

The Lebanon News

Russell County's Family Newspaper Since 1880

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LEBANON, VIRGINIA | \$2

Data center developer meets with IDA, promises transparency with public

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Officials with Oasis Digital Properties were in Lebanon last week to meet with members of the Russell County Industrial Development Authority regarding a proposed data center that could be constructed on the old Moss 3 coal site.

Over the last two years rumors of a data center coming to that property have been circulating, although nothing official had been announced.

Last month, Oasis confirmed the rumors by listing Russell County among its projects on the company's website. The website described the project as a "236-acre site adjacent to an AEP power plant with immediate power availability."

Before going into closed session to discuss the pending agreement, members of the IDA and Oasis heard from David Dingus, a county resident who lives near the property in question.

Dingus had a number of questions, including how big the data center will be, how many jobs it will create and if those jobs will be held by local workers, and what safety measures have been put in place to protect the community and the environment.

Dingus also called for more transparency and said the code names given to IDA projects "is like CIA files". He pointed to names like Project Neptune and Project Powder as examples.

"You have to understand our culture," Dingus said. "People in this county have been taken advantage of by folks in fancy suits. These things are concerning to us."

Nick Over, a co-founder of Oasis, stressed that the company will be transparent with the public. He said the reason more information has not been released at this time is because the project is still in its infancy and many details must still be ironed out.

Over said Oasis plans on having an open house sometime in November. He said the event will be three or four

hours long and rather than having someone on a stage addressing the crowd, members of the public can speak to Oasis officials "one on one."

"We want to listen," Over said. "We sometimes get the best ideas from members of the public."

Ross Litkenhous, who also co-founded Oasis, said, "We understand your sensibilities."

Litkenhous said he grew up in a rural area in Alabama and understands the economic challenges of such localities. He said that is why Oasis works with rural counties to construct data centers in such areas.

He said the project will take five to seven years to construct and will employ approximately 1,000 construction workers.

"There will be a net of 30-50 high paying jobs," Litkenhous said, once the data center is up and running. He said Oasis will work closely with regional community colleges and the University of Virginia's College at Wise to prepare the necessary workforce.



There were plenty of smiles and screams on the scrambler ride.

Russell County Fair celebrates 250 years of freedom, honors 25th anniversary of 9-11

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

The Russell County Fair is always one of the most anticipated events on the calendar for local residents. But this year's fair seemed more special than previous events.

There were still plenty of rides at the carnival, vendors throughout the fairgrounds and activities to entertain everyone.

What set the 2026 fair apart was the celebration of 250 years of independence and the honoring of those who lost their lives 25 years ago on September 11.

American flags and other patriotic displays could be seen across the fairgrounds. And a special ceremony was held on the evening of September 11.

Former Russell County Sheriff and Bristol Police Department Chief Bill Price served as the emcee of the event.

Displayed during the ceremony was a fire truck, which is currently owned by the Copper Creek Fire Department. What makes this truck unique is, it was on site at ground zero on Sept. 11, 2001.

Among the speakers at the ceremony was Delegate Israel O'Quinn. "There are not a lot of days in US history or world history that truly alter the course of history," he said. "But 9-11 was one of those days. You could feel that as you watched the events unfold."

He said of all the bad things that happened on that day, two positives were also born that day. One was a new appreciation for first responders. "The other thing is we had an unprecedented surge in pride and patriotism and community spirit. Every business, every home, every church was flying an American flag."

Lebanon Police Chief Eric Deskins said Sept. 11 is not just a date we remember on the calendar, but we remember the nearly 3,000 innocent Americans who lost their lives on that day.

And we remember the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives in an effort to save others.

"We remember the mothers and fathers who kissed their children and never came back home," Deskins said. "We remember the husbands and wives that never came back."

But in addition to remembering September 11, Deskins said, "We need to remember what America looked like on September 12 because that's when you could see every bit of pride everyone had in America. For a brief moment we weren't Republicans, we weren't Demo-

SEE COUNTY FAIR | 6A

Cleveland hosts town hall meeting for Congressional candidate Joy Powers

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Ninth District Congressional candidate Joy Powers was in Cleveland last Thursday for the first of several town hall meetings she plans to have across the region.

Powers said one of the reasons she held her first town hall meeting here was because it was in Russell County that she made up her mind to run for Congress.

A farmer from Bedford, Powers said she was considering becoming a candidate when she brought a truckload of supplies to Dante last year after the community suffered catastrophic flooding.

"My dad told someone I was thinking about running against Morgan Griffith," Powers said. "The man turned around and said, 'Can I hug you?'"

Following her opening remarks, Powers spent over an hour answering nearly two dozen questions by those in attendance.

The proposed data center that could be coming to the

SEE TOWN HALL MEETING | 2A



Congressional candidate Joy Powers held a town hall meeting with voters in Cleveland.

County still waiting on attorney general opinion regarding PSA trash bill

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

In August 2025 the Russell County Board of Supervisors voted to seek the opinion of the Office of Attorney General regarding a waste disposal ordinance with the public service authority.

An ordinance was signed on May 5, 2006 that authorized the Russell County Public Service Authority to collect waste disposal fees. This is despite the fact that the PSA does not collect waste.

Last year several business owners spoke out against the

ordinance since they are paying for a service that is not offered. Following their comments, the board voted to seek the opinion of the OAG.

At the time, Russell County Administrator Lonzo Lester said it should take 60 days to receive the opinion. One year and one month later, the county is still waiting, according to board attorney Tyler Starnes.

The Lebanon News filed a Freedom of Information Act request with Lester regarding the matter on August 21. Under FOIA regulations, officials have five working days to answer the request.

When nine days had passed without a response, a reminder was sent to Lester. Lester said he forwarded the

request to Starnes.

Starnes wrote on September 10, "At this time, Russell County has not received an Opinion, or any documents, from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) regarding the Opinion Request I submitted to them at the direction of the Board of Supervisors pertaining to. This Opinion Request was submitted to the OAG on September 19, 2025, and was confirmed received by a member of their Staff."

He added, "I have been in discussions with the OAG regarding status updates on this Opinion since. In our latest phone call, which was earlier today, I was assured Russell County would receive the OAG Opinion promptly."



Early voting begins Friday for November election

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Early voting for the November 3 election is set to begin this Friday, September 18. The final day for early voting is October 31.

Voters can cast their ballots early at the Russell County Office of Voter Registration and Elections, located at 96 Russell Street in Lebanon.

One of Virginia's seats in the United States Senate, the Ninth District's Congressional seat, and seats on the county's three town councils will be on the ballot. Three proposed amendments to Virginia's Constitution will also appear on the ballot.

Incumbent Democrat Senator Mark Warner will be challenged by Republican Bert Mizusawa.

Republican Congressman Morgan Griffith will be running for reelection against Democratic challenger Joy Powers.

In Cleveland, Mayor Linda Couch will be running for reelection unopposed.

Four of the current five members of the Cleveland Town Council are seeking reelection. They include Megan Chumbley, Ty Harris, Jeremiah "Tiny" Neal and Thomas Vance.

A three-way race for the mayor's office will be on the ballot in Honaker. Mayor Jodi Eaton is being challenged by Earnest "Bubby" Short and Tommy Testerman.

Five candidates will be competing for three seats on the Honaker Town Council. They include Dewey "Benney" Chafin, Scott McGlothlin, Jennifer Short, Cathy Ray and Nancy Taylor.

Three seats will be contested on the Lebanon Town Council. Incum-

bents Nina Fields and Leonard Kegley will be running for reelection. Challengers include David Boyd, Carri Bradshaw and Andrew Mays.

Long-time council member and current vice mayor, Deanna Jackson, is not seeking reelection.

Three proposed constitutional amendments will also be on the ballot.

Question 1 asks: Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to protect the freedom to make personal decisions about prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion, miscarriage management, and fertility care; protect doctors, nurses, and patients from being punished for these decisions and allow for restrictions on access to abortion during the third trimester of pregnancy except when the patient's health is at risk or the pregnancy cannot survive?

Question 2 asks: Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to remove the ban on same-sex marriage; affirm that two adults may marry regardless of sex, gender, or race; and require all legally valid marriages to be treated equally under the law?

Question 3 asks: Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to provide for the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth, to revise the qualifications of voters so that a person convicted of a felony is not entitled to vote during his period of incarceration but is automatically invested with the right to vote upon release from incarceration, and to update the existing prohibition on voting by persons found to be mentally incompetent to instead apply to persons who have been found to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting?

The deadline to register for the November election and to request an absentee ballot is October 23.

Completed absentee ballots must be postmarked by November 3 and must be received by November 6 at noon.

Calendar of Events

SUPPORT GROUP FOR FEMALE SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Women survivors of sexual assault are invited to attend regular support group meetings or individual support if they prefer. Survivors meet in a safe environment with other women who have had similar experiences. Clinch Valley Community Action, Inc. Family Crisis Services knows and understands what a survivor is going through. The fact that you are alive and reading this means that you are incredibly strong, courageous and intelligent. We are here to aid in the recovery process with individual support sessions. Please call and let us help. We are a confidential service. For information, call Ranetta Davis (276) 889-8206 or Haley Slade at (276) 988-5583.

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEETING

Sons of Confederate Veterans Capt. John F. McElhenny Camp 840 meets 4th Thursday each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Russell County Public Library, Lebanon, VA.

HONAKER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1966 REUNION

The Honaker High School Class of 1966 will hold its 60th Reunion on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026, at the Russell County Conference Center in Lebanon. Details about the time, as well as the cost per person will be forthcoming. Also, the Class of 1968 has asked to join us. It'll be a great time for us to reconnect!

Contact Jim Baldwin for more information at the following: Phone/Text 276-608-7186, Email: jimbaldwin2@outlook.com

Feeding Southwest Virginia hosts elected officials across Southwest Virginia to raise awareness of hunger

Feeding Southwest Virginia was proud to host approximately 25 elected officials and guests at its Distribution Center in Abingdon.

September is Hunger Action Month, and one way the Food Bank raises awareness of food insecurity is by offering elected officials of the region an opportunity to volunteer and champion strong anti-hunger policies.

Of the 26 counties served by the Food Bank, six present the highest levels of food insecurity in the state.

The Food Bank relies on multiple federally funded programs to nourish an average of 129,000 neighbors every month. One such example is the Senior Box Kitting program, which sources food from the USDA.

In addition, more than half of Feeding Southwest Virginia's approximate 275 agency partners depend on the Food Bank's inventory of USDA food to nourish neighbors in their respective communities. The Food Bank also utilizes federal support for its Summer Food

Service Program, which provides hundreds of thousands of meals for children every summer.

