

Residents speak out against data center

By SHAWN STREET
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Several county residents approached the Russell County Board of Supervisors on Sept. 14 to voice their opposition to a proposed data center.

Oasis Digital Properties has been working with the county's industrial development authority on a proposed data center that would be located on the former Moss 3 coal site.

Last month, Oasis listed 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."

"Moss 3 must be burning a hole in the pocket of the board and the IDA," stated Betty Dickenson. "First they wanted to bury us in trash and now they are courting a data center."

Dickenson said the negatives of a data center outweigh the positives and added that multiple states have put bans in place, stopping future data centers from being constructed. She said county officials often fall for "slick sales pitch and dollar signs."

Debra Saylor said, "I'm deeply concerned about everything I'm learning about data centers." She said she's read reports of degraded water quality and rate increases. She added the data center would be a "determent to the future of our children."

"Why the sudden rush to build a data center?" she asked. "Even experts are stepping away from the idea that we need to build them."

Amy Branson suggested a higher tax rate for data centers. She compared Russell County's data center tax rate with that of Loudoun County, Virginia. Loudoun County, Branson explained, has a tax rate of \$4.15 per \$100. Russell County's is 24 cents per \$100.

"These people are coming to sell us something we don't need," Branson said. "Make sure we at least get paid well."

Tammy Garrett agreed with Branson. "We have something they want, so why would we not make our demands and get what we want?" Garrett said. Pointing to the low tax rate, she said, "We're giving it to them."

Garrett cited health concerns that she said were often linked to data centers, such as leukemia, asthma and Alzheimer's, among others.

She also said water and electricity rates would rise dramatically. "AEP has some of the highest rates there is," Garrett said. "How are our residents going to be able to afford an increase in water and electric bills?"

RD Snead called for more transparency. Having been on the IDA for 30 years, he said he understands the need for secrecy when first negotiating with a company. "But

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Sgt. Nick Lane is welcomed back to Lebanon following deployment in Africa.

Town council honors veterans

By SHAWN STREET
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Honoring those who serve – and those who have served – in the United States military was a main point of business during the September 14 meeting of the Lebanon Town Council.

Along with Police Chief Eric Deskins, the council welcomed back Sgt. Nick Lane. Lane, a member of the National Guard, had spent the last year deployed in Africa.

He was stationed in Djibouti and later in Somalia.

"He was over there for a year, away from his family, in service of his country and he was proud to do it," Deskins said. "He's back with us now and we just want to recognize you. We're glad to have you back and we appreciate your service."

Deskins joked, "When he got back, I made a comment about how hot it was. Sgt. Lane quickly informed me that it was – in fact – not hot here. At night in that part of Africa, it would still be over 100 degrees at night."

Later in the meeting, Mayor Tony Dodi said there used to be events hosted by various local organizations in honor of Veterans Day. "I haven't seen anything going on that day," he said.

Dodi said neighboring localities have Veterans Day events, and he asked Councilman Elijah

Leonard to come up with some ideas. Leonard was selected as he is a veteran.

Leonard presented several ideas including a service at Veterans Park, school art contests, a breakfast for veterans, among others.

"I, myself, would be honored if the town did that," Leonard said.

Dodi asked the council to consider Leonard's suggestions. "Give thought to that as we move forward," he said.

Veterans Day is November 11, 2027.

The council also heard from a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Ronnie Riddle said he was drafted in 1968 and sent to Vietnam. Riddle said the antiwar movement had so much hatred for the military that he and other soldiers were hidden from the general public as much as possible by officials at the Los Angeles airport.

He said the banners displaying the pictures and names of veterans that are currently displayed on Main Street have a special meaning for him. "This is the first time I've ever been recognized for what I did," Riddle said.

He added, "This is my hometown and this is special. I love it here and I love each and every one of you."

Lebanon Town Manager Drew Short informed the council that the latest group of banners have been received and will soon be displayed.

Supervisors debate waiving building permit fees for housing manufacturer

By SHAWN STREET
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The Russell County Board of Supervisors has voted down a request – at least for now – to waive building permit fees for housing manufacturer Appalachian Highlands Housing Partners.

Early in the board's September 14 meeting, Ernie McFadden gave an update on AHHP.

Located in the former Buster Brown building in Lebanon, AHHP will manufacture precision built modular homes. McFadden said the company will produce 90 jobs with a salary, "well north of \$20 an hour."

McFadden said the goal is to keep houses \$250,000 or less.

He added that production on the Buster Brown building is expected to get underway in November with production of homes beginning in October of 2027.

"This will be a dream come true for many families living in our community," McFadden said.

David Eaton, chairman of the board, agreed, stating, "This will be a game changer for the whole region."

Later in the meeting, Russell County Administrator Lonzo Lester referred to a letter from Rusty Little, the Finance Director of Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia.

Writing on behalf of AHHP, Little stated, "On behalf of the Board of Directors of Appalachian Highlands Housing Partners, I respectfully request that the County of Russell consider waiving all applicable building permit, plan review, inspection, and related development fees associated with AHHP's planned Modular Housing Manufacturing and Workforce Training Facility located within the County."

The waiver would be a total of \$60,000.

At-Large Supervisor Nate Kiser asked if AHHP was exempt from such fees.

Lester stated that AHHP is listed as a Limited Liability Company, meaning it could have certain exemptions. Lester said he would need to see the company's charter before answering that question.

"I want to know that before we vote on it," stated District 3's Tara Dye. "It can't just be good for them. It has got to be good for our tax payers."

Lester pointed out that AHHP is making a \$12 million investment, which could rise as high as \$30 million.

Referring to the \$60,000 waiver, Eaton said, "That's a

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Drill trash site to remain open at least 90 days

By SHAWN STREET
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The trash drop-off site at Drill will remain open for at least 90 days.

Last month the Russell County Board of Supervisors voted to close the site after receiving a letter from property owner Harvey Gent. In the letter, Gent said he was increasing the rent to \$600 per month.

At that time, Russell County Administrator Lonzo Lester and board chair David Eaton stated that the county was working to establish a trash drop-off site at Putnam. However, an agreement could not be reached with the Putnam land owner.

"I'm going to need more time," Lester said during the Sept. 14. He asked for a motion to reverse the August decision to close the site. The board voted for that motion, with District 2's Lou Wallace and District 6's Rebecca Dye voting no.

"I will keep the board updated on the continuance of this," Lester said, referring to efforts to find a new location or for the enlargement of the Blackford site to be completed. He said he needed at least 90 days in order to do so.

Lester added that there has been an increase in the amount of trash thrown along the roadside in the Drill area.

"It is hard enough to run the sites, let alone having to pick trash up on the side of the road," Lester said.

In other action from the September 14 meeting, Wallace said residents of her district are receiving letters from Verizon, stating that the company will no longer service landline telephones.

"How do we react to this?" Wallace asked. "Do we go to Congressman Morgan Griffith and say, 'Save us.?'"

Wallace said Verizon's decision could have devastating effects on elderly residents who rely on Lifeline Alerts.

"I'm asking you to start thinking about how we help these folks," Wallace told her fellow board members.

Board attorney Tyler Starnes informed the board that the former Oak Grove Elementary School has been sold. He said the auction took place on September 1. Double Down Incorporated purchased the property for \$46,200.

Spanberger declares state of emergency due to drought conditions

By SHAWN STREET
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Governor Abigail Spanberger has declared a state of emergency due to drought conditions.

The declaration, and the signing of Executive Order 21, allows hay to be transported quickly and efficiently to farms across Virginia by granting over-width exemption waivers to carriers transporting essential agricultural supplies.

These waivers will help make sure farms can maintain operations and protect livestock health as persistent drought conditions have caused a statewide hay shortfall of 500,000 tons — or approximately one billion pounds. The declaration also provides access to emergency funding, activates price gouging protections, and authorizes additional measures if necessary.

“The drought has placed real pressure on livestock producers across Virginia,” Spanberger said. “Today, I am declaring a state of emergency to make sure we can address the significant hay shortage facing the Commonwealth and keep farmers on solid footing heading into the winter. This waiver will help us move critical hay resources more quickly so farms can prepare for the months ahead, feed livestock, and sustain their operations.”

Spanberger added, “While we have seen improvement in drought conditions in some areas of the Commonwealth in recent weeks, the impacts of this prolonged dry period are still being felt by producers across Virginia. My Administration will continue working with farmers, agricultural partners, and local communities to make sure they have the resources they need to weather these conditions and protect our agricultural economy.”

Persistent drought conditions have caused a 35 percent loss in hay yields statewide, with yield losses in some cases reaching 70 percent, according to the Virginia Cooperative Extension.

The Virginia Emergency Support Team and Drought Monitoring Task Force continue to actively monitor statewide drought conditions and coordinate with affected localities and stakeholders. The state of emergency allows state agencies to streamline support, implement emergency plans, and issue temporary regulatory waivers needed to expedite relief.

Spanberger’s announcement drew praise from Ninth District Congressman Morgan Griffith.

