie Richardson. "We've spent the last year growing this band in every direction—playing new cities, writing and performing new songs, and challenging ourselves every night on stage. To have that work recognized by our peers while also taking

this music to audiences who may be seeing us for the first time is incredibly rewarding"

Sister Sadie's powerful performances have captivated audiences across the nation, and they have graced the iconic Grand Ole Opry stage, further solidifying their status as a leading force in the bluegrass music scene.

Sister Sadie is known for their unique blend of traditional bluegrass with contemporary influences, showcasing not only their exceptional musical talents but also their deep-rooted passion for storytelling through song. Their harmonies resonate with authenticity, and their energetic stage presence promises to create an unforgettable experience for all attendees at the Clinch Concert Series.

GENERAC

#1 standby generator worldwide.

Get whole-home power, automatically.

Call 844-947-1479 to schedule your free quote today!

*Terms & conditions apply

The Super Mario Galaxy Movie (PG)

Saturday, September 5: 1 pm (\$1 Saturday Special)
3 pm • 5 pm • 7 pm (\$3.00)

Sunday, September 6 at 3 pm

Clinch Concert Series Presents Sister Sadie
with Special Guests The Mendenhall Sisters

112 West Main Street • Lebanon, VA

www.therusselltheatre.com

THE RUSSELL

LEBANON, VA

Attention: Adults who are interested in getting their GED®

There are many opportunities available in Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Tazewell counties. All have locations where classes are being taught.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE

For additional information, please call Southwest Regional Adult Education at:

276-889-5424

Animal shelter once again honored by The Best Friends Network

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

The Russell County Animal Shelter has once again been honored by The Best Friends Network.

The shelter was honored for its care of animals in the facility in 2025. The shelter had a save rate above 90 percent.

A statement issued by shelter officials said, "We are incredibly proud and honored to receive a No-Kill Award! This recognition represents the dedication of our staff, veterinarian Dr. Michelle Meister Jones, Animal Control/Russell County Sheriff's Office, volunteers and rescue

partners."

The statement added, "Because of our community and team's support, countless shelter animals have been given the opportunity to find loving forever homes."

According to the organization's website, "The Best Friends Network is composed of thousands of public and private shelters, rescue groups, spay/neuter organizations and other animal welfare organizations in all 50 states."

It is a "...coalition committed to saving the lives of homeless cats and dogs through collaboration, information-sharing and implementation of proven lifesaving strategies."

The Best Friends Network honored the work of the Russell County Animal Shelter.

At TigeRx Pharmacy, every member is ready to work and be there for our patients!

(276) 873-4700

EXCITING NEWS!

I'M STARTING A New Chapter!

I'm proud to announce I'm joining the team at Toyota of Kingsport!

I INVITE ALL OF MY CUSTOMERS TO COME SEE ME FOR ALL YOUR VEHICLE NEEDS!

NEW & QUALITY PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

TRUSTED SERVICE

A SMOOTH, STRESS-FREE EXPERIENCE

Call BO PHILLIPS (276) 210-4312

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO EARN YOUR BUSINESS!

COME SEE BO AND LET'S GET YOU IN YOUR NEXT RIDE!

#AskForBoPhillips #ShopWithBo #Toyota