President and CEO of Feeding Southwest Virginia, Pamela Irvine says, "Hunger is a bipartisan issue."

Irvine continues, "We ask that our local, state, and national elected officials support policies, such as the Farm Bill, that keep our inventory stocked and our neighbors in need fed. We are grateful for the elected officials who joined us and made a difference today."

The Food Bank was joined by such high-ranking officials as Congressman Morgan Griffith and Senator Traivs Hackworth. Elected officials from Washington County, Scott County, Smyth County, Abingdon, Damascus, and Bristol were in attendance.

The elected officials and guests worked together to sort, inspect, and bag potatoes for neighbors to enjoy in far Southwest Virginia. Their visit yielded 3,808 pounds of prepped potatoes in more than 380 family-sized bags.

TOWN HALL MEETING

FROM PAGE 1A

former Moss 3 site was a main topic of discussion.

Powers said data centers were being built with better safeguards in foreign countries than in the United States. She said nations, such as Finland, require 100 percent clean energy and data center companies have followed those strict regulations.

When asked about reports that data centers have a deadly effect on livestock, she said she has not reviewed such studies. Powers said she would like to see a moratorium on data centers until better safeguards are in place. "We've stopped four data centers in Virginia this year," she added.

Politicians on both sides of the aisle need to focus on rural health care, Powers said. Referring to Ballard Health's control of the local health care industry she said, "How did we even get here? Who thought that was a good idea?"

She said she was recently in Damascus and a town councilman gave her a stack of papers that were lawsuits filed by Ballard against residents who could not afford to pay their bills.

Powers said the solution was universal healthcare but she does not see that becoming a reality during the presidency of Donald Trump.

As the health care industry is transitioning to telehealth, Powers said it is vital that rural areas have internet access. She alleged that one of Griffith's top donors is a home health group from New York that would benefit financially from telehealth.

"AI (artificial intelligence) is a great tool for doctors but it should never replace doctors," Powers said.

On matters of immigration, Powers said ICE is not a constitutional agency. She said ICE overruling the local sheriff's office is a "blasphemous thing."

She said while Republicans seem to be against immigrants, "They don't have a problem marrying them," she joked.

When asked about her stance on abortion, Powers said, "I do not think politicians belong in health care." She said she has talked to many women who cannot afford to raise a child and thus abortion is an option.

While most of Powers' are standard Democratic, she did break from Governor Abigail Spanberger's stance on gun control. When asked if she supports Spanberger's gun bills she said, "No. I have my own gun thank you very much." She did, however, say universal background checks are a must, even at gun shows.

When asked if she would vote against Trump's agenda 100 percent of the time, Powers said she would not. While making it clear that she is no fan of the president, Powers said if a Republican backed bill would benefit the Ninth District, she would have an obligation to vote for it.

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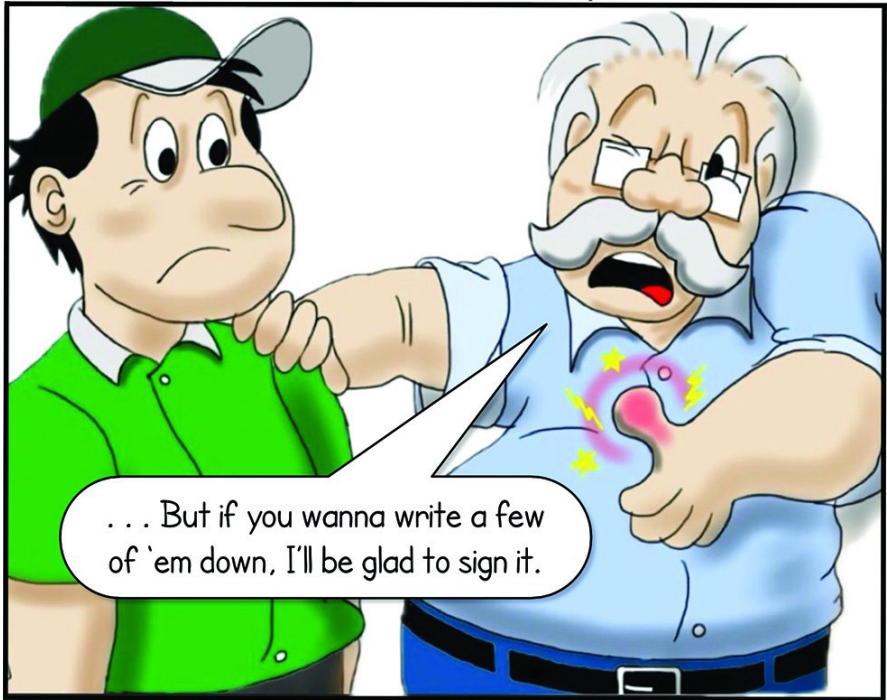
WHERE THEY FELL

WHAT THEY CLAIMED

Their lies come out of your wallet. Insurance fraud costs everyone in Virginia \$1,000 per year. Learn how to spot it and report it at TheCostOfFraud.com

STAMP OUT FRAUD
VIRGINIA STATE POLICE
INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM

Rueben



By R.G. Holmes © 2026

Three new members inducted into Russell County Fair's Livestock Division Hall of Fame

By SHAWN STREET
shawm@virginiamediainc.com

The Russell County Fair's Livestock Division Hall of Fame welcomed its newest members during a ceremony on September 7. Members of the class of 2026 are Beecher Jessee, K.O. Hartsock and Michael Witt.

Jessee was a Navy veteran of World War I and a lifelong farmer in Russell County.

"He always said his day wasn't complete unless he was on his horse before sunrise," stated Bruce Warner, who served as emcee of the induction ceremony.

In 1968, Jessee was the first county recipient of the National Family Farm Award. Having participated in fair events prior to World War I, Jessee was instrumental in reestablishing the fair in 1948 and he served on the fair's board for several years.

"K.O. Hartsock was a respected farmer, businessman and community leader whose legacy continues through the family farm that is still operated by later generations to this day," Warner said.

Hartsock was among the first cattlemen to bring Angus cattle to Russell County. In addition to working on his farm, he

owned and operated a country store and was among the first to have a television in Russell County.

Hartsock also served on the Russell County School Board, Southern States Cooperative Board, Livestock Committee of the Russell County Fair and as treasurer of his church.

"K.O. left a lasting impact on his community and family," Warner said.

A lifelong resident of Russell County, Michael Witt had a history of farming on both sides of his family.

"When asked to sit on the livestock committee of the Russell County Fair he

said he'd like to help young people that wanted to show lambs," Warner said.

Witt still serves at the fair some 30 years later. He raises Black Angus cattle and enjoys his time on the farm.



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Sept 20	The Waterboy (PG-13) • 5 PM (\$3)

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Michael Witt is joined by his family during the hall of fame ceremony.



The family of K.O. Hartsock celebrate his induction into the hall of fame.



Beecher Jessee's family with his hall of fame plaque.

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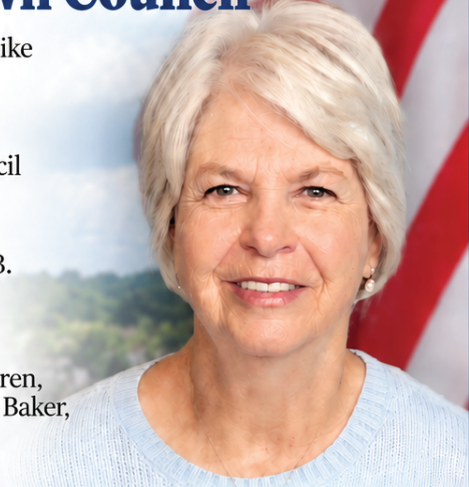
for Lebanon Town Council

My name is Nina Fields. I would like to announce my candidacy for reelection to the Lebanon Town Council. I have lived in Lebanon for 35 years and have been a council member for the past three years.

I was married to Doyle Fields for 30 years before his passing in 2023. I have one daughter, Debbie Baker and two stepsons, Johnathan and Nicole Fields and Brandon and Crystal Fields and five grandchildren, Sydney Pike, Grayson and Maddox Baker, Addison and Cooper Fields.

I am a member of Cedar Pointe Baptist Church.

I count it a privilege to serve the citizens of Lebanon as your council member and value your consideration on November 3.



Thank you for your support!

EARLY VOTING BEGINS SEPTEMBER 18

Forward, always forward.

★ VOTE NOVEMBER 3 ★

SAFE SPORTS

WORD SEARCH

W K F E B A T H L E T E M P N I A R T S
U H E L M E T U P L Y O D V N P M C N P
W C L E A T S T D L U G W D I E F A T B
N L P L N C V V T T N N A G C R O N C A R
S O D O F I P R H I O O R O S G G T A A
T I I U K A N G N N D N M G A O A F P C
A A U T E K U O K F B A U G O N E P M E
M R H I A A I G I M P D P L S O P R I L
I Y R L R T O H E S Y H N E Y M I T Y F
N E F D I R I D P H U O G S C I H D N S
A W H D L Y E L Y A I T L A F C S K O U
U M N S N S U D I T D U N B C S N N I P
G O C P F O R A A B I D D O U R A W S E
C S V R N A D M S U A M I H C E M O S R
K O U A T N M E N F K H O N Y F S D U V
W U V I B A V N H A U D E Y G E T L C I
O R O N L H R W H B V T E R T R R O N S
F N C F T E A M W O R K W T L E O O O I
M T N V R H O O N C D V K B D E P C C O
I I E T I U R M H T O H U R W H S F R N

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ATHLETE
BRACE
CLEATS
CONCUSSION
CONDITIONING
CONTUSION
COOL DOWN
ERGONOMICS
GOGGLES
HELMET
HYDRATION
IMPACT
INFLAMMATION
MOUTH GUARD
PADDING
REFEREE
REHABILITATION
SPORTSMANSHIP
SPRAIN
STAMINA
STRAIN
SUPERVISION
TEAMWORK
WARM-UP

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14
15 16 17
18 19 20 21
22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37
38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64

CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull god
5. A young canine
8. North Carolina university
11. "Oddbod" actor Tom
13. Midway between northeast and east
14. A place to shop
15. Mysterious "Severance" family
16. Single Lens Reflex
17. Malaria
18. Informal loan organizations
20. Twitching
21. Holm oak
22. Willing to consent
25. In an early way
30. Stuck it out
31. Language in Ghana
32. Obtain
33. Ancient Greek currency
38. One point east (clockwise) of due north