“Hay is an integral agricultural product supporting Virginia farmers, particularly those with cows and horses,” Griffith said. “But due to devastating drought challenges, access to hay supplies is dwindling. I commend the Governor’s action today to address the hay shortage impacting Virginia. I will continue to advocate for our farming and rural communities as they try to access crop relief.”

The executive order became effective on September 16, 2026, and will remain in force for 45 days unless amended or rescinded.

The over-width waiver will go into effect on October 1, 2026, and will remain in force for 30 days. The 15-day period between the start of the Executive Order and the beginning of the over-width waiver will allow farmers time to source hay and transportation in order to maximize their use of the state-issued emergency waiver, which federal regulations limit to 30 days.

For updates on hay resources and waiver-related information, please visit the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services webpage for Disaster Recovery Resources for Virginia Farmers.

For updates on drought conditions and voluntary water conservation guidance, please visit the Department of Environmental Quality’s Drought Monitoring webpage.

SUPERVISORS DEBATE

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AHHP officials plan to give a complete facelift to the former Buster Brown building in Lebanon.

small amount compared to what they contributed to the county.”

Dye said next year’s county budget is expected to be difficult. “I don’t know how smart that is to waive that,” she said. “Other businesses come and don’t get that.”

District 2’s Lou Wallace said, “This is an opportunity to say ‘thank you, welcome to the county and bring it on.’ Why are we shutting the doors on these folks? I’m disappointed in you folks.”

Wallace then suggested closing trash drop-off sites. “Then close Finney. Then close anybody else,” she said.

When a roll call was taken on the request, Eaton, Wallace and District 5’s Steve Breeding voted in favor. Dye, along with District 1’s Andrew Hensley, voted no. Kiser and District 6 Supervisor Rebecca Dye abstained.

Rebecca Dye said she was abstaining until the question of exemptions in AHHP’s charter could be answered.

Board attorney Tyler Starnes said legally abstentions are the same as a no vote. Thus the request was denied.

“Wow,” Eaton stated following the vote. “This is a real slap in the face to this company that’s wanting to invest this kind of money and this kind of opportunity and these kinds of jobs. I’m really disappointed, I’ll be honest with you.”

“They’re going to let \$60,000 hold them up on a \$12 million project?” Hensley asked. “That’s a nickel holding up a dollar.”

Wallace said, “We give incentives all the time. This is not anything different. I don’t understand the thinking here. I think this is bad business. This is not business at all. It’s just bad business.”

Lester said the matter can be revisited next month following a look at AHHP’s charter.

RESIDENTS SPEAK OUT

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there’s a difference from a shoe factory and one using natural resources,” he said.

“It sounds like a mega data center that can use up to 500,000 gallons of water a day,” Snead said. “Where is the water going to come from? We don’t know and I think we should know. What are you going to do with it once you get the water? It’s got to be dumped somewhere. Where are you going to put it? We need some information.”

Snead said public hearings should be held before the county enters into a binding agreement with Oasis.

“I’m very disappointed in our county for not being more transparent,” said Donna Ball. “We care about our land. To us, it is home. Cleveland may be small. We may be poor but we matter. Why do we always have garbage and junk piled on top of us?”

Alice Schlichting said Virginia has more data centers than China. “Why? I don’t really know,” she said.

Schlichting said a moratorium on data centers was needed “until we figure out what is going on.”

She said more transparency was needed and asked if the data center was for data storage or for the creation of artificial intelligence.

Russell County’s bid to attract a data center publicly began in 2024. On Oct. 9 of that year, Senator Mark Warner came to the Drill Community Center in order to assess the damage caused by Hurricane Helene.

After addressing the storm’s wrath, the discussion turned to data centers. Supervisors David Eaton and Steve Breeding asked for Warner’s assistance in bringing a data center to Russell County.

“I’ll make some phone calls,” Warner promised. “I know just who to call.”

Whether or not Warner’s phone calls involved Oasis could not be confirmed. Efforts to reach Eaton for comment were unsuccessful.

In a related matter, on September 16, the United States House of Representatives passed the Ratepayer Protection Act. The legislation is designed to protect local communities from electricity cost hikes by directing state regulators to make data center companies pay the full cost for their use of electricity infrastructure.

Under the bill, all state utility commissions will hold proceedings on large-load electric rates and rules for data centers that draw more than 100 MW of power. The bill now heads to the U.S. Senate for further consideration.

Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Va., who voted for the bill, stated, “Communities in Virginia’s Ninth District should not foot the bill for data centers’ electricity. Electricity consumption costs associated with building and operating data centers must be passed along to the data centers, not the household ratepayer.”

He added, “With this bill, data centers are on notice. Under the watch of this Congress, I will continue to promote responsible federal guardrails while supporting local autonomy over data centers.”

Griffith announces more than \$144,000 HHS grant to People Incorporated

By SHAWN STREET
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Ninth District Congressman Morgan Griffith has announced that People Incorporated of Virginia has received a grant worth \$144,000.

The grant was awarded to People Incorporated from the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

The funds will support Head Start and Early Head Start projects.

“People Incorporated is an advocate for Head Start services in Southwest Virginia,” Griffith said. “This grant for more than \$144,000 helps People Incorporated support local families in our region with Head Start services.”

People Incorporated of Virginia offers early Head Start services to Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Washington Counties as well as the City of Bristol.

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Rueben

By R.G. Holmes © 2026



Shane Farmer is honored by the Lebanon Town Council.

Russell Theatre director honored by town council

By SHAWN STREET

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The Lebanon Town Council honored Shane Farmer, who recently won the Shining Star Tourism Executive of the Year.

Farmer, the Director of the Russell Theatre, was honored last month as part of the Celebrate Tourism Summit at the Wytheville Meeting Center last week in Wytheville.

"This is a great honor and we are proud of him," stated Mayor Tony Dodi. "We're proud of him."

The awards were open to tourism organizations, individuals in tourism and economic development, and tourism-related businesses. They recognize the contributions to tourism marketing, visitor services, events

and leadership.

More than 70 nominations were submitted. Winners were selected by a panel of tourism industry professionals from across the Southeast United States.

Farmer's award marks the second straight year that the theatre and events in Lebanon have been honored.

In 2025, Cedar Fest won the award for Outstanding Festival of the Year (2 or More Days) Less Than 10,000 Attendees.

Also in 2025, The Russell Theatre tied with another business for Outstanding New Tourism Business of the Year. The other honoree was Squabble State Hard Cider and Spirits in Bristol.

CAPTIONS:

Shane Farmer is honored by the Lebanon Town Council.

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. McElhenry Camp 840 meets 4th Thursday each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Russell County Public Library, Lebanon, VA.

VetFest SWVA this weekend

By SHAWN STREET

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One of the region's fastest growing events, VetFest SWVA, will be held this Saturday in Lebanon.

VetFest raises funds for Stop Soldier Suicide while drawing attention to the struggles military veterans face upon returning home. The event also has information about various services for struggling veterans.

In addition, VetFest offers a day of fun activities for the entire family.

Among the highlights of the day will be the Austin Daugherty Memorial 5K-12K at 10:30 a.m. Making up this event are the 5K Walk, 5K Run, and 12K Ruck.

Multiple age groups and divisions are offered for the 5K-12K. State of Franklin Track Club will be providing computer timing services.

Early registration is available online and will include an event t-shirt. Participants may also register the day of VetFest and will receive a shirt as long as supplies last. Registration is \$25.

The 2026 VetFest will have a new competition in honor of one of the Russell County Sheriff's Office's most feared officers – K9 Art. The beloved Art passed away earlier this year.

"For four years we have had K9 demonstrations, this year we want to take it up a notch and offer a K9 Competition," said event organizer Doro Martin.

The competition is open for working dogs, sport dogs, protection dogs and others. Categories will include fastest dog, hardest hitting dog and agility.

VetFest will be held in the memory of Austin Daughtry.

"We keep fighting for people like Austin to learn they are not alone, they are enough and they can make it tomorrow," said Martin. "We are here, we provide resources and as much help as we can. And so can you. Make that phone call, send that message or knock on that door."

For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/VetFestSWVA>.

Honey can sweeten any dish

Honey has been enjoyed for centuries. Ancient peoples ate honey, and historians believe humans have been harvesting wild honey since the Stone Age. Honey has been widely consumed, used in medicinal salves and even left in Egyptian tombs for the afterlife.

Due to its high acidity and low moisture, honey never spoils. The flavor of honey is entirely determined by the types of floral nectar bees gather, which can make cooking with honey interesting, as no dish may taste the same if different types of honey are used.

Honey can be consumed straight from the honeycomb, or used as an ingredient in many recipes. For those who prefer the latter, this recipe for "Honey-Glazed Sweet Potatoes and Squash With Chili and Halloumi" from Lines + Angles is sure to please.