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge-building degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Lizard species
4. Turkish leader title
5. A way to bother
6. Blank
7. A fine, closely woven cotton fabric
8. Sports broadcaster Ian
9. Popular whodunit board game
10. Alkali flats mineral
12. Large African antelope
14. It's delivered most days
19. Satisfy
23. Water soaked soil
24. Of a past era
25. Chest muscle (slang)
26. Ribonucleic acid
27. Doctor of Education
28. Coffee receptacle

41. Popular baseball movie
43. Group of islands
45. Church building
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
49. Late AC/DC frontman Scott
50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
55. Thick piece of something
56. Breakfast food
57. One mole of solute per kilogram of solvent
59. Ancient Greek City
60. Bitterly regret
61. Don't forget it
62. Dishonorable man
63. Affirmative
64. "___ and flows"

29. Where rockstars work
34. International airport in Connecticut
35. Russian river
36. It's used to make cabins
37. OJ trial judge Lance
39. A means to persuade
40. Short poem
41. A way to begin hostilities with
42. Multi-function radar (abbr.)
44. Joints
45. Blatted
46. Swedish rock group
47. Millisecond
48. ___ podrida: Spanish stew
51. Doctors' group
52. Trunk of a tree
53. Tattle
54. Metrical foot
58. ___ Angeles

PUZZLE SOLUTION

B A T A P U P E C U
C L E G G E N E M A L L
E A G A N S L R A G U E
S U S U S T I C I L E X
A M E N A B L E
P R E M A T U R E L Y
E N D U R E D D E G
C A D G E O B O L I
N B E S A N D L O T
A R C H I P E L A G O
B A S I L I C A
M O A B B O N R A B B I
S L A B E G G M O L A L
E L E A R U E A L A M O
C A D Y E S E B B S

SUDOKU

	4	8					9	
		9			7			
		3					7	
						5		
5				9	6			
				2	5			3
		2				8	3	1
6				3		2		
		4			9			

Level: Intermediate

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to sports.

I E F D L

Answer: Field

GUESS WHO ?

I am an athlete born in Texas on September 17, 1995. I played football, basketball and baseball while in high school. But football is where I eventually gravitated, despite my father playing professional baseball. I have led the Kansas City Chiefs to several Super Bowl victories.

Answer: Patrick Mahomes

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to sports safety. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 22 = E)

A. 2 22 17 19 22 10
Clue: Protects head

B. 23 22 15 6
Clue: Equipment

C. 6 25 17 22 13
Clue: Govern play

D. 21 22 5 15 17 10 26
Clue: Punishment

Answers: A. helmet B. gear C. rules D. penalty

W K F E B A T H L E T E M P N I A R T S
U H E L M E T U P L Y O D V N P M C N P
W C L E A T S T D L U G W D I E F A T B
N L P L N C V V T T N N A G C R O N C A R
S O D O F I P R H I O O R O S G G T A A
T I I U K A N G N N D N M G A O A F P C
A A U T E K U O K F B A U G O N E P M E
M R H I A A I G I M P D P L S O P R I L
I Y R L R T O H E S Y H N E Y M I T Y F
N E F D I R I D P H U O G S C I H D N S
A W H D L Y E L Y A I T L A F C S K O U
U M N S N S U D I T D U N B C S N N I P
G O C P F O R A A B I D D O U R A W S E
C S V R N A D M S U A M I H C E M O S R
K O U A T N M E N F K H O N Y F S D U V
W U V I B A V N H A U D E Y G E R T L C I
O R O N L H R W H B V T E R T R R O N S
F N C F T E A M W O R K W T L E O O O I
M T N V R H O O N C D V K B D E P C C O
I I E T I U R M H T O H U R W H S F R N

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

7	4	8	3	5	2	1	9	6
1	6	9	4	8	7	3	2	5
2	5	3	6	9	1	4	7	8
3	9	6	8	7	4	5	1	2
5	2	1	9	6	3	7	8	4
4	8	7	1	2	5	9	6	3
9	7	2	5	4	6	8	3	1
6	1	5	7	3	8	2	4	9
8	3	4	2	1	9	6	5	7

Horoscopes

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, this week calls for a break from your usual fast pace. If you've been burning the candle at both ends, your energy reserves will be depleted. Focus on fortifying yourself and your space.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Miscommunication is likely if you rush your words, Taurus. Take an extra breath before responding when someone asks you a question or when addressing emails.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
It's time to audit where your money is going, Gemini. If you've been overspending as a balm to stress, hit the brakes. Look for areas where you can plug any financial leaks.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
The spotlight is firmly on you right now, Cancer. You might feel a sudden urge to change your style, update your resume or shed an old identity that no longer fits. Trust this instinct.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
The universe is asking you to clear out some psychic debris this week. It is a great time for journaling and heavy solo time. If secrets or old resentments bubble up, just let them go.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Your social life is getting a bit of a reality check, Virgo. You might realize that certain friendships have felt a bit one-sided. Seek people who inspire you.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
The spotlight shines brightly on your professional zone this week, Libra. Instead of waiting for recognition, create your own. Update your portfolio or pitch an idea you have been sitting on.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you may be craving a breakdown of boredom. If you can't physically travel right now, satisfy this urge by stretching your mind another way.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
This week drags you into deeper psychological waters than you might care to swim in, Sagittarius. It's a powerful time for intimacy or understanding behaviors.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Relationships take center stage, Capricorn. If there is an imbalance of power, it will need to be corrected. Approach conversations this week with diplomacy.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, your daily habits are catching up to you. If you've been eating poorly or skipping sleep, your body will demand a reset. Focus on micro-habits to get back on track.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Your playful side is begging for attention, Pisces. Make time for hobbies, art or romance that serve no purpose but to bring you joy.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 13
Niall Horan, Singer (33)

SEPTEMBER 14
Kimberly Williams, Actress (55)

SEPTEMBER 15
Tom Hardy, Actor (49)

SEPTEMBER 16
Alexis Bledel, Actress (45)

SEPTEMBER 17
Baz Luhrmann, Director (64)

SEPTEMBER 18
James Marsden, Actor (53)

SEPTEMBER 19
Jimmy Fallon, TV Host (52)

Congressman Griffith: Fighting to Protect the Second Amendment

New cases are set to go before the United States Supreme Court. As is custom, many outside groups with an interest in a case plan to submit amicus briefs.

Getting its term from Latin, “amicus” or “friend” of the Court review matters of a legal issue and provide findings in a legal document for Court consideration.

In particular, one amicus brief collected support with respect to Second Amendment rights.

I am a proud supporter and signee of an amicus brief filed by the American Center for Law & Justice (ACLJ) and led by Georgia Congressman Andrew Clyde.

The amicus brief addresses two cases currently before the U.S. Supreme Court, *Viramontes v. Cook County* and *Grant v. Higgins*. Chief Justice John Roberts and the other eight justices will examine the constitutionality of legal restrictions against semi-automatic rifles.

One attorney who is listed as a Counsel of Record drafting a separate amicus brief in *Viramontes v. Cook County* is former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cucinelli.

Earlier this year, Cucinelli tried to fight in Virginia courts against Governor Abigail Spanberger’s gun grab legislation that places new restrictions on semi-automatic weapons.

But with this new legal fight brewing in the U.S. Supreme Court, I signed my name onto the ACLJ amicus brief that uses similar arguments made by Cucinelli in the Virginia case.

The heart of the argument lies with previous laws tied to a Militia.

In June 1776, the Virginia Convention adopted the Virginia Declaration of Rights. This document is considered a major source of the Bill of Rights that later became part of the U.S. Constitution.

The Virginia Declaration of Rights included the Militia Clause as drafted by founding father George Mason.

The Militia Clause states: “That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the



MORGAN GRIFFITH

WEEKLY REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL

proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state...”

Further, the Clause reaffirms that “the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

This language is enshrined in Article I, Section 13 of the Virginia Constitution.

Further, the Militia Act of 1792 required ordinary citizens to provide themselves with the standard infantry arm of the era.

As our amicus brief states, the arms the citizen was expected to keep were the arms they would bring to militia service.

The establishment of an organized militia, what we know today as the National Guard, came as a result of the Militia Act of 1903. But this legislation did not change the fact that there remains an unorganized militia. Federal law continues to recognize this class of U.S. citizens who are not members of the National Guard.

Therefore, this militia class as proposed by Mason and our founders remains well intact. And with this class comes the access to bear arms for service to a militia.

Respect for this concept has notably frayed, with more

Democratic states challenging gun laws on the basis that military-grade style weapons are not protected.

Of course, not every militarily useful weapon is protected.

Nuclear or chemical weapons, tanks and the like fall outside of the scope that an ordinary citizen would be expected to keep or bring for lawful purposes.

A semi-automatic rifle is a class of weapon that extends to tens of millions of Americans, however. The National Shooting Sports Foundation estimates that some 24 million Americans own some modern sporting rifle.

Moreover, numerous state court decisions cited in the brief show no link of weighing military usefulness with the restriction on a firearm.

To this point, we argue that the Second Amendment protects Americans from prohibitions on guns on the grounds that mere possession of an arm with a military characteristic or usefulness is not unlawful.

For a militia to carry out its goals of self-defense as well as the defense of the State, access to the kind of weapons that are in common use for lawful purposes and bear a reasonable relationship to the citizen-militia tradition is protected.

It is my hope that the Supreme Court considers the amicus brief I signed onto, addresses these fundamental issues and rules that bans on semiautomatic weapons are unconstitutional.

I will continue to oppose radical Democratic Party policies that attack our constitutional rights, restrict the Second Amendment and weaken the concept of a militia of ordinary men and women.

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/>. Also on my website is the latest material from my office, including information on votes recently taken on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Another Letter from your Mountain Cousin

Dear Cousin,

The fall winds are blowing! And the cooling breezes feel wonderful up on the mountain while we work. I love the month of September. Finally summer’s heat slowly gives way to the cooler days of fall. Each morning you can lift your windows and let some fresh morning air drift in and across the floors, and chill your toes. Before too long the air conditioner can be turned off and the house regulated with just cool morning air flowing in, and shades to keep the bright sun of midday out.

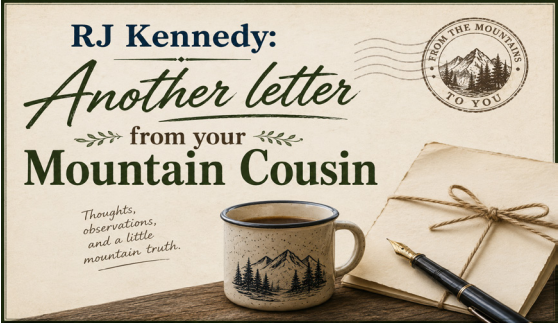
Up in the pastures the first of the September wild flowers are blooming. Of course we consider them weeds. The goldenrod is out, and the timeless purple of heal-all is all about the pastures.