Honey-Glazed Sweet Potatoes and Squash With Chili and Halloumi

Makes 4 servings



- 1 small butternut squash, peeled, seeded and cut into wedges
- 2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into wedges
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 red chili peppers, sliced
- 1/2 pound halloumi, cubed
- 1/4 cup pumpkin seeds
- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds
- 2 tablespoons basil pesto
- Kosher salt, to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

- 1. Preheat the oven to 375 F. Toss the squash and sweet potatoes with plenty of salt and pepper to taste in a large roasting pan.
- 2. Cover with foil and roast for 30 minutes. Discard the foil and pour out any liquid in the pan.
- 3. Stir in the olive oil, honey, chili peppers, halloumi, pumpkin seeds, and sesame seeds.
- 4. Roast uncovered until the halloumi and vegetables are golden, tossing once or twice, about 25 to 35 minutes.
- 5. Remove from the oven and transfer to a serving plate. Spoon over the pesto before serving.

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Sept 27 The Purple Piano - One-Man Tribute to Prince

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LEBANON, VA

Congressman Morgan Griffith: Healthy Moms Healthy Babies

The alarming rates of maternal and infant mortality in the United States demand continued federal diligence. Reportedly America suffers from the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the developed world. But according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 80% of our pregnancy-related deaths are preventable.

Because of my concerns about this problem, I am working with federal partners to find solutions.

One of these partners, Healthy Moms Healthy Babies America (HMHBA), which was founded in 2026 by Cara Osborne and Olivia Walton, put a meeting together of a select group of 15 officials.

Besides me, some of the others in the group included Second Lady Usha Vance, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz, Tennessee Senator Marsha Blackburn, Ohio Congressman Jim Jordan and former White House official Kellyanne Conway.

Second Lady Vance shared with us her experiences regarding her most recent pregnancy, birth and care following the birth.

One of the things she suggested was that we look at the combined medical assessments for both children and mothers.

She advocated that these visits should not be weeks after birth, but closer to when the mother and child are released from the hospital. Doing so would help identify any problems that might be developing related to either the child's health or potential emotional issues of the mother. Telehealth can help facilitate health care provider access for the mother and child.

I recall one former client of mine who struggled with exhaustion and postpartum depression as a result of caring for newborn twins. Her condition became so severe that she had to be committed to a hospital for 48 hours to ensure her safety and well-being.

Childbirth can cause great potential for stress, exhaustion and postpartum depression, among other issues.

Second Lady Vance advocated for better monitoring of the health for moms and babies in the weeks after birth.



WEEKLY REPORT
FROM THE CAPITOL

Dr. Oz discussed the recent rollout of the new CMS ACCESS Model. Under this program, his agency is supporting the extension of care beyond the clinic and harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) and telehealth to reach more families.

I believe telehealth and telemedicine, now coupled with technological advances, including wearables (Oura rings and Apple watches, etc.) with AI-analyzed data, will make a huge difference in the future.

These wearables can help moms track their health, spot trouble early and connect with providers before things get urgent. She can check her vitals, get advice from a nurse over video and know she's got a team watching out for her, even if the nearest clinic is miles away.

During the same week of the HMHBA event, I held a hearing as the Health Subcommittee Chairman to consider various policies. One of the bills discussed during the hearing was the *Rural Obstetric Readiness Act* by Democratic Illinois Congresswoman Robin Kelly.

The *Rural Obstetric Readiness Act* seeks to create a new health care reality where we train more rural health providers and doctors to handle obstetric care.

The National Rural Health Association notes that more than 67% of rural counties lack hospital-based obstetrical services, with a majority of these counties lacking an obstetric clinician. That is more than double the rate of urban localities.

Accordingly, more than two million American women live in what experts call "maternity care deserts."

The spirit of Congresswoman Kelly's bill is to tackle maternal care deserts, which make pregnancy-related complications more dangerous for mothers and infants.

Earlier this year, I voted for the *Preventing Maternal Deaths Act* and *Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who Deliver Infants Early (PREEMIE) Act*, which are now law. These bills help federal agencies coordinate mortality prevention activities and promote prenatal care.

Virginia state policy is treading on a path of maternal health success as well.

In 2025, a new state law took effect to allow licensed certified midwives and nurse practitioners to access pediatric privileges where they can serve on 24-hour on-call duty for nursery care when physicians are unavailable.

Having a midwife assist in areas where there are maternal care deserts will help enhance the rural health care workforce.

Taken together, these and other policy ideas can produce dividends for maternal care.

By strengthening access to maternal health resources, mothers will be in a better position to give care to their children and live healthy lives.

I will continue to work for policies that nurture an environment supporting mothers, improving maternal care and fighting to eliminate maternity care deserts.

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/>.

Adult Education Connection

For many adults who never completed high school, returning to education can seem intimidating. Life responsibilities, work, and family often take priority, and the idea of going back to school may feel out of reach. However, earning a General Educational Development (GED)® credential can be a life-changing achievement, opening doors to new opportunities and helping individuals achieve personal and professional goals.

The GED ® is a high school equivalency diploma. It certifies that the holder has high school-level academic skills in four key subjects: Reasoning Through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies. It's recognized across the United States and in many other countries as equivalent to a high school diploma.



A GED ® can significantly enhance employment opportunities. Many jobs require a high school diploma or equivalent, and without one, career options are limited. Earning an equivalency diploma opens the door to better-paying positions, promotions, and access to job training programs that would otherwise be unavailable. Adults can apply to colleges, vocational schools, and trade programs. It is often the first step toward earning a college degree or certification

that leads to specialized careers. Many community colleges actively encourage GED® holders to continue their education.

Beyond practical benefits, earning a GED ® can be a deeply personal victory. It demonstrates resilience, determination, and a commitment to self-improvement. For many adults, it's a source of pride and a way to set a positive example for children and family members. Preparing for the subjects helps adults build academic skills and confidence. This

renewed sense of capability often spills over into other areas of life such as parenting, civic involvement, and workplace performance.

A GED ® is more than just a piece of paper. It is a gateway to personal growth, better job prospects, and higher education. For adults who missed out on completing high school, the GED offers a second chance, a powerful reminder that it's never too late to pursue your goals. If you are ready to prepare for the GED® tests, contact Southwest Regional Adult Education at 276-889-5424. Sign up for a free class and receive a free assessment of your skills. Classes are offered free of charge at convenient times and locations throughout the region.

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The \$5,000 Dividend. Is buying votes legal?

Most Americans could use an extra \$5,000. President Trump is dangling that amount to Americans if Republicans maintain control of the House and Senate. The estimated cost of such a payout would be over \$1 trillion. Our President is calling it a dividend.

I voted for our President twice. I would vote for him again, but this is a terrible idea. He has to know it's a terrible idea but I am sure he thinks another trillion dollars in debt is the lesser of two evils. The other evil would be if the Democrats regain control of either the House or the Senate and especially both, they would immediately impeach President Trump.

Illegal immigrants would flood into our country and who knows how the Iran war would end. I can't blame him for doing whatever it takes to hold on, but this is too much.

Our nation is already in danger of financial collapse. Are we going to file bankruptcy or just print more. Who will suffer? We all will suffer. Social Security recipients will be the first to feel the impact. We are already in danger of having our funds reduced by 2034. This could come sooner due to our crippling debt. There will be no let up on student loans.

Young adults are crippled for life by college debt that many spend most of their lives repaying. These interest rates vary from 6.52% to 9.07% depending on if you are an undergraduate, graduate or parent. There will not be any tax cuts. A \$40 trillion debt will only result in the need for more taxes and not less.

You will owe tax on the \$5,000 and it might put you into another tax bracket which will make your tax burden greater. The more you owe the government in April could end up erasing the \$5,000 dividend.

Joe Biden did a stupid thing when he sent out \$1,400 to most Americans as part of the American Rescue Plan, which cost \$414 billion, only a part of a \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 relief bill. Biden sent out billions to businesses and colleges that they didn't have to pay back. That's in the past but the debt is very present.

Promising all of us a \$5,000 dividend is dangling a carrot in front of the eyes of millions of Americans who are financially struggling. That money would buy some groceries or maybe payoff a credit card or a car. Most Americans are not in the position to turn down such an offer. Is buying votes illegal? Every politician makes promises of big returns if elected.

If such an event takes place it won't be until after the first of the year, and only if the Republicans win. Time will tell. Promises have been made by politicians before that did not come to fruition.

All the while, gasoline is outrageous, groceries are sky high and the rising cost of the war in Iran is over \$30 billion while some estimate the cost to be nearing \$50 billion. Who will pay this \$40 trillion debt? You, your children, your grandchildren and so on.

Happenings of the Drill Senior Citizens

By JANIE THOMAS

September 11th was the latest meeting of the Drill Senior Citizens. The Community Building soon filled with laughter and the smell of fresh brewed coffee. We did something different for lunch today, so we gave our potato peelers and fryers the day off.

Betty Sue called our meeting to order. She read the prayer requests and Rev. Chester Ball opened our devotions with prayer, then Gary Thomas read Psalm 30.

God has mercy on us each day. He can heal us from any sickness. We need to give him thanks each day and praise him always.

Chester and Gary divide up the devotions as both of them are short of breath. Love the way we all work together as a team.

After devotions Betty Sue called the roll. We had 33 members present today and three visitors. Glad to have Norman and Linda Wilson back with us today. Miss you when you are not here.

We then stood and made our Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. I then gave the financial report. We talked about different menu ideas and the upcoming season's change. We did our end of Summer, Welcome Fall Tote Raffle today. Many nice things in the tote. Phyllis Miller was the winner of the tote.

Our singers today were Janet Combs, Joyce Baldwin, Linda Wilson and Tommy Meade. They sang

"Beautiful", "Thank You For The Roses", "More To Go To Heaven For", and "That Old Time Religion". Betsy Newton was not able to be with us today.

Our menu today was finger foods. We decided to try something different. The tables were full of good food. Tommy Meade asked the blessing over the food. The dessert counters were full of goodies to end the meal on a sweet note and Bruce had the cooler full of cold drinks.

Everyone that we asked seemed to like the change in menu. Have to keep it interesting, life gets boring if you do the same thing all the time.

After lunch was over and clean up was complete, it was bingo time! Nancy Tiller gave out the bingo cards and Gary Thomas and Frank Dye brought in the bingo prizes. Betty Sue started the fun by calling the numbers for the first several games, then I took over so she could play her card.

Our winners today were: winning one game each: Freda Sweeney, Myrtle Dye, Joyce Baldwin, Thelma Massie, Shelia Hale, Gary Thomas, and I won one. Winning two games each: Greg and Barbara Matney, Frank Dye, Ron Jackson, Becky Ball, and David Compton.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 25th, beginning at 11 a.m. Our menu will be potluck. Everyone welcome!

Remember to pray for one another. When prayers go up, blessings come down!

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Savvy Senior: Helping an Aging Parent Manage Their Money

By JIM MILLER

Dear Savvy Senior,

Since my dad passed away last year, my 82-year-old mother has struggled to keep up with her bills. She's proud and insists on doing things herself, but I worry she's falling behind. How can I help her manage her finances without upsetting her?

--Concerned Daughter

Dear Concerned,

You're not alone – lots of adult children step in to help aging parents with their finances. Whether it's paying bills, handling bank accounts, filing insurance claims, or sorting through taxes, taking on these responsibilities can feel tricky. The key is to approach it with respect, organization, and the right safeguards. Here's how to help your mom without stepping on her independence.

Have a conversation

Talking about money can be sensitive, especially with a parent who values doing things on her own. Start with a gentle, respectful conversation. Share your concerns and offer to help with her bills or other chores. If you have siblings, loop them in too. Knowing the whole family is on the same page can reassure your mom that everyone cares, not that you're taking over.

Get organized

If your mom is open to your help, the first step is getting organized. Make a clear list of her financial info, including monthly bills like utilities, phone, cable, and credit cards;



SAVVY SENIOR

bank and investment accounts; company benefits like retirement plans or pensions; insurance policies, including life, home, auto, long-term care, and Medicare; and copies of recent income tax returns. Having everything in one place will make managing her finances much smoother for both of you.

Locate legal documents

Now's also a good time to see if your mom has essential legal papers: a will or trust, an advance directive with a living will and health-care proxy, and a durable power of attorney for finances. If she doesn't, now's the time to get them in place. If she does, make sure they're up to date and that you know where to find them.

Simplify financial tasks

To make life easier for both you and your mom, set up automatic payments for her bills and have her income go straight into her bank account. If her accounts and invest-

ments are scattered, consider consolidating them – it makes everything much simpler. You can also get her banking and investment accounts online so you can pay bills and monitor everything anytime, without digging through papers or making extra trips.

Set up protections

Protect your mom from scams or risky spending. A True Link Visa Prepaid Card (truelinkfinancial.com/prepaid-card) gives her access to her money but lets you set spending limits. Online monitoring services like Carefull (getcarefull.com) or EverSafe (eversafe.com) can watch her accounts, flag anything suspicious, and send alerts if something seems off. These tools give peace of mind while letting her maintain independence.

Seek outside help

If you live far away or just need a hand, professional services can step in. SilverBills (silverbills.com) handles bill payments, while a certified daily money manager (aadmm.com) can come by once or twice a month to pay bills, make deposits, sort through health insurance statements, and keep everything organized. Think of them as extra hands to make life easier for both of you.

Helping a parent manage finances takes patience, respect, and tact. With clear communication, organization, and the right safeguards, you can support your mom while keeping her independence and peace of mind intact.

Send your questions or comments to questions@savvy-senior.org, or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.



Field Trips of the Mind: Share Your Gift Exuberantly

I have an on-line friend who is a Texas farm wife. She drives huge tractors, reads books from her Kindle, prays for rain, thinks her grandchildren are the best grandchildren ever made, loves the flat earth that surrounds her, calls her husband Sweet Farmer, and can draw and paint in such a way that it makes me drool. This morning I awakened to find a new painting gracing her blogspot. The painting is called Exuberance, and as my eyes took it in I fell in love for the umpteenth time with Peggy and her pencils, paintbrushes, and palette of color. She always lists the items used to create her art, as though the tools are as important as the painter. I guess if you are an artist you'd be up a creek without your tools. Fluid acrylics, shiva oil pencils, and black gesso gave birth to this particular painting.

This magical spilling of color to the page is of a fairy-winged, skinny-legged, aging, gray-haired ballerina. This lovely dancer has a huge head, rainbow-colored eyeshadow gracing the lids of starry twinkling eyes, and a heart that appears to be "dripping" love sewn to the front of her tutu. She is a magical little creature born in Peggy's imagination.

Peggy and I both live within the realms of imagination. Peggy likes the way I write. She's told me so. I love the way she paints, and I have told her the same. Both words and paint are tools of expression, and just thinking about that made me go off on a "field trip for the mind" this morning. I suppose I am known by those who love me for those field trips. I don't exit the room. I don't pack a bag. I don't board an airplane, but I go far, far away as stories, characters, and dialogue are spun from nothing into something inside my head. Peggy does the same, she just does it with pencils, chalks, and paint.

I wonder how many of you take similar "field trips?" Perhaps your field trip shows up in the kitchen. You take a little of this, and a little of that, and churn out a culinary miracle. Can you make a really good pie crust and fill it to the brim with yum? If you can, I assure you that you're talented.

Perhaps, your trip takes you to the workshop "out back" where you assemble wood and nails, screws and bolts, and "Voila" you've created a treasure with the magic of your hands.

Do you clean house well, or perhaps, for a living? If you do, you are a giant among humankind (in my messy-housed opinion) because you bring both joy and exuberance to the unorganized of the world.

Can you sew, knit, crochet, or do counted cross stitch? If you can, there is a real likelihood that the works of your hands will outlive you. Your creation, your gift, will become someone's treasure.

Gifts and treasures come in all shapes, sizes, and mediums. Just as the biblical wise men came from afar bearing gifts for the Christ child, we too are expected to share our gifts with the world. Those men brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In yesteryear's economy those were items of great value.

There wasn't just one wise man hoarding all the gifts on his long-legged camel. There were wise men, bringing multiple gifts. Think about what that little field trip cost them.

Not only did it cost the value of those gifts, but also the time and attention it took to follow a star that led to a child of Promise. Some theologians surmise the trip took about two years, and yet, these wise men left behind their families, and their lives as they knew them in order to ride camelback so they might "gift" another with something of precious value.

I am not suggesting you leave your family and ride camelback for two years in order to share your gift, but what I do want to say is that whatever your gift may be..... you do have a responsibility to share it with others! Be it words, paint, wood, food, needle and thread, organization, or even the lovely intangibles like humor, kindness, and tenderness you must share your gift. So take a little field trip in your mind. See what comes up, and then see that it comes out. You'll be glad you did, and so will the people who get to share in your act of joyful creation and exuberance.

"Thank you, Peggy, for that reminder, and also for the image of the starry-eyed, big-headed, knobby-kneed, dripping-hearted ballerina that is now forever etched in my mind and in my heart!"

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Agency partners from across the region attended Uniting Communities Conference.

Feeding Southwest Virginia hosts 60 agency partners for 2026 “Uniting Communities” Conference

Feeding Southwest Virginia welcomed approximately 60 agency partners from across the region for its annual conference at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center.

The 2026 conference, themed “Uniting Communities,” brought together representatives from food pantries and community partners that serve neighbors facing food insecurity throughout Southwest Virginia, including partners from the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Wise, Lee, Scott, Russell, Washington, Smyth, Tazewell, Grayson, Wythe, and Bland.

The Food Bank recognized multiple long-standing partners who have contributed to critical food insecurity work as a part of their network. Recent partners, such as Loaves and Fish in Galax, were recognized for their partnership as well.

Tony Lowe, a representative of Loaves and Fishes – Galax, said, “It’s a wonderful feeling being with people who understand what you are doing and support you. We all have the same vision. We all want to help. Some days it’s hard to see how many people are hungry.”

Attendees participated in educational breakout sessions designed to strengthen their respective operations and improve services for individuals and families facing hunger.