These are my favorite September flowers. Sometimes I can’t resist keeping a few of them along the ditches as I weed eat.

The iron weed we have cut like crazy and I have noticed many of the farmers are losing pasture to a three to four foot tall weed, that blooms a yellow flower that I can’t identify in my Audubon field guide to North American wildflowers. I’m sure the local farmers must know what you call it. But we fight it constantly.

It will take over pastures if let go and it’s hard to cut! Once it’s down the cows can get to the good grass below. The kids have been helping us cut the pastures, it’s tough work!

This morning cuz, my Bible reading was in Ecclesiastes chapter three. And in the old King James it reads: “To everything there is a season, and time to every purpose under the heaven: (Now is weed cutting, hay cutting and baby calf selling.) A time to be born, (that was spring) and a time to die: (losing our old cat) a time to plant, (that’s the garden in spring) and a time to pluck up that which is planted: (that’s the ground hog stealing our corn) A time to kill, (in the old days there was hog killing time here on this farm: and a time to heal: (we are still treating the goats hurts) a time to break down, (this year it was better half’s taking down a dangerous old shed) and a time to buildup: (here it’s the old rock walls built by the CCC boys in the ‘30s we keep rebuilding) A time to weep, (sometimes the pain is unbearable) and a time to laugh: (watching grandkids) and a time to mourn, (as this last



great generation passes away) and a time to dance; (doctors have found that dancing is a great and possibly the best exercise for old people) And it reminds me of how when an Indian was sick the medicine man would ask him when was the last time he danced or the last time he sang. I can’t wait to get to heaven so we

can dance with Jesus!

“A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together.” Here we gather stones and fill in bad washes, cave holes and sinkholes. We cast them away off the pastures, and on to the road. “A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.” This generation needs to learn this rule. Wait till you’re married to embrace, it will be worth it. “A time to get and a time to lose: a time to keep, a time to cast away.’ When you are young, you try to gather up what you need to run a household, decorate a home, build a workshop, get your tools together and when you’re old you see it’s time to start cleaning out and giving away;

“A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.” Here the farm socks tear open so often and it’s time to mend them back together. And this generation could learn the benefits of silence, putting the phone down and sitting in nature, listening to the birds and thinking before they speak. We all could learn to do that cuz.

“A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.” Jesus said to “Love one another” this is a new commandment we should all follow. And we should hate sin, and the deeds of sinners, the wickedness that is so rampant in our world. We must declare war on this wickedness. In our day there was a war on drugs. I believe our enemies would love to destroy all our young people with deadly drugs. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and we desire peace, while the devil desires despair, murder, evil and chaos.

Cuz, I was shown a great truth, Moses brought the law, but it was only Joshua, which means Savior, could bring the children into the Promised Land. The law cannot bring us into the Promised Land, only the Savior.

Until next week, keep looking up.

“Cuz tomorrow is the 25th anniversary of 9/11-We will never forget!”

RJ Kennedy



DEBBIE GIBSON

When Did You Stop Dancing?

I have been doing some research on Native American Indian populations in our area and came across a blog on the Internet that offered some pertinent information to the topic I am researching and was also applicable to a state of mind that I have found myself in recently. Oral history tells that when a person within the tribe became depressed, disquieted, or disillusioned that the individual would be asked four questions by the shaman, or healer of the tribe. They were asked, “When did you stop dancing?” “When did you stop singing?” “When did you stop being enchanted by stories?” and “When did you stop finding comfort in the sweet territory of silence?”

I felt my heart clutch when I read those words. I have stopped dancing. I have stopped singing, and while I am still enchanted by stories and the “sweet territory of silence,” there is a certain part of me that recognizes the half-heartedness of my current position in life. I used to dance. I used to sing. What made the fancy feet and the songbird flee? I think I know.

Most of you do not know that I suffer from a rather curious muscular and skeletal disorder called fibromyalgia. It is a debilitating condition and a depressing diagnosis, for no one knows what causes it, and the measures to help you live life to the fullest are often feeble in response to the daily pain and discomfort. I liken it to a snake, a sneaky snake that awakens in different parts of the body, hibernates and gives false hope, and then rears its ugly head again just when you thought you had kissed renewal once again. Weather changes are dreaded, and a constant awareness of hurt taints even the most pleasurable of days. When I stopped to think about the cessation of dance and song, I had to pinpoint their absence coinciding with the abiding ache I feel.

There is no prescription for song and dance in my doctor’s repertoire, but it might be worth a try to reconfigure life and allow for time for both of those since I am keenly adept at the art of stories and silence. Perhaps, and I am thinking out loud on paper, there is merely an imbalance within me that has dishonored the exuberance of life when it became harder to do so because of chronic pain. Maybe, there is just too much introspection and not enough outward manifestation of meaning through dance and song in my life.

When I was young, I took ballet for ten years. I can remember how it felt to become the music. I can remember pushing myself to learn the choreography and the way by which complex steps became a thing of beauty. I also remember throwing my head back and singing like no one was listening. I sang all sorts of songs from every genre, and I lived inside of those lyrics.

Who knows if my renewed attempts will help me recover that part of myself that seems to be missing, but I think it might be worth a try. Who cares who sees or hears me? I’m much too old to care what others think of me. I live a good life, and should I stumble during the dance or miss a note, then I’ll just have to be forgiven.

Life is certainly not without pain. Pain can make, or break, a spirit. It comes in all shapes and sizes from the tiny boo-boo to the soul-rocking, life-changing pain that makes you question your very existence. There is solace to be had, however, in our healing, our friendships, and the love of those who know us better than anyone, and perhaps, in dance, song, enchanted stories, and silence.

May we tend ourselves in the ways that facilitate our healing, and should we see someone struggling to dance or sing; share your own dance, extend your hand, and throw back your head and sing as only you can sing. I’ll be listening for the sound of your little feet and the melody of your voice. You be listening for mine!

Adult education connection

Improving reading comprehension is an important part of success in adult education. Strong reading skills help students understand lessons, complete assignments, prepare for tests, and use information in everyday life. While reading may sometimes feel challenging, comprehension can improve with practice and the right strategies.

One helpful strategy is to identify the main idea of what you are reading. Ask yourself, “What is this passage mostly about?” Then look for details that support the main idea. Learning to separate important information from less important details can make reading easier to understand.



BEVERLY PRATER ASHBY

stand.

Students can also improve comprehension by building their vocabulary. When you come across an unfamiliar word, take time to figure out its meaning. Use context clues, a dictionary, or ask your instructor for help. Learning new words will make future reading easier.

Another effective strate-

gy is to summarize what you have read. After reading a paragraph or section, explain the information in your own words. Discussing the material with classmates can also help you understand different perspectives and remember important information.

Most importantly, students should practice reading regularly. Reading a little each day can build

confidence and improve skills over time. Adult education classes provide a supportive environment where students can ask questions, practice new strategies, and learn from their mistakes.

Improving reading skills is a gradual process. By incorporating these strategies, you can enhance your reading skills and boost your confidence. With dedication and the right resources, anyone can become a proficient reader. A great resource to take advantage of is your local adult education program. For more information, call Southwest Regional Adult Education at 276-889-5424 to see what opportunities are available to the adults in your community.

COUNTY FAIR

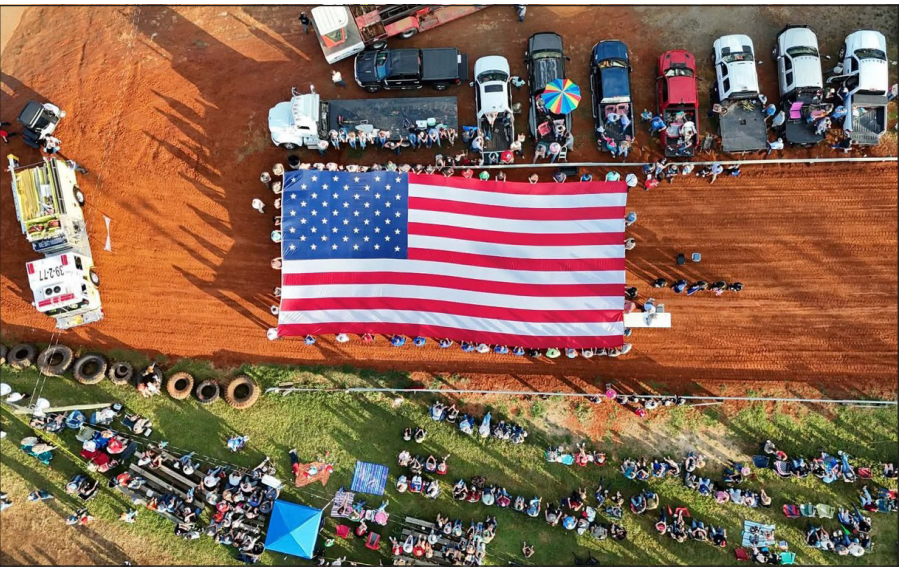
FROM PAGE 1A

crats. We weren't red states, we weren't blue states. We were Americans.”

First responders from across the county unfurled a large American flag and held it proudly while the “The Star-Spangled Banner” was performed.

O’Quinn and Miss Virginia Association of Fairs Izzy Horn presented the first responders with challenge coins.

The ceremony concluded with a somber ringing of the bell.



First responders salute America with this large flag.



Samuel Osborne's artwork won a blue ribbon.



The horse pull is always a crowd favorite.



Soaring high above the Russell County fairgrounds.



Patriotism was on display at the Russell County Fair.



Horsepower was on display during the truck pull.



This fire truck was at ground zero on September 11, 2001.



The country store is always a favorite hangout during the fair.



The fair is a time for hanging out with best friends.



General & Special Election

TUESDAY, Nov 03, 2026

POLLS OPEN 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

VOTE AT YOUR DESIGNATED POLLING PLACE.

Check Your Polling Place Before Going To The Polls.

All Voters Will Be Asked To Show One Form Of ID.

FINAL DAY

TO REGISTER OR UPDATE YOUR RECORD IS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026

REGISTER/UPDATE IN-PERSON
96 Russell ST, Lebanon, VA
Monday through Friday 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

REGISTER/UPDATE ONLINE
www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal

REGISTER/UPDATE BY MAIL
Request Application at 276-889-8006

EARLY VOTING

OFFICE OPEN

Friday, Sep 18 – Saturday, Oct 31
Monday - Friday
8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Saturday, Oct 24 & Saturday, Oct 31
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Oct 18 & Saturday, Oct 25
12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

OFFICE CLOSED
Columbus Day
Monday, Oct 12, 2026

ABSENTEE VOTING

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR A BALLOT BY MAIL

Friday, Oct 23, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.

BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE

Tuesday, Nov 03, 2026

DIANA R. SHORTER, DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS & GENERAL REGISTRAR

Office of Voter Registration & Elections
96 Russell ST, Lebanon VA 24266 ■ 276-889-8006

Five-time champs
honored before
Lebanon football game

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Members of the Lebanon High School Speech Team received their state championship rings last week in a special ceremony before the Lebanon-Marion football game. The 2026 championship marks the fifth in a row for the Sarah Stoots-led team. State Senator Todd Pillion and Delegate Israel O’Quinn were on hand to present the rings.

SEE PERFECT START | 5B



Todd Pillion and Israel O’Quinn honor the five time state champions.



Brody Boothe (5) and Wesley Alexander pressure Marion quarterback Colten Jessee. Preston Ball Photography | For the Lebanon News

Lebanon holds off
Hurricane rally for first win

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

LEBANON (Sept. 10, 2026) – It wasn’t necessarily the prettiest football game ever played—but it was a win. On Thursday at Harry Stuart Field, the Pioneers held off a second-half challenge from Marion to put their first check in the win column this season. Lebanon made three first-half touchdowns stand up in an 18-12 Southwest District victory over the Scarlet Hurricane. “It doesn’t matter whether it’s ugly or a good one; wins are always good,” Lebanon coach Hunter Norris said. “Winning’s always good, but we’re very young. Maybe not in age, but we’re young in experience. And sometimes that shows.” The Scarlet Hurricane took the opening kickoff. After a sizeable gain, Cole Fedorchuk fumbled, and Lebanon’s Caiden Glass recovered. On the Pioneers’ first offensive play, Will Jessee connected with Liam Spencer down the middle for a 37-yard touchdown pass. Twenty seconds into the contest, Lebanon had a 6-0 advantage. “Liam Spencer is obviously a great freshman receiver who’s gonna be coming up with me,” Will Jessee said. “It was amazing. We executed early, built confidence, and it felt good. “That early touchdown was very important. We struggled to score in the second half, but that’s something we gotta build on — finish games. But it’s big for confidence coming out and just getting everybody like, “Hey, we can do this.” Both teams struggled to move the ball in the first half. Early in the second quarter, Ethan Hylton was carrying the ball for the Hurricanes when Layne Jessee stripped the ball free for the Pioneers. Braelin Hess scooped the ball and raced 35 yards for Lebanon’s second score. “If you can win the turnover battle, you’ve got a really good chance at winning the football game,” remarked Norris. “We did a good job not just forcing turnovers but also gaining yards on them, which put us in great field position. That matters. In Week 1, we had terrible field position all night. It seemed like we started on the twenty every time we got the ball, and it’s hard to drive the ball eighty yards.” Two miscues and Marion (0-3), which has lost 24 games in a row, were down 12-0. “One thing we have preached this week is that we just want to do everything and play as hard as we can

on every single play,” said Marion coach Billy Testerman. “I felt like we did that tonight. Even when we had those turnovers, there have been times when we would not execute, but our guys battled back, so I’m really, really pleased with their effort.” After a Scarlet Hurricane punt, Lebanon (1-2) mounted its best sustained drive of the game. Will Jessee hit Spencer, Blair Clark, and Hess with passes to move the football. Will Jessee lofted a screen pass to Clark for a 29-yard gain to the Marion two. Layne Jessee burst through up the middle with a two-yard TD plunge to put the Pioneers up 18-0. “I thought the first half, offensively, we were clicking really well,” declared Norris. “We were taking advantage of a defense we didn’t expect to see. We didn’t even practice what they ran at us tonight, so we had to make adjustments on the fly. That’s credit to those offensive linemen and to Coach Boothe, our offensive line coach. Those guys did a heck of a job making adjustments and giving us the ability to run the football, which we struggled with last week. So it’s good to see us get that back on track. And I thought Will threw the ball really well tonight.” That’s where the score remained until the break. Marion moved the football in the second half. On their first possession, they covered 50 yards in nine plays. Quarterback Colten Jessee tossed a four-yard TD pass to Brayden Bowman, cutting the Pioneers’ lead to 18-6. In the fourth quarter, the Scarlet Hurricane closed the gap. On 4th-and-4 at their own 42, the Pioneers went for it but were stymied, turning the ball over on downs. Marion moved the ball upfield quickly with two big pass plays. Colten Jessee then bolted up the middle for a two-yard TD, cutting the deficit to 18-12 with 6:34 remaining. The momentum had shifted. “We were right in it,” Testerman stated. “We battled to the end. I’m real proud of my guys’ efforts. It was tremendous, and I knew they had this ability and this game in them because we showed it early in the pre-season. We took a huge step tonight. I’m real proud of my guys.” Lebanon took the ensuing kickoff and found their run game. Using mostly Layne Jessee’s running, they ran out the clock. “We finally got our huddle sideline fixed, so we could make adjustments on the sideline with those linemen who are not in the game on defense,” Norris stated. “We talked about the looks we were getting,

SEE LEBANON HOLDS OFF

Cove edges
Honaker 31-30
in thriller

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

HONAKER (Sept. 11, 2026) – Avery Rose, wide open on the left flat, caught a pass from Tyler Shupe for a two-point conversion with just over a minute to play, lifting the War Eagles to a 31-30 victory over Honaker on Friday. Rye Cove (3-0) remained undefeated, securing a quality road win in a wild, high-scoring battle at EMATS Stadium. “You know what? Kudos to Honaker,” said Rye Cove coach Gary Collier. “They come ready to play. You think a team loses their quarterback (Honaker’s Parker Lowe to injury), they’ll back off a little bit, but man, we weren’t ready for what they gave us. I think they beat us up front and in all aspects of the game. “At halftime, we made a few adjustments, attitude and effort, and talked about how big those two points or extra points are to win ball games. I’m proud of our kids for not giving up.” The game saw five lead changes, with momentum shifting back and forth. The two teams combined for

SEE HONAKER VOLLEYBALL | 2B



Levi Honaker (4) gets to the corner around Rye Cove’s Cole Williams (24) and Caden Bishop (68) in the Tigers’ loss. Keith Ray | For the Lebanon News

Day-by-Day

Monday (9/7)
Lebanon 3, Holston 2 (Volleyball)
Jaidyn Fields (19 assists, 18 kills, 10 digs) and Kenlie Fields (34 digs) were the catalysts as Pioneers outlasted Holston, 25-15, 20-25, 21-25, 25-21, 15-6, in non-district play to remain undefeated. Carlee Ingram (19 assists, 15 digs), Abby Mullins (eight kills), Brooklyn Sutherland (12 digs), and Kaytie Lampkin (seven kills, six blocks) were all important in the win. Bailee Singleton (10 digs, three aces), Lydia Reid (15 digs, 10 kills), and Haleigh Dutton (13 assists) led the Cavaliers.

Wednesday (9/10)
Eastside 3, Honaker 1 (Volleyball)
The Spartans rallied, winning the last three sets to notch a 12-25, 25-14, 25-16, 25-16 non-district win over visiting Honaker. Abby Ward totaled nine kills, 10 digs, three aces, and 16 service points to pace Eastside. Heidi Craiger (10 kills, six blocks), Lexi Nixon (26 assists, 12 digs, eight service points, three kills), Dakota Clay (34 digs, eight service points), Katie Williams (11 digs, four kills) and Harper Mullins (seven digs, three aces) also played for the Spartans. Aliyah Hilton had 17 digs for the Tigers. Kyndall Miller (five kills) and JuFu Farmer (four kills) played well on the frontline in the loss.

New Peoples Bank

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Jaidyn Fields

Posted a triple-double with 19 assists, 18 kills, and 10 digs as Lebanon remained undefeated with a five-set non-district volleyball victory at Holston.

New Peoples Bank
www.NewPeoples.Bank

Member FDIC

CONGRATULATIONS!

LEBANON HOLDS OFF

FROM PAGE 1B

what we wanted to do, and who we were missing. We were one block away from a big gain, and you saw it on that last drive when we were able to run the clock out and get into victory formation.”

It was a much-needed win for the Pioneers. Marion’s last victory came on November 3, 2023, 22-20 at Virginia High.

“Testerman’s doing a really good job at Marion with those guys,” Norris noted. “He’s got them bought in. They’ve got fifty-seven kids over there. He’s got them going in the right direction.”

Lebanon travels to Rural Retreat on Friday.

“This feels good,” Will Jessee said. “We started out 0-2, obviously, but we’re bouncing back, and I think we can get on a roll, building off this win. Just next week now — enjoy this tonight and then get ready to go win next week.”

LEBANON 18, MARION 12					
Marion	0	0	6	6	—12
Lebanon	6	12	0	0	—18
First Quarter					
LEB—Spencer 37 pass from W. Jessee (kick failed), 11:40					
Second Quarter					
LEB—Hess 35 fumble recovery (run failed), 10:34.					
LEB—L. Jessee 2 run (run failed), 3:56.					
Third Quarter					
MARION—Bowman 4 pass from C. Jessee (kick blocked), 6:05.					
Fourth Quarter					
MARION—C. Jessee 2 run (run failed), 6:34.					
.....	MAR	LEB			
First downs	11	16			
Total Net Yards	174	352			
Rushes-yards	30-136	26-135			
Passing	38	217			
Comp-Att-Int	5-15-2	15-34-1			
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-1			
Penalties-Yards	4-25	8-93			
Punts	4-39.2	3-27			



Liam Spencer breaks free with a TD pass from Will Jessee on the Pioneers first offensive play of the game. Preston Ball Photography | For the Lebanon News



Caiden Glass (15) makes a diving catch in front of Marion defensive back Taelyn Parrish (13). Preston Ball Photography | For the Lebanon News

DAY-BY-DAY

FROM PAGE 1B

Thursday (9/11)
Lebanon 3, Tazewell 0 (Volleyball)

Kenlie Fields was unstoppable from the service line, recording 21 aces as the Lebanon Pioneers defeated Tazewell 25-7, 25-15, 25-14 in a Southwest District win. Kaytie Lampkin contributed seven digs, five kills, and three blocks. Carlee Ingram totaled nine kills and three aces. Jaidyn Fields added nine kills and five aces, leading

the Pioneers. Honaker 3, Castlewood 1 (Volleyball) The Lady Tigers secured a four-set 25-19, 20-25, 25-21, 25-23 win over their Russell County rival, Castlewood, for their first win of the season. Leanna Franklin had 28 assists for the Blue Devils, while Kadence Culbertson (11 kills) and Kayla Ervin (nine kills) were the top hitters. No stats were provided by Honaker.