One session, “Feeding Children Year-Round,” highlighted how Feeding Southwest Virginia’s childhood hunger programs work to provide consistent support when school is in session and during school breaks. Participants explored Backpack, School Pantry, and federal nutrition programs to expand their services dedicated to nourishing children.

Jarrett Roberts of agency partner It’s a God Thing in Damascus said, “Teachers I know are noticing more food scarcity from their students, from high school to preschool. It’s helpful to learn more about the options we have for children’s programs to help.”

Attendees were invited to attend an additional session, “Partner Pick-Up Program: Strengthening Donor Relationships,” which examined the critical role of donated food in hunger-relief efforts. The session provided information on the Partner Pick-Up Program, its food sourcing requirements, and best practices for organizing successful food drives.

President and CEO Pamela Irvine, the event’s keynote speaker, shared her last address to the attending agency partners. Irvine will retire in December after 45 years of service.

“It took all of the hands and hearts in this room today to make a difference. Every single one of you plays a vital role in helping us address hunger across the region,” says Pamela Irvine, President and CEO of Feeding Southwest Virginia. she said. “We are always grateful to connect with you, engage this network, and explore ways we can continue to meet the need in Southwest Virginia. We thank you for every food box, every meal, and every bag of groceries you distributed this last year. We could not have such a strong network of support without you.”

These agency partners, a part of a total 275 across Southwest Virginia, contribute to Feeding Southwest Virginia’s mission of nourishing neighbors in need. The Food Bank currently reaches an average of more than 129,000 neighbors a month.

VCEDA seed capital grant approved for Plush Frog Designs, LLC

Custom event design and party rental services for weddings, anniversaries, award banquets, church gatherings, school events, community celebrations and other special occasions is a new service which became available in Russell County and throughout Southwest Virginia when Toni Richardson opened Plush Frog Designs, LLC in Lebanon earlier this year.

Plush Frog Designs, LLC is a recent recipient of a \$10,000 Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority Seed Capital Matching Grant. Seed capital grants are funded from regional funds received by VCEDA which are paid by the natural gas industry.

“Plush Frog Designs, LLC, works to support creative tourism by enhancing events attracting visitors, increasing participation and supporting local venues, vendors and community organizations with its services,” said Jonathan Belcher, VCEDA executive director/general counsel. “The business projects one full-time employee and five part-time employees within five years.”



Toni Richardson opened Plush Frog Designs to provide custom event design and party rental services for a variety of occasions.

“We provide stylish, affordable and high-quality event décor rentals and personalized styling services helping clients to create memorable, visually stunning events without the stress and expense of ownership,” Richardson said. “We have wide range of rental inventory, curated event packages and add-on services such as delivery, setup/breakdown, event design and customized décor.”

Richardson noted the concept for Plush Frog Designs, LLC was developed in response to a growing demand for stylish, convenient and cost-effective event solutions in rural and underserved markets.

“Our primary customers include brides and wedding planners, families hosting celebrations, small businesses and community organizations,” Richardson said.

Richardson said she used the VCEDA grant for the rental of additional storage units and for inventory additions.

“We have an active Facebook page where we showcase our inventory options and some of the events we have provided décor for,” Richardson said.

“The VCEDA grant has been a great relief,” she added. “It allows me to store my inventory in one area and to get it organized. That alone is a real timesaver.”

Richardson worked with the Small Business Development Center at Southwest Virginia Community College in developing her application to VCEDA. She received a letter of support from the Russell County Industrial Development Authority.

“We are always excited to see new entrepreneurs invest in Southwest Virginia by offering innovative and specialized services that strengthen our local economy,” said SWCC SBDC Executive Director Denise Harmon. “Toni’s creativity, professionalism and attention to detail have already earned her clients beyond Southwest Virginia, demonstrating the quality of her work and the potential for continued growth.”

“It has been a pleasure working with Toni as she continues to build her business. The SBDC is proud to support her entrepreneurial journey and we look forward to watching Plush Frog Designs, LLC expand its reach while serving clients throughout Southwest Virginia and beyond.”

“Plush Frog Designs brings a creative, polished touch to events across Russell County and that kind of quality décor plays a real role in our tourism economy,” said Russell County IDA Executive Director Laura Gilmer. “By helping weddings, corporate gatherings and community celebrations shine, this business encourages visitors to stay longer, supports our local venues and vendors and helps showcase the character and hospitality that make our region special.”

For more information about Plush Frog Designs, LLC, interested persons may call 815-325-4077, or visit or message their Facebook page.

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STAMP OUT FRAUD

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM

Cavs shock Honaker

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

DAMASCUS, Va. (Sept. 18, 2026) – With the home crowd on their feet, kicker Javier Sanchez-Medina, a foreign exchange student from Spain, drilled a 32-yard field goal with three seconds left, lifting Holston to a 43-41 Hogohegee District victory over Honaker on Friday.

On the Cavaliers’ previous possession, Sanchez-Medina had missed a 27-yard field goal.

“He hasn’t played a whole lot of football,” said Holston coach Chris Akers. “We know he can kick, and the first one wasn’t his best. Then, to boot, we had our backup holder in there to kick the game-winner. Kudos to him. The kid’s pretty tough to come in there and do that in that situation.”

It was a dramatic finish to a seesaw battle that saw five



Malachi Gilbert finds running room up the middle for the Tigers. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

SEE **CAVS SHOCK HONAKER** | 6B



Lebanon's Raelynn Huff (3) gets the ball over against the Bearcats' Kyla Davis (3). Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

Lady Pioneers Down
VHS in Straight
Sets, 3-0

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

LEBANON (Sept. 15, 2026) – The Lady Pioneers remained undefeated with a convincing sweep of Virginia High on Tuesday. Set scores at Charles C. Long Gymnasium were 25-12, 25-14, 25-18.

Sophomore Kenlie Fields continued her stellar play with 19 service points and 25 digs as Lebanon (6-0, 2-0 SWD) remained perfect on the season.

“It gets us ready for the rest of the season and motivates us to come to practice and work hard,” stated Kenlie Fields. “Knowing that we’re undefeated helps us stay focused on volleyball and nothing else. But the more we win, the more pressure builds throughout the season.”

Kenlie Fields served with power, ripping seven aces. Alongside big sister Jaidyn Fields, the two are forming quite a 1-2 punch. Jaidyn led the Pioneers

at the net with nine kills and also dished out seven assists.

“I was kind of mad before the game, actually, so serving helped me let off steam and get fired up,” Kenlie Fields said. “Jaidyn definitely motivated me to keep serving well, too.”

“We argue a little, but we’re definitely like peanut butter and jelly. We stick together through every game. She’s literally what gets me ready. She’s the best. I love her.”

Lebanon graduated four players from last year, all of whom were in the rotation. Two players are sidelined with injuries. Several new faces are in the lineup, so the splendid start has to be something of a surprise.

“We try to get better every game, and the kids work hard,” Lebanon coach Dennis Price noted. “We’ve got a good group. Sometimes we let teams

SEE **LADY PIONEERS**

Blue Devils garner second
place in CD golf tourney

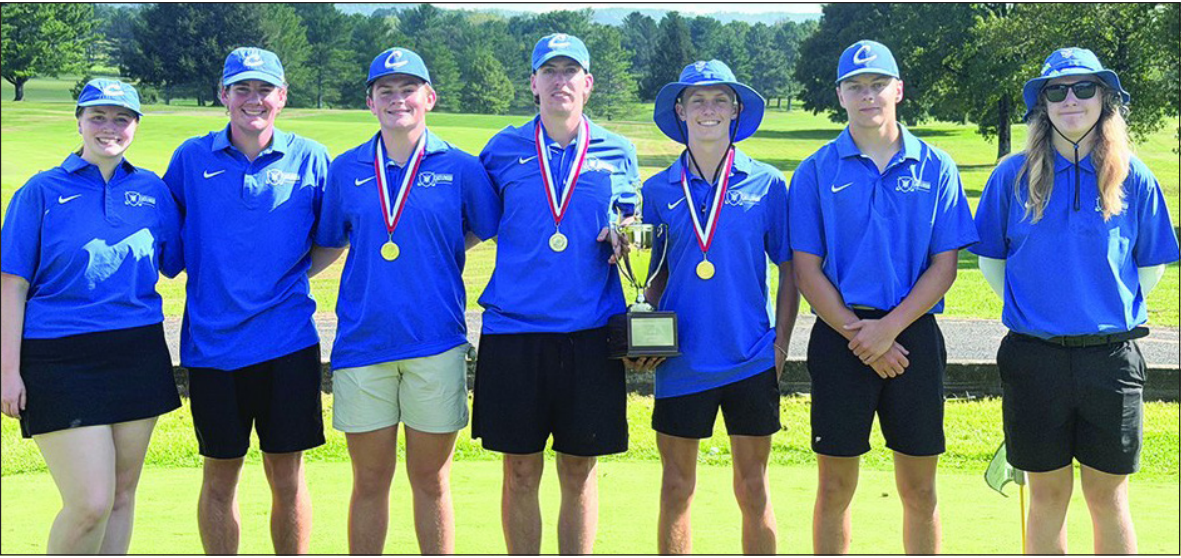
JONESVILLE (September 14, 2026) – The home team, the Pioneers, came away with the Cumberland District golf championship on Monday at Cedar Hill Country Club. Thomas Walker bested second-place Castlewood by six strokes.