Layla Ervin on the frontline for the Blue Devils at Honaker. Keith Ray | For the Lebanon News



JuJu Farmer (15) with a tip at the net for Honaker as Castlewood's Kadence Culbertson goes up for a block. Keith Ray | For the Lebanon News

COVE EDGES HONAKER

FROM PAGE 1B



Tyler Hubbard (5) looks for running room against the War Eagles. Hubbard had 114 rushing yards with a touchdown. Keith Ray | For the Lebanon News

eight touchdowns, nearly 600 yards of total offense, and more than 160 yards in penalties.

Quarterback Levi Honaker plunged into the end zone from one yard out to give the Tigers a 22-15 lead with less than 10 minutes to play. A bad snap ended any hope of a conversion, and it proved costly.

After the ensuing kickoff, on the third play, Shupe passed to Avery Rose in the right flat with a screen pass, and Rose sprinted 87 yards for a score. Tyler Barnette added the two-point conversion to give the War Eagles the lead.

Did anyone think Rye Cove, known for a ground-and-pound offense, would turn to the pass?

“Let’s back up a little bit. If you told me 10 years ago, I’d run the ball as we do, I’d say you had lost your mind,” Collier noted. “We do what works for us. We can throw it around a little bit. The screen pass—we hadn’t run it all night long, and I thought it was a good time because they were going to be flying to the football to stop us, and it worked. It worked really well.”

With Rye Cove clinging to the 23-22 lead, the Tigers moved 69 yards in 10 plays. Kam Beavers made a tremendous leaping catch over a defender in the end zone for a 31-yard scoring strike from Levi Honaker. Levi Honaker then sprinted around the right end for the two-point conversion, putting the Tigers up 30-23 with 3:41 to play.

“The kids played hard, and we had a great game plan,” Honaker coach Aaron Lowe said. “Our kids executed. We were up with two minutes to go, even with our turnovers. We kept fighting.

“The defense made plays tonight. We just came up short at the end. We had Rye Cove on the ropes and let it slip away. But the effort from our kids tonight was tremendous.”

The Eagles took over at their 21-yard line with just over three minutes remaining. On their second play, Shupe threw to Will Darnell for a 49-yard gain. On the next play, he hit Darnell with a 26-yard TD pass. Shupe then passed for the decisive two-point conversion.

“It’s a good win,” said Shupe. “Honaker is a tough team. They had a lot of good players. We just scraped it out.

“We’re a run team. Everybody knows that. But the pass is there if we need it.”

Honaker (1-2) had a minute and a half remaining. They moved the ball into Rye Cove territory. An interception by Aiden Rose ended any chances for the Tigers.

Shupe completed only three passes for a remarkable 162 yards and two TDs.

“I’m always on Shupe. You don’t have to win ball-games; you have to manage them,” remarked Collier. “He made a couple of bad decisions early, but I asked him to keep trucking. Then at the end of the game, he made the plays, and that’s all we ask of him. The kids worked hard; they are tired; they laid it on the line, so they did a good job.”

The Eagles played for a state title last year. They are off to a good start in 2026.

“We have a lot of stuff we need to work on to get better,” Collier said. “But right now, we were trying to survive, and we survived this, and we can move on from it. But great, great ball game. Great ball game.”

Although a loss, the Tigers know they can hang with the best.

“We can line up and play with anybody. You just have to have the mindset to do it,” commented Lowe. “We were ready to play tonight. We had a good week of practice, and when you practice hard and prepare, it carries over to Friday night.”

Levi Honaker was 10-of-16 passing for 147 yards. Tyler Hubbard rushed for 114 yards. Keaton Smith (nine tackles) and Kam Robinson (eight tackles) led the defense.

Honaker (1-2) needs a win when they travel to Holston Friday for their first Hogoheegee District contest.

“Holston is a good football team, well coached by Coach Akers,” Lowe stated. “We’ll have to be ready. We have a 1-2 record, and we’ve got a lot of injuries. We’ve got guys out here playing through injuries, and they’re fighting through it. We’ve got to be ready for next week. It’s a district game. We’ve got a three-game road stretch ahead of us, so we’ve got to get our cards in order and be ready to play.”

RYE COVE 31, HONAKER 30					
Rye Cove	0	15	0	16	—31
Honaker	7	6	3	14	—30
First Quarter					
HON—Hubbard 59 run (Beavers kick), 0:36.					
Second Quarter					
RC—Barnette 7 run (Cress kick), 7:48.					
RC—McElroy 25 interception return (Barnette run), 4:22.					
HON—Honaker 4 run (run failed), 0:48.					
Third Quarter					
HON—FG Beavers 23, 4:20.					
Fourth Quarter					
HON—Honaker 1 run (run failed), 9:51.					
RC—Rose 87 pass from Shupe (Barnette run), 7:59.					
HON—Beavers 31 pass from Honaker (Honaker run), 3:41.					
RC—Darnell 26 pass from Shupe (Rose pass from Shupe), 1:32.					
.....	RC	HON			
First downs	11	21			
Total Net Yards	255	340			
Rushes-yards	31-112	35-196			
Passing	143	144			
Comp-Att-Int	3-9-0	10-16-3			
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-0			
Penalties-Yards	8-95	8-69			
Punts	2-35.5	0-0			



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1. Lebanon at Rural Retreat

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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 (9/2/26) Contest

1. Played Thursday
2. Rye Cove 31, Honaker 30
3. Graham 14, Union 12
4. Gate City 41, Abingdon 28
5. Ridgeview 43, Wise Central 7
6. Played Thursday
7. Played Thursday
8. Southern Gap 63, Giles 21
9. Played Thursday
10. Played Thursday
11. Played Thursday
12. Played Thursday
13. Played Thursday
14. Patrick Henry 39, J.I. Burton 10
15. Boston College 28, Rutgers 21
16. Michigan 17, Oklahoma 10
17. Tennessee 45, Georgia Tech 24
18. Texas 24, Ohio State 23
19. Cincinnati Bengals 33, Tampa Bay Bucs 27
20. Pittsburgh Steelers 20, Atlanta Falcons 13

LAST WEEKS WINNERS!

1. Kori Farmer (18-2), Lebanon
2. Garry Street (18-2), Honaker

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
Lebanon at Rural Retreat.

SECOND TIE-BREAKER

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

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12. Twin Springs at J.I. Burton

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13. George Wythe at Patrick Henry



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14. Thomas Walker at Rye Cove

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15. Miami at Wake Forest

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18. Minnesota Vikings at Chicago Bears

Lebanon

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19. Pittsburgh Steelers at New England Pats

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20. Carolina Panthers at Atlanta Falcons

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7. Gate City at Marion



8. Bluefield (WV) at Ridgeview

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LEGAL NOTICES

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF RUSSELL COUNTY CASE NO. CH26-748 JUDY MORRISON, PLAINTIFF v. JACQUELINE JESSEE CHAFIN, et al, DEFENDANTS ORDER OF PUBLICATION
The object of this suit is to partition certain lands located in Castlewood, Castlewood Magisterial District of Russell County, owned by the heirs and successors of G. V. Osborne, deceased, and Maxie Osborne, deceased, described in the Russell County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 119, at Page 256, and Deed Book 109, at Page 547. An Affidavit has been made and filed that the number of defendants upon whom process has been served is seven (7), and the defendants so served represent like interests with the parties not served with process; and The defendants not served with process are designated in the attached Exhibit "A", and It appearing from the pleading that certain unknown defendants, as possible heirs or devisees of the defendants; if they be dead, and possible heirs or devisees of G. V. Osborne, deceased, and Maxie Osborne, deceased, and any other persons that may have an interest in the subject property, are proceeded against as all other parties unknown. It is so Ordered that the aforesaid defendants designated in the attached "Exhibit" and all other persons

LEGAL NOTICES

who have an interest in the subject property appear on or before the 26th day of October, 2026, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Russell County, Virginia, to do what is necessary to protect their interests. It is further ORDERED that the foregoing portion of this Order be published in the Lebanon News, a newspaper with general circulation in Russell County, Virginia, for one (1) time a week for four (4) consecutive weeks, and that a copy of this Order be posted at the Courthouse of Russell County, Virginia, and also a copy of such Order be mailed to the defendants designated in the attached Exhibit "A", at their last known address, all to be done within ten (10) days after the entry of this Order. ENTER this 3rd day of September, 2026. Michael L. Moore JUDGE REQUESTED: TILLER & TILLER, P.C. P.O. BOX 466 LEBANON, VA 24266 BY: LINDA TILLER, Counsel for Plaintiffs EXHIBIT "A" CASE NO: CH05-123 DEFENDANTS TO BE SERVED BY ORDER OF PUBLICATION DEFENDANTS JACQUELINE JESSEE CHAFIN ADDRESS UNKNOWN RICHARD GRIFFIN ADDRESS UNKNOWN TAMMY GRIFFIN ADDRESS UNKNOWN CASSANDRA SWEAT 108 E. LAMBERT DRIVE SANTA ROSA BEACH, FL 32459 HARPER RHYS TOLLIVER OSBORNE 2045 CRAMER CIRCLE, APT. 311 FORT MILL, SC 29707 EVAN C. OSBORNE P.O. BOX 597 CASTLEWOOD, VA 24224 SHEILA RIFFEY 3330 ROBERTS ROAD CORRYTON, TN 37721 CYNTHIA ROSE 312 MT. AREA DR. BRISTOL, TN 37620 UNKNOWN HEIRS OF BETTY KENNEDY UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ELIZABETH VIDGO UNKNOWN HEIRS OF G.V. OSBORNE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MAXIE OSBORNE LN-09-16,23,30;10-7;2026

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTED TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE AT 460 CREEKSIDE DRIVE AND 458 CREEKSIDE DRIVE, LEBANON, RUSSELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, in execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$375,000.00, dated April 11, 2007, recorded in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office of Russell County, Virginia, in Deed Book 669, at page 492, and by Substitution of Trustee dated March 27, 2025, and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office as Instrument #250000621, at the request of the holder of the Note, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the new Russell County Courthouse, 83 East Main Street, Lebanon, Virginia, on October 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., all those certain tracts or parcels of real estate, situate at 460 Creekside Drive and 458 Creekside Drive, Lebanon, Virginia, together with the improvements thereon and privileges thereto belonging, situate in the Lebanon Magisterial District, and more particularly described as follows: TRACT NO. 1: All that certain tract or parcel of land, with all appurtenances thereunto belonging and all improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the Lebanon Magisterial District of Russell County, Virginia, and designated as 2.65 ACRES, more or less, on that certain plat dated September 27, 1995, prepared by Hubert T. Nash, C.L.S., entitled "PLAT SHOWING A PORTION OF THE JIMMY J. CAMPBELL AND NANCY J. CAMPBELL LANDS. RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 273, PAGE 736. SEE ALSO DEED BOOK 167, PAGE 118. SITUATED IN THE LEBANON MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF RUSSELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA", and which plat is recorded in the