Castlewood’s Parker King took medalist honors, shooting an 86, beating Thomas Walker’s James Freder-

ick by one stroke.

Below are the complete results:
Cumberland District Tournament
Cedar Hill Country Club
Team Scores

SEE **BLUE DEVILS GARNER**



Castlewood Blue Devils: (L-R): Katherine Somervell, Matt Gibson, Marcus Holbrook, Tru Ruff, Parker King, Joel Bush, and Mason Williams.

Lady Devils
collect 3-0 sweep
of Honaker

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

CASTLEWOOD (Sept. 14, 2026) – Playing in front of their home crowd on Buddy Poole Court Monday, Castlewood volleyball continued to prove themselves. After a loss to Honaker last week, the Blue Devils exacted revenge with a convincing 3-0 (25-22, 25-16, 25-21) sweep.

Castlewood was coming off a strong showing on Saturday at a tournament in Holston, where they captured third place. Did it give the Blue Devils some confidence?

“I feel like it definitely did,” commented hitter Layla Ervin. “We played some pretty good teams, and it helped us build some character, learn what we needed to work on, and, going forward, what we learned from the tournament will push us to be better. We’re making a lot of progress.”

Cheyenne Elam had a push to win it for the Lady Devils.

“We’ve learned to communicate with each other more, kind of work around each other’s flaws and try to pick up the ball anytime we can,” Ervin noted.

Castlewood raced out to a 10-2 advantage in the second set and rolled to the win. Honaker tried to get their footing in the third set but couldn’t contain Ervin on the frontline.

Ervin led the Blue Devils with 10 kills and four aces. Elam added five slams. Leanna Franklin was a factor with 23 assists and three aces.

SEE **LADY DEVILS** | 2B



Sophie Hall with a pass for Castlewood. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

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PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Layla Ervin

Pounded 10 kills, two blocks, and four aces to help the Blue Devils secure a victory over their Russell County rival, Honaker.

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LADY DEVILS

FROM PAGE 1B



Een Bush makes a play at the net in the Blue Devils win over Honaker. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News



Cheyenne Elam with a push for the Blue Devils as JuJu Farmer (15) and Tayler Honaker leap to defend. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News



Castlewood's Layla Ervin goes for a block on a hit by Ava Keene for the Tigers. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

“Leanna’s a freshman,” said Castlewood coach Derek Allen. “She gets to the ball and doesn’t call for help very often. It’s got to be out the back for her to call for help. She’s a go-getter.”

“Layla has taken over the big swing club here. She’s fun to watch and a good kid.”

The Blue Devils dominated the net with 26 kills to the Tigers’ 13.

“The girls came out to play tonight,” Allen noted. “They communicated more and covered the floor much better because of that communication. I think that’s the only key we need: to communicate. We’ve got the girls up front and in the back. We just have to figure out where we’re going.”

Honaker’s only win (1-7) came when they hosted the Devils.

“When they want to play, the girls can play, but that’s

just it,” Honaker coach Lindsey Marshall said. “They’ve got to get headstrong and show up ready to play every night.”

The Tigers didn’t get any momentum in the match at Castlewood.

“We’ve got to find a rhythm, and that’s what I told the girls,” remarked Marshall. “We got to find a rhythm and stay in it. We’ve got to get control of these games and keep it. Even if we lose control a little bit, we’ve got to be together enough to say, hey, we can get it together and get back in this. We just can’t quit. We beat Castlewood at home. It’s just a different night, I guess.”

The young Blue Devils appear to be jelling.

“I believe the more we play, the better the girls will get,” commented Allen. “These girls just need to play together and have fun.”

BLUE DEVILS GARNER

FROM PAGE 1B

Thomas Walker 364, Castlewood 370, Eastside 395, J.I. Burton 397, Twin Springs 418, Rye Cove (incomplete)

Individual Results

Thomas Walker – James Frederick 87, Owen Shepard 90, Hunter Brockman 92, Enos Shepard 95

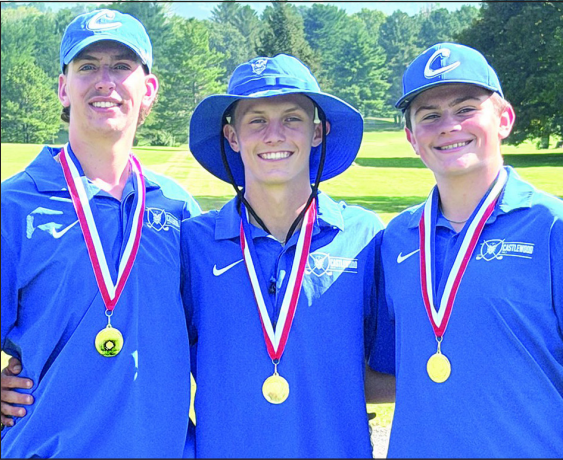
Castlewood – Parker King 86, Marcus Holbrook 92, Tru Ruff 93, Matt Gibson 99

Eastside – Ben Markham 96, Aiden Sexton 96, Jacob Adams 99, Aiden Harvey 104

J.I. Burton – Chase Scott 97, Mason Baker 99, Alex Colley 99, Cash Mullins 102

Twin Springs – Braydon Culbertson 96, Caiden Nash 102, Colten Johnson 110, Aayden Mullis 110

Rye Cove – Hudson Bowen 104



(L-R): Tru Ruff, medalist Parker King, and Marcus Holbrook.

LADY PIONEERS

FROM PAGE 1B

go on runs, but we’ve been working to be more consistent. The girls played really well tonight, and I was proud of them.”

Carlee Ingram also delivered a clutch performance with 12 service points, including two aces, and distributed 12 assists.

“We knew we needed to serve well, and serve-receive was big for us,” remarked Price. “It’s been big for us all year. Those were our two keys. We knew who their big hitters were, so we tried to key in on them. But our service game was the best thing for us tonight.”

Rhealyn Barton (eight kills) and Abigail Mullins (five kills) also sparked the Pioneers’ attack up front.

In addition to Kenlie, Olivia Gibson (14 digs) and Jaidyn Fields (11 digs) made the back row effective.

“Kenlie’s done a great job back there,” noted Price. “That was probably our best rotation tonight, with her serving and playing in the back row.”

“The young girls are stepping up pretty well for us. They’re getting a lot of experience, and it’s building confidence. That’s what you need for sure, because volleyball can be tough on you.”

It’s been a rough start for Virginia High (0-8, 0-2 SWD) in a rebuilding year with several players hurt.

“We’re filling some shoes from last year, and we’ve had to deal with injuries, with three right off the bat this season,” VHS coach Ashley Johnson said. “We’re still looking for people to find their places and the right rotation. It’s still wide open for us, even this far into the season. We’re still looking for what works.”

Sophomore Wrigley Belcher led the way with six kills.

The Bearcats played from behind the entire match. To their credit, they kept battling.

“That’s something this team has consistently shown improvement in,” declared Johnson. “Even when they’re down, they’ll get down, but they will fight back. They don’t just give up and quit. That’s something big because that’s not always a skill that’s easy to teach a team. So, I’m proud of them for coming out, still battling, and still trying to work. But we’re still looking for that consistency.”



Abigail Mullins (12) battles Virginia High's Gracie Arnold (1) and Emma Hogston (2). Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News



Carlee Ingram (7) finished with 15 assists in the Southwest District win over Virginia High. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

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Since 1984 The Lebanon News Football Contest

\$40

FIRST PRIZE

\$20

SECOND PRIZE

CONTEST RULES

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

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

Scores from last week (9/16/26) Contest

1. Lebanon 40, Rural Retreat 21
2. Holston 43, Honaker 41
3. Auburn 55, Castlewood 0
4. Chilhowie 14, Eastside 6
5. Abingdon 55, Richlands 0
6. Wise Central 49, John Battle 14
7. Gate City 49, Marion 6
8. Bluefield (WV) 34, Ridgeview 2
9. Union 42, Tazewell 7
10. Tennessee High 44, Virginia High 6
11. Northwood 43, Bland County 12
12. J.I. Burton 21, Twin Springs 14
13. Patrick Henry 46, George Wythe 20
14. Rye Cove 42, Thomas Walker 8
15. Miami 33, Wake Forest 20
16. Clemson 28, North Carolina 20
17. Ole Miss 32, LSU 24
18. Minnesota Vikings 9, Chicago Bears 3
19. New England Pats 20, Pittsburgh Steelers 3
20. Carolina Panthers 34, Atlanta Falcons 3

LAST WEEKS WINNERS!

1. Lindsey O'Quinn (17-3), Lebanon
2. David Statzer (17-3), Castlewood

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 Richlands.

SECOND TIE-BREAKER

will be the total points scored between
Honaker at Southern Gap..

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

CLIP AND BRING OR MAIL TO:

THE LEBANON NEWS

P.O. BOX 1268

LEBANON, VA 24266



SIA
LEBANON, VIRGINIA

SHRADER INSURANCE AGENCY
"Right In The Heart Of Lebanon"

(276) 889-1701

11. Grayson Co. at Virginia High

BONANZA STEAKHOUSE

Senior Bar 60+

(Includes Tea or Coffee)

MON-FRI 2-4 p.m.

\$11.99

12. Northwood at Chilhowie

"Serving as we would be served"

Honaker
FUNERAL HOME

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

honakerfuneralhome.net

13. J.I. Burton at Galax



Main St. Lebanon, VA

276-889-1919

www.lebanonfamilydrug.com

14. George Wythe at Rural Retreat

MERCY
AMBULANCE SERVICE



Lebanon
276-889-3099

Richlands
276-964-9111

Grundy
276-935-8200

15. Thomas Walker at Happy Valley

Rex Stiltner

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

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



Allstate
You're in good hands.

16. Craig Co. at Twin Springs

FERGUSON
FAMILY DENTISTRY

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Lebanon, VA

276-889-5141

17. Oklahoma at Georgia

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• Educating Our Customers • Respect Your Property
• Quick Response • Satisfaction Guaranteed

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18. Texas A&M at LSU

Lebanon

Lube

Larry Runyon, owner

M-F 8-5 • Sat 8-12

976 East Main St, Lebanon

19. Tennessee Titans at NY Giants

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



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

20. LA Chargers at Buffalo Bills

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Hardware



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& Plumbing



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6. Tennessee High at Abingdon



Vehicles • Powersports • Buildings
Lebanon, VA Abingdon, VA

www.autoenergy.org

7. Wise Central at Union



8. Patrick Henry at John Battle



9. Ridgeview at Lee High



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

Ron Blankenship

Bradford Clevinger

Office: (276) 889-1119

"Local Makes A Difference"

Free Quotes

Auto • Home • Farm • Life • Business

10. Tazewell at Giles

HUNTING & FISHING WORD SEARCH

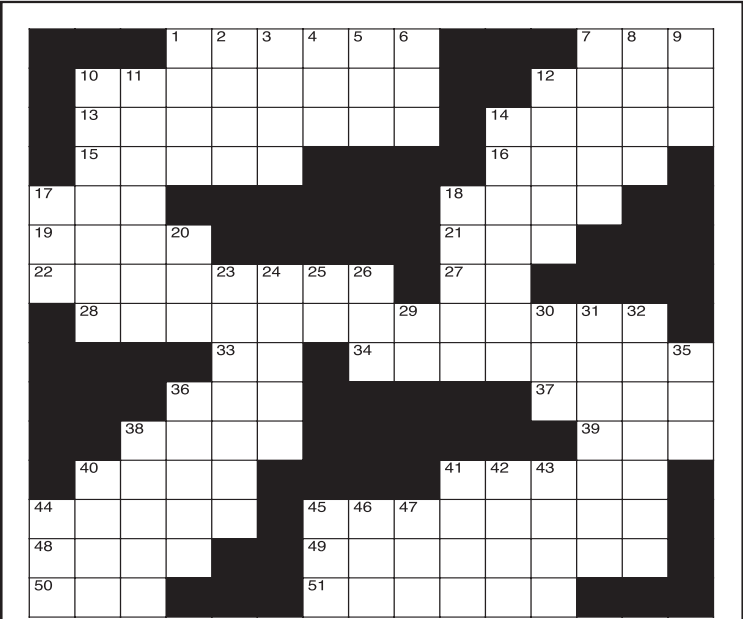


Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ANGLER
- BAG LIMIT
- BAIT
- BLINDS
- BOBBER
- CAMO
- CAMOUFLAGE
- CASTING
- CATCH
- DECOY
- FLETCHING
- GAME
- HABITAT
- HARVEST
- LICENSE
- LURE
- NET
- POACHING
- QUARRY
- SCENT
- SEASON
- TACKLE
- TRACKING
- WILDERNESS

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. A place for worship

7. Referee declaration

10. Torsos

12. Used to introduce something

13. Healing method

14. Takes to the sea

15. Make law

16. French coastal city

17. Hawaiian dish

18. Young of domestic cattle

19. Women's undergarments

21. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)

22. One after another

27. It's a hot topic these days

28. Folk band frontman
33. They precede C

34. Heavenly

36. Fiddler crabs

37. Major Hindu deity

38. Hebrew given name

39. Cost per mile

40. __ Romeo, car

41. Rural municipality in Manitoba

44. Narratives

45. "A tragedy had __ him"

48. Iranian city

49. Praises publicly

50. Founding Father Franklin

51. Herbal tea

CLUES DOWN

1. Indian unit of mass

2. "Tears in Heaven" singer Clapton

3. Part of a sailing vessel

4. Part of (abbr.)

5. Polynesian garland of flowers

6. Keyboard key

7. One who steals

8. Large oven

9. Former CIA

10. Idea

11. Solomon Islands capital

12. Afrikaans

14. Remove thatch

17. Television network

18. Jalen Brunson is one

20. Title of respect

23. Flowering trees

24. Occurring in a tube
25. Exists

26. Woman (French)

29. Expression of doubt

30. NHL legend Bobby

31. Accomplished

32. Makes slightly wet

35. National Assn. of Manufacturers

36. Not sated

38. Poe's middle name

40. Swiss river

41. Rhythmic pattern in Indian music

42. "Shane" actor Ladd

43. Popular whodunit board game

44. Bar bill

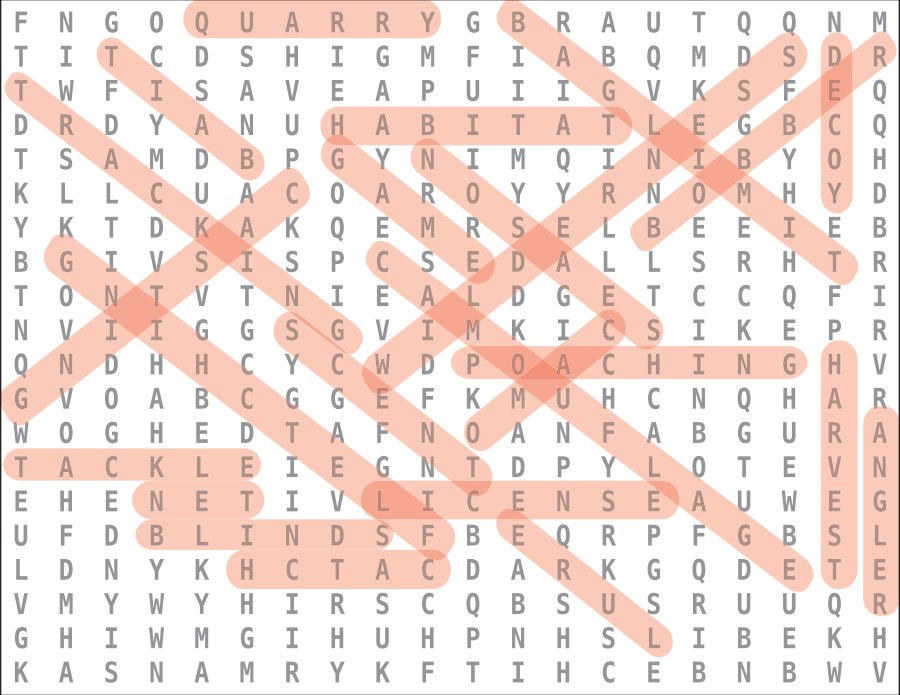
45. Ballplayer's tool

46. Indicates near

47. Feet per second

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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



SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to hunting and fishing.

R F E L I

Answer: Rifle

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actor born on September 22, 1987, in England. I was a talented choir singer as a child and was offered an opportunity to join a prestigious choir. I ended up playing a child villain in a series of films based on books about wizards. Most recently I reprised the role on stage.