LEGAL NOTICES

Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Russell County, Virginia, in Plat Cabinet 1, Slide 236J, and reference to which said plat is hereby made for a more particular description of the property herein described, as if set out herein in full. TRACT NO. 2: All that certain tract or parcel of land, with all appurtenances thereunto belonging and all improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the Lebanon Magisterial District of Russell County, Virginia, and designated as 8.19 ACRES, more or less, on that certain plat dated September 27, 1995, prepared by Hubert T. Nash, C.L.S., entitled "PLAT SHOWING A PORTION OF THE JIMMY J. CAMPBELL AND NANCY J. CAMPBELL LANDS. RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 273, PAGE 736. SEE ALSO DEED BOOK 167, PAGE 118. SITUATED IN THE LEBANON MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF RUSSELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA", and which plat is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Russell County, Virginia, in Plat Cabinet 1, Slide 236J, and reference to which said plat is hereby made for a more particular description of the property herein described, as if set out herein in full. Together with a nonexclusive easement and right of way fifty feet (50') in width and designated as a 50' Street on the aforementioned plat. Said right of way commences at that certain gate located at the northeastern corner of the 2.65 acre parcel herein described and runs in a westerly direction across the remaining lands of Nancy J. R. Campbell through and over the roadways of Scenic Elk Garden Estates Subdivision to State Route 727. Said right of way herein conveyed shall be for the purpose of providing a means of ingress and egress to and from the lands herein conveyed to State Route 727. This property will be sold "AS IS" without representation or warranty of any kind and subject to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, affecting the aforesaid property; subject to any priority tax liens as may appear of record; and subject to statutory or other rights of redemption not waived by the Deed of Trust. TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of TEN PERCENT of the sales price, by cash, cashier's or certified check, will be required at the time of sale, with settlement in full within THIRTY (30) days of sale. Title will be conveyed by Substitute Trustee's Deed, with Special Warranty, upon payment of the balance of the bid by cash, cashier's or certified check, payable to the undersigned as Substitute Trustee for New Peoples Bank, Inc. The Substitute Trustee RESERVES the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirements; (ii) to extend the period of time within which the Purchaser is to make full settlement; (iii) to withdraw the Property from sale at any time prior to the termination of the bidding; (iv) to keep the bidding open for any length of time; (v) to reject all bids; and (vi) to postpone or continue this sale from time to time, such notices of postponement or setting over shall be in a manner deemed reasonable by the Substitute Trustee. Additional announcements may be announced on the day of sale and shall take precedence over all other advertised terms and conditions. THIS COMMUNICATION IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. MITCHELL KILGORE, a Professional Corp. By: NICHOLAS B. COMPTON Substitute Trustee For information, contact: Nicholas B. Compton Mitchell Kilgore, a Professional Corp. 44 East Main Street P.O. Box 1210 Lebanon, VA 24266 (276) 889-0143 LN-09-16,23;2026

LEGAL NOTICES

TRUSTEE'S SALE Real property at 414 Lower Bearwallow Road, Dante, VA 24237 In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$36,630.00 dated May 02, 2025 and recorded on May 09, 2025 in the land records of Russell County, Virginia at Instrument Number 250000906. Default having been made in the indebtedness secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance to the Russell County Circuit Court Building, 53 Main St, Lebanon, VA, 24266. The above referenced property and fixtures or improvements thereon briefly described as Tax ID 159RIC2235, and designated as Lot Number 114 on a plat with certificate marked "Map of Clinchfield Coal Corp., Subdivision C, at Dante, Virginia". September 24, 2026 at 11:00 AM TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO any environmental or other conditions, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, prior liens, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any. Substitute Trustee shall have no obligation to deliver possession of the property or any other obligation as to the premises. A bidder's deposit of \$5,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale in the form of a certified check or cashier's check from the purchaser or the bid will be rejected. Successful bidder will be required to sign a memorandum of sale at the time of the sale and settle by remitting the balance of the purchase price within fourteen (14) days of sale. If the buyer wishes to use their own settlement company and documentation, there will be a fee of \$300.00 for review of their settlement documents. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee according to the Code of Virginia. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges to be prorated through date of sale; those incurred after the sale date, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. 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 of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale or whether other legal impediment to title exists. 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 deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Cohn Goldberg Deutsch, 410-296-2550 or www.cgd-law.com re: CGD #465212. Cohn Goldberg Deutsch is a debt collector; any information obtained will be used for that purpose. BLUE RIDGE TRUSTEES LLC Run dates approx. 09/09, 09/16 LN-09,16;2026

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 171 HERITAGE DRIVE, HONAKER, VA 24260. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated June 30, 2021, in the original principal amount of \$80,101.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Russell County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2101505. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Russell County, 121 East Main Street, Lebanon, Virginia, or any such tem-

LEGAL NOTICES

porary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on November 12, 2026, at 1:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL OF THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE NEW GARDEN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF RUSSELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA, ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE NEW GARDEN ROAD AND IMMEDIATELY SOUTHWEST OF THE TOWN OF HONAKER, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT A POINT IN THE NEW GARDEN ROAD, A CORNER TO THE LANDS OF ROBY BARNHART, AND LEAVING SAID ROAD, AND RUNNING WITH THE LINE OF THE SAID ROBY BARNHART N 0-15 W 125 FEET; THENCE RUNNING IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION APPROXIMATELY 100 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE LANDS OF LEWIS TAYLOR; THENCE WITH THE TAYLOR LINE S 0-15 E 125 FEET TO A POINT IN SAID NEW GARDEN ROAD; THENCE FOLLOWING SAID ROAD N 73-45 E 100 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND BEING THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF LOT NO. G AS SHOWN ON PLAT OR SUBDIVISION MADE BY TATE-HORNEY LAND AUCTION COMPANY, BEARING DATE OF MAY 1941, PROPERLY RECORDED. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepite.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepite.com. VA-383954-1. LN-09-9,16;2026; 10-14-2026

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 1-211.1:8.01-

LEGAL NOTICES

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, Elisa 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 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, S 77° 41' 05" W 170.35 feet to a spike at the base of a 24 inch cedar; 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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

der 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. (VA202500000078) 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

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 Es-

tates, 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 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

SERVICES

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Spanberger announces rollout of more secure EBT cards

Governor Abigail Spanberger today announced the rollout of new, more secure EBT cards equipped with “chip-and-tap” technology to better prevent Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) fraud and protect families from having their food assistance “skimmed.” Virginia is among the first five states to implement this new technology.

Chip-enabled cards are significantly more resistant to a kind of theft known as “skimming,” where credit card information is captured at the point of sale and the benefits are drained before families can use them. Households do not need to take any action to receive a new card, and benefits will continue without interruption throughout the transition.

“When I took office, I made clear that my administration would find new ways to make government work better for Virginians,” said Governor Abigail Spanberger. “At a time when many families are struggling to keep up with the rising price of groceries and Republicans in Washington are making the deepest cuts to SNAP in the program’s history, we are taking this step to make sure families have secure, accessible support — and are protected from bad actors.”

The initial rollout targets localities that have experienced high levels of benefit theft — including Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Clarke, Fairfax City and County, Giles, Lynchburg, Madison, Manassas Park, New Kent, Norfolk, Northampton, Orange, Patrick, Portsmouth, Radford, Richmond City, Roanoke City, Smyth, Surry, Washington, and Wythe.

“If a family qualifies for food assistance to help them buy groceries, they should not have to worry about someone stealing them,” said Secretary of Health and Human Resources Marvin B. Figueroa. “These new cards are a practical step to protect families and make it harder for criminals to take advantage of the system.”

The second round of card rollouts is scheduled to begin at the end of October. Households do not need to take any action to receive a new card and benefits will continue without interruption throughout the transition. All EBT cardholders in Virginia are expected to have their new cards in hand by the end of December 2026.

“SNAP benefits are often what stands between the families we serve and an empty table, and no one should have to worry about going hungry because a criminal targeted the help they depend on,” said Duke Storen, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). “The threat of benefit theft is real, and this modernization strengthens the security of the benefits Virginians count on.”

This pilot launch follows an extensive statewide readiness effort designed to ensure a smooth transition for families. Testers visited retailers across Virginia to confirm that point-of-sale systems correctly handled both successful purchases and declined ones.

VDSS monitored card mailing times, activations, and transaction issues so they could be identified and resolved quickly.

“Throughout the testing and rollout process, this has been a true collaboration, and the result is a stronger, more secure system,” said Travis Smiley, Executive Director of the Virginia Food Industry Association. “When families’ benefits are better protected, those dollars stay in our communities and support local grocers and businesses across the Commonwealth. The Virginia Food Industry Association appreciates VDSS’ diligent efforts

working with Virginia’s retailers to protect customers from theft and fraud.”

Chip cards align Virginia’s EBT system with the same technology used by banks and major retailers. Rather than relying on a magnetic stripe, which is more vulnerable to skimming devices, a chip generates a unique, encrypted code for every transaction that is far harder to skim or clone. Virginia’s new cards are also dual-interface, meaning families can either insert the chip or tap to pay, with tapping offering the strongest protection.

Other states have already seen major drops in theft after switching to chip cards: California reported that reports of benefit theft dropped 83 percent after it moved to chip-enabled cards in January 2024, and Alabama has reported similar results.

Virginia is the eighth state in the nation to adopt chip-enabled EBT cards and the fifth to use dual-interface technology that supports both tap and insert. The upgrade is part of the Commonwealth’s broader work to modernize the way it delivers services, bringing a critical benefits system up to the security standard families already expect from their own bank cards.

Because new cards are mailed directly to households, it is important that families make sure the mailing address on file with their local department of social services is current, so their card reaches them without delay. When a new card arrives, families should verify their information, activate the card, and set a PIN by following the instructions mailed with the card.

VDSS encourages all cardholders to continue taking simple steps to protect their benefits, including locking the card when it is not in use through the ConnectEBT app, changing the PIN regularly, and never sharing a card number or PIN in response to an unsolicited call, text, or email.