Answer: Tom Felton

CRYPTO FUN

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

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

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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



Horoscopes

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, it is time to be on the lookout for fresh financial opportunities. Set new goals for yourself, and put your finances at the top of your priority list.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, don't bother attracting people through false advertising. Instead, be authentic and you will find you garner much more attention and adoration.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, the universe is trying to send you cues this week. But you will only receive these cues if you keep your eyes and ears open. Things may not be what they seem.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, if you want others to open up, you have to start the conversation by sharing something from your heart as well. Make an effort to be more open in the days ahead.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, this week you have the strength and motivation to accomplish your goals. You will sigh with relief when everything gets accomplished on time and in order.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

You have a green light to spoil yourself this week, Virgo. It isn't something you do often, so let loose a little bit and splurge on some luxuries.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, a dear friend or relative could use your support right now. Offer a helping hand or even a shoulder to cry on so this special person knows you're there to help.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Make an effort to be a social butterfly in the week ahead, Scorpio. This will quench your thirst to be around others. Don't be afraid to reconnect with old friends.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, this is a great week to establish a financial strategy that fits into your lifestyle. If this involves revisiting your professional ambitions, then so be it.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, don't be afraid to shake things up a bit this week. You may not have time to mince words, so don't hesitate to get to the point. Others will appreciate your candor.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

It is time to be your own teacher and become an expert in any subject you desire, Aquarius. Start doing your research and you may be surprised at the discoveries.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, this week you might start seeing a platonic pal in a more amorous way. The affinity you share may be the foundation for a great relationship.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 20

Sophia Loren, Actress (92)

SEPTEMBER 21

Jason Derulo, Singer (37)

SEPTEMBER 22

Andrea Bocelli, Singer (68)

SEPTEMBER 23

Bruce Springsteen, Singer (77)

SEPTEMBER 24

Nia Vardalos, Actress (64)

SEPTEMBER 25

Bella Ramsey, Actress (23)

SEPTEMBER 26

Serena Williams, Athlete (45)

CLASSIFIEDS

CEMETERY LOTS

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FISHERIES & FARMS

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

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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 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

LEGAL NOTICES

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 SUBSTITUTE 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 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

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Substitute Trustee
For information, contact: Nicholas B. Compton
Mitchell Kilgore, a Professional Corp.
44 East Main Street
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Lebanon, VA 24266
(276) 889-0143
LN-09-16,23;2026

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 1-211.1:8.01-316,-317,20-104
Case No. CL23000786-00
Russell Circuit Court
83 East Main Street,
Lebanon, VA 24266
Jonathan I. Roberts
Stephanie D. Roberts
v.
Oma Jane Ferebee, ET ALS
The object of this suit is to: Partition.
It is ORDERED that Oma Ferebee, John Keen, 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 Hollo 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

LEGAL NOTICES

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 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

LEGAL NOTICES

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

SERVICES

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

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The Town of Lebanon is accepting applications for a Full-Time position for the Town of Lebanon Sanitation Department. Hourly Pay range \$17.50 to \$19.00. Applications can be obtained at the Lebanon Town Hall, 405 West Main Street, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM -4:30 PM. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 4:00 PM. The Town of Lebanon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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The Honaker defense converges on elusive Holston running back Eli Tweed (10). Tweed totaled 169 yards rushing with three scores. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

CAVS SHOCK HONAKER

FROM PAGE 1B

lead changes. The Tigers had taken a 41-40 lead on the first play in the fourth quarter with a 4-yard touchdown run by quarterback Levi Honaker.

“It was wild,” Akers said. “I was a little apprehensive at the start of the game. I didn’t know what kind of team would show up for us, but I knew early in the first quarter that we came to play. Whoever had the ball last might have a chance to win this thing. We had some breaks, and they had some breaks.”

Clinging to a one-point lead, Honaker took over at their 20 after Holston missed a field goal with 7:27 to play. The Tigers methodically moved the ball down the field inside the Cavs’ 20. A holding penalty against Honaker put them in a tough spot, and they failed to convert on 4th-and-14, turning the ball over on downs.

Holston (3-2) took over with 1:44 remaining at their own 26. They moved the ball downfield, aided by three Honaker 15-yard penalties, two for pass interference.

“We beat ourselves,” dejected Honaker coach Aaron Lowe stated. “Very undisciplined. Too many mistakes. We had 14 penalties. We gave Holston every opportunity to win the game. It seemed like we made mistake after mistake. We had trouble stopping them. It just compounded on us at the end. A couple of big penalties on that last drive. They had to go 75 yards, and we just kinda sat back and took it, had a couple of penalties, and they beat us.”

The Honaker defense struggled to slow down Holston the entire game. Levi Honaker’s fumble recovery and Kam Beavers’ interception were the only Tiger stops.

“We didn’t stop them all night,” commented Lowe. “A lot of missed tackles, a lot of undisciplined play. Definitely not us. When you play like that, you get beat. Nine out of ten times, you’re coming out on the wrong side of the score. So, we definitely have a lot to fix.”

Holston quarterback Desmond Mickens and running back Eli Tweed were unstoppable.

“They’re tough,” declared Akers. “They’re both seniors. They both worked hard in the weight room over the spring and winter to get better, and they certainly did. I was proud of how they ran downhill tonight. In the first part of the season, we weren’t banging it up in there, and now we are. Kudos to our offensive line, too—they played a lot better.”

Mickens totaled 158 rushing yards with two TDs. Tweed rushed for 169 yards with three scores. Tweed also caught a 40-yard pass, and Brodie Richardson had a 51-yard TD reception.

The Tigers rushed for over 400 yards. Malachi Gilbert totaled 231 rushing yards with touchdowns from 54 and 46 yards out. Levi Honaker had 139 yards on the ground with two scores.

Kam Keen ran a reverse for a 36-yard touchdown. Brayden Justus caught a 21-yard TD pass from Levi Honaker for the first score of the game.

The Tigers were up 35-34 at the break and were held to one TD in the second half.

“We made some adjustments at halftime that I thought gave Honaker a slightly different look,” Akers stated. “They still ran the ball at will against us, but we made a play when we needed to on fourth down.”

Honaker (1-3) has lost its last two games by a combined total of three points.

“It’s a shame there has to be a loser in this game,” commented Akers. “Both teams left it all on the field and played hard. Both teams did, so kudos to Honaker. They’re a good football team. They’ll make a deep playoff run.”

Unofficially, Honaker is the ninth seed in the Region 1D playoff picture, but only eight teams qualify. Can they recover?

“We don’t have a choice,” coach Lowe said. “We got to get back to work Monday and try to fix some stuff. The most important thing is we got to fix ourselves. That’s the only thing that matters right now—us fixing ourselves. We let go of a lot of opportunities. It’s one of those games.”

HOLSTON 43, HONAKER 41				
Honaker	14	21	0	6—41
Holston	7	27	6	3—43
First Quarter				
HON—Justus 21 pass from Honaker (Beavers kick), 6:12.				
HOL—Tweed 13 run (Sanchez-Medina kick), 0:27.				
HON—Honaker 62 run (Beavers kick), 0:12.				
Second Quarter				
HOL—Tweed 40 run (Sanchez-Medina kick), 9:34.				
HON—Gilbert 54 run (Beavers kick), 7:59.				
HOL—Mickens 21 run (kick failed), 4:49.				
HOL—Mickens 46 run (run failed), 4:32.				
HON—Gilbert 46 run (kick failed), 2:13.				
HON—Keen 36 run (Keen pass from Honaker), 0:39.				
HOL—Richardson 51 pass from Mickens (Sanchez-Medina kick), 0:00.				
Third Quarter				
HOL—Tweed 61 run (run failed), 3:26.				
Fourth Quarter				
HON—Honaker 4 run (pass failed), 11:51.				
HOL—FG Sanchez-Medina, 0:03.				
.....		HON		HOL
First downs		17		21
Total Net Yards		467		418
Rushes-yards		47-429		42-327
Passing		38		91
Comp-Att-Int		2-6-0		2-6-2
Fumbles-Lost		0-0		2-1
Penalties-Yards		14-14		15-52
Punts		0-0		0-0

Autumn lantern walk this Friday in Cleveland

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Autumn in Southwest Virginia is one of the most majestic times of the year. Officials in Cleveland are inviting the public to experience the brisk night air as part of a new event – the Town of Cleveland Autumn Lantern Walk.

Those wishing to take part in the event are asked to meet at Cleveland’s town park pavilion this Friday, September 25. Weather permitting, the walk will get underway at 7 p.m. and will conclude at 9 p.m.

The walk will conclude at the campground where there will be plenty of hot chocolate, coffee and s’mores.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Closed-toe shoes suitable for hiking and weather-appropriate clothing are recommended.

Participants may bring their own lantern or rent one from the town.



Michael Charloff will bring his one-man Prince tribute to The Russell this Sunday.

Purple Piano Prince tribute coming to The Russell Theatre

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Russell County will party like it is 1999 again this weekend as the extraordinary Prince tribute Purple Piano will be at The Russell Theatre.

“What a Show we have in store for you!” stated Russell Director Shane Farmer. “Prepare to be captivated as Marshall Charloff takes the stage as the one-man tribute to Prince, presenting his extraordinary Purple Piano show.”

This unique production stands out as the only one of its kind, promising an unforgettable experience that pays homage to the legendary music icon, Prince.

Charloff’s show is inspired by Prince’s final tour, Piano and a Microphone. Charloff performs 35 Prince songs with just his voice and piano. No tracks, no safety nets.

Charloff has been playing tributes to Prince for over 16 years, touring internationally and setting the standard for the genre. However, he has earned a reputation as a gifted musician for his own accomplishments as well.

He is an accomplished recording artist as he has written, produced, and recorded for the Commodores as well as Little Anthony and the Imperials.

Charloff’s 2020 record “Unperfect” was among the top 100 albums that year on the global smooth jazz charts. Last year his single “X-Centric”, featuring legendary saxophonist Gerald Albright, reached number one.

Purple Piano will be Sunday, September 27, beginning at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25.



Levi Honaker with a big gain for the Tigers against the Cavs. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

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