More information about the chip card transition is available at virginiachipcard.com. Cardholders with questions can contact the EBT Call Center at 866-281-2448, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

HUNTER NORRIS

FROM PAGE 1B

“Honored to join Delegate O’Quinn at tonight’s football game to present the Lebanon Pioneers Speech Team with a resolution commending their fifth straight State Championship,” Pillion stated. “We are incredibly proud of these students for representing Southwest Virginia across the Commonwealth.”

Team members winning individual state titles include: Alexis Potts – Prose; Brock Keen – Impromptu Speaking; and Chloe Dillon – Serious Dramatic Interpretation.

Runners-up include: Kali Saltz – Prose; Landon Owens - Extemporaneous Speaking; Sara Griffith- Poetry; Ali Beck and Ethan Powers- Humorous Duo; and Autumn Brickman and Lilly Garrett- Serious Duo.

Those who placed third in their individual categories include: Abby Amos – Original Oratory; Olivia Sizemore and Lily Webster – Humorous Duo; Mercedes Raguz – Humorous Interpretation.

Other team members include: Macie Ferguson- Original Oratory; Keaton Stallard- Humorous Interpretation; Hailey Smith- Storytelling; Saylor Sykes- Serious Dramatic Interpretation; Audra Dalton- Impromptu Speaking; Elliott Breeding- Poetry; and Hailey Artrip- Poetry.

Traditional Spanish cookies are a treat

Millions of people can trace their heritage to Spain or another Spanish-speaking country. The customs unique to Hispanic countries contribute to the rich tapestry of many local neighborhoods, and food is one of the easiest ways people share their heritage with others. Recipes may be passed down through generations and serve as a way to bring people together.

Polvorones are a traditionally baked, crumbly Spanish shortbread made with a few ingredients. While they are especially popular during the holiday season, these cookies also can be enjoyed at other times of the year, including during National Hispanic Heritage Month between September and October. Try this recipe for “Polvorones With Chocolate Glaze and Sesame Seeds” courtesy of Lines+Angles.

Polvorones With Chocolate Glaze and Sesame Seeds

Makes 28 cookies, approximately

For the cookies:

- 1/3 cup ground pecans
- 2/3 cup confectioner’s sugar
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, cold and cubed
- 1/2 cup lard, cold and cubed
- 1 large egg

For the glaze:

- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 3 tablespoons water
- 1 tablespoon light corn syrup
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3/4 cup confectioner’s sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

To decorate:

- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds



1. For the cookies: Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a mixing bowl, mix together the pecans and sugar until combined. Set aside.
3. Combine the flour and salt in a separate mixing bowl. Add the butter and lard and work the fats into the flour to a coarse, crumbly dough.
4. Add the pecan and sugar mixture to the dough and work it in with your hands. Add the egg and combine everything together, thoroughly, until it comes together as a ball of dough.
5. Roll pieces of the dough into 1-inch balls using floured hands.
6. Place on the baking sheets, well-spaced apart; flatten slightly with your fingers.
7. Bake until light golden brown, 12 to 15 minutes. Let cool on the baking sheets for 10 minutes before transferring to cooling racks to finish cooling.
8. For the glaze: Combine the cocoa, water, corn syrup, and butter in a saucepan. Cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, until the mixture thickens, 3 to 4 minutes. Remove from the heat.
9. Gradually stir in the sugar and vanilla, beating until smooth.
10. Drizzle the glaze over the polvorones and sprinkle with sesame seeds. Leave to set.

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Change on the Clinch rally held in Cleveland

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

The Change on the Clinch rally was held last Thursday in Cleveland on behalf of Congressional candidate Joy Powers.

The event, which included music by the Clinch River Pickers, featured speakers Dr. Amy Branson and former Cleveland mayor Jennifer Chumbley.

Branson, a pharmacist, spoke primarily about health care in Southwest Virginia.

“Southwest Virginia has been forgotten and we deserve better,” Branson said. Referring to Ballad Health’s control of all the area hospitals, she added, “Our merged health care system is not doing what it is supposed to do.”

Branson said most area hospitals are stand alone emergency rooms. “That’s not health care.”

She said she looked through the bills introduced by current Ninth District Congressman Morgan Griffith in order to determine if he ever brought up the matter before Congress. “I didn’t find (crap),” she said.

Making an appeal to conservatives, Branson added, “I’m not asking you to vote Democrat or Republican. I’m not asking you to vote red or blue. Just try somebody new.”

Chumbley, who served two terms as Cleveland’s mayor, spoke on a variety of issues, including tourism, support for local businesses, economic development, and the proposed data center at the former Moss 3 coal site.

“We have to create reasons for people to come to our community,” she said regarding tourism.

At the heart of rural communities are small businesses. Chumbley said while most of the focus is on attracting big businesses to the area, mom-and-pop businesses still matter.

“Businesses that hire three to five people – they matter,” Chumbley said. She added that government needs to find a way to support the businesses already in Russell County and help them grow.

She said this was especially important as larger industries have a proven record of coming to Russell County and then leaving empty shell buildings behind in a few years.

Chumbley, who was among the leaders in the fight against a proposed mega-landfill, said of the proposed data center, “We are facing a challenge again.”

She said the people deserve to know more about the landfill than what has been released thus far. She said she wants to know what impact the data center will have on the environment as well as how many local jobs will be created.



Former Cleveland mayor Jennifer Chumbley addresses the proposed data center.



Dr. Amy Branson speaks at Change on the Clinch.

VCEDA approves \$5.26 million for economic development projects in three counties

Loans totaling \$5.26 million for economic development projects in three counties were approved by the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) board during a meeting, Sept. 10 in Lebanon, Va.

VCEDA Executive Director/General Counsel Jonathan Belcher noted activity since the last board meeting has focused on lead generation efforts, outreach marketing events, seed capital projects and other applications, as well as assisting the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority.

“Manufacturing, information technology and seed capital (small business startups) are currently the most active sectors as far as active projects,” Belcher noted.

He added that on the marketing site, a new regional image booklet, as well as new sites and buildings brochures have been completed and that a lead generation campaign for the Intersection Business Park continues. A new site brochure, website landing page and ad for that location have been completed. He noted work is also underway to develop website landing pages for other sites in the region.

Belcher, who also serves as the executive director of the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority (CFX), gave an update on the authority’s work on the CFX project in Virginia. The presentation outlined the current project status and preliminary planning for the future. He also provided an update on a recent meeting with West Virginia transportation officials to discuss the project status in that state.

During Thursday’s meeting, loans approved were as follows:

An up to \$3 million loan to the Scott County Economic Development Authority (IDA) to be used to finance the purchase of equipment, machinery and tools to assist with an expansion announced last fall of VFP, Inc. at its Duffield, Va., location;

An up to \$2.015 million loan to the Russell County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to be used to finance the purchase of real estate for future economic development purposes in Russell County; and

An up to \$250,000 loan to the Wise County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to be used to finance the purchase of approximately 9.015 acres of real estate known as the former JJ. Kelly school site in Wise, Va.

Changes to the VCEDA Seed Capital Matching Fund for FY2027 were approved which included requiring the completion of a business education component for all applicants. Awards under the updated program will be limited to 12 each in the fall and spring rounds of the program. The board also agreed to appropriate \$240,000 from the VCEDA regional account to be used to fund the program in FY2027.

The board also agreed to approve a request from the Town of St. Paul Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to continue to for-bear the monthly payments on the up to \$1 million loan previously approved to the IDA for the Western Front Hotel project through January 2027 and to waive any accrued interest during the forbearance time period (September 14, 2024 to January 14, 2027).

Grant disbursement deadlines were extended for two projects including, a grant to the Town of Clintwood for the Jettie Baker Center was extended to May 21, 2027; and a grant to the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority for Red Onion site development and infrastructure was extended to September 23, 2027.

In other business, the VCEDA board welcomed Vince Barnett back to the board as Virginia Economic Development Partnership’s representative on the board. He replaces Tim Stuller, who recently retired.

Lastly, a nominating committee comprised of the members of the executive committee was appointed to recommend a slate of officers for calendar year 2027 which will be presented to the full board for approval at the regular November or December board meeting.

PLEASE READ AND GO VOTE!

Early voting starts this Friday **September 18, 2026**
for the General Election **November 3, 2026**

VOTE NO
TO ZERO-SAFETY ABORTION
AMENDMENT 1
ON NOVEMBER 3
EARLY VOTING STARTS SEPT. 18



LEARN MORE AT:
familyfoundation.org/stopunlimitedabortion

What Amendment 1 Does

- Parental Rights Undermined**
Eliminate the right of parents to know about or consent to their young child’s invasive abortion surgery.
- Babies Left to Die**
Infants born alive after an abortion attempt would not be clearly guaranteed reasonable, life-saving care.
- Transgender Surgeries on Minors**
“Because the right to “fertility care” includes sterilization procedures and is not just given to adults, children will have a right to gender transitions without adult interference.
- Weakens Health & Safety Standards**
Long-standing safety regulations designed to protect women’s health could be challenged and struck down.
- Limits Industry Accountability & Oversight**
Eliminates the state’s ability to penalize or regulate individuals aiding “reproductive freedom,” potentially reducing oversight, accountability and liability for harm done to the woman.
- More Late Term Abortions**
Abortion could be permitted up to the moment of birth even for mental health reasons. The current requirement that multiple physicians to agree that’s irreparable harm to a woman’s health if she proceeds with her pregnancy will be eliminated.

Could Increase Abortions in Virginia

With fewer safeguards, Virginia will see significant increases in abortion volume beyond the over 39,500 abortions already happening annually, especially as it seeks to make our Commonwealth a regional hub for abortion.

VOTE NO
TO CONSTITUTIONALIZING
TRANS IDEOLOGY
AMENDMENT 2
ON NOVEMBER 3
EARLY VOTING STARTS SEPT. 18



The Family FOUNDATION

What Amendment 2 Does

- Embeds Gender Ideology**
The amendment’s “sex” and “gender” distinction embeds gender ideology in the Constitution, pressuring schools, businesses, and government to adopt policies that conflict with biological reality.
- Promotes Instability**
The proposed amendment reduces marriage to a source of personal happiness and eliminates language that emphasizes the benefits and obligations of marriage that are important to children, family-building, and stable communities.
- Allows Males in Female Sports**
The amendment inserts gender ideology into the Constitution, which threatens women’s rights in sports, locker rooms, and shelters, allowing biological men in women’s spaces and raising safety and privacy concerns
- Threatens Pastors**
The amendment has no conscience or religious exemption for clergy or members of religious organizations, businesses, and others with moral or ethical objections.