

The Lebanon News

Russell County's Family Newspaper Since 1880

VOL. 104 NO. 37

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

LEBANON, VIRGINIA | \$2

Details of Project Franklin emerge

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

In June and August, press releases were issued by the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority and the office of Governor Abigail Spanberger that mentioned something code named Project Franklin.

While the press releases were vague about the location of Project Franklin, it has now been learned that it will be located on the former Moss 3 site near Cleveland.

In June, VCEDA approved a request from the Russell County Industrial Development Authority to extend a \$3 million loan closing deadline of June 16, 2027. The loan was initially approved in December 2025 for Project Franklin.

In August, Spanberger said \$2.5 million would go to Project Franklin from the Virginia Energy Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program.

Spanberger said the project will convert 88 million tons of legacy coal waste on a reclaimed former mine site in Russell County into a high-value, low-carbon pozzolan

product used in green concrete manufacturing.

According to information from the IDA, "Project Franklin is a transformative industrial redevelopment initiative located at the historic Moss 3 site in Cleveland, Virginia. This initiative leverages proven technologies to repurpose abandoned mine waste into a climate-beneficial industrial material while delivering major economic impact to Southwest Virginia."

The total capital investment for Project Franklin is \$115 million and is expected to generate \$1 million in annual tax revenue.

The Moss 3 site was selected as it contains the required raw material onsite, has existing rail access, is located within a six-county labor region with a skilled industrial workforce, and presents an ideal model of circular economy redevelopment on abandoned mine land.

In its application for the AMLER funding, the IDA stated the project would be good for the environment.

Citing a study entitled "Virginia Energy Study on Waste

Coal Piles" the IDA stated waste coal piles emit methane, which is 25 times more potent than CO2. Removing the waste would result in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the application, Project Franklin is projected to employ 65 individuals in its first year with an average yearly salary of \$71,000. Over a period of five years, the number of employees is expected to grow to 95 with an annual salary of \$73,000.

"Employees will be drawn from Russell, Dickenson, Buchanan, Wise, Tazewell and Washington counties," the application states.

Benefits packages are said to include health insurance, paid vacation and holidays, and performance-based bonus.

The IDA's application states that the project area will be "leased by Subrecipient or Partner" through a "Lease/Purchase Agreement between Russell County IDA and operation entity."



A proposed data center could be coming to the former Moss 3 site.

Spanberger announces new data center accountability standards

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Governor Abigail Spanberger has unveiled Virginia's new Data Center Accountability Framework, calling it the most comprehensive and aggressive data center accountability effort in the country.

The announcement comes as debate heats up regarding a proposed data center that would be located on the former Moss 3 site near Cleveland.

According to Spanberger, the framework is designed to give communities transparent information and a voice in local approval, protect Virginians from higher energy bills, and enforce the strongest environmental standards for data centers in the nation.

Spanberger signed Executive Order 22 to immediately implement many of the core pieces of the Data Center Accountability Framework and create Virginia's new AI Task Force to address growing concerns and risks posed by the rapid development



Abigail Spanberger

of artificial intelligence — including workforce displacement, data privacy, and cybersecurity.

"In the years before I took office, data centers came to Virginia and the Commonwealth did not have a clear or coordinated plan to address their impacts on Virginians — on their electric bills, their water, their land, their air, or their quality of life," Spanberger said. "That changes today. I have said many times that Virginia should be leading the nation in setting the highest standards for this industry. And now, I believe we are doing just that."

Spanberger added, "Virginia's

Data Center Accountability Framework is about delivering a better deal for Virginians and holding data center companies, developers, and operators accountable. The Framework is a thorough plan to end data center secrecy, protect our environment, lower energy costs for families, bolster our clean energy economy, and make sure Virginia workers have the protections and assurances they deserve."

Spanberger's framework targets several areas including:

Increase Transparency and End the Secrecy

Ban non-disclosure agreements for commercial data center projects

Strengthen local control by eliminating by-right approval and requiring local approval of any data center using more than 25 megawatts of power

Empower communities with tools to negotiate stronger, community-centered agreements

End state subsidies for data

SEE DATA CENTER | 2A

Did motion to waive building permit fees actually pass?

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

During the September meeting of the Russell County Board of Supervisors a motion was made to waive the building permit fees for Appalachian Highlands Housing Partners.

AHHP will soon renovate the former Buster Brown building in Lebanon for the purpose of manufacturing modular homes.

The vote on the motion was Lou Wallace, David Eaton and Steve Breeding — from Districts 2, 4 and 5 respectively — voting in favor of the motion. District 1's Andrew Hensley and District 3's Tara Dye voted no. District 6's Rebecca Dye and At-Large representative Nate Kiser abstained.

Following the vote, board attorney Tyler Starnes announced the motion was defeated. He said abstentions are the same as a no vote, thus the motion did not pass.

However, according to the Code of Virginia § 13.1-849, "An abstention shall not be considered a vote cast."

Since the majority of those casting a vote favored the motion, the motion should have legally passed. Efforts were made to contact Russell County Administrator Lonzo Lester regarding the status of the vote but he did not respond.

This is not the first time the board has had to revisit votes following Starnes' advice. In April the board considered contacting the Office of Inspector General regarding a forensic audit. Starnes said before the OIG could launch an investigation, allegations of "abuse, fraud or waste" had to be recorded.

However, in an email to The Lebanon News, OIG Public Relations Officer Maggie Sotos, APR, said the inspector general does not have the authority to investigate counties.

Sotos said, "The Office of the State Inspector General is responsible for investigating allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse within executive branch state agencies here in the Commonwealth. Our jurisdiction does not extend to local governments or their operations. We also conduct performance audits of executive branch state agencies."

In May 2025 Kiser made a motion to pass the current tax rate with the stipulation that a forensic audit would be conducted. That motion passed.

One year later, Starnes informed the board, "There should not have been a contingency in the first place." He said the condition violated the Robert's Rules of Order the board goes by.

"If it was not a legal motion, why didn't you step up and say that?" Tara Dye asked in May 2026.

Starnes replied that it was his first meeting representing the board and he wasn't aware of the problem at the time. He suggested the board not overturn the May 2025 motion because, "...that leaves you in a state of limbo."

Fake Pizza Town website set up

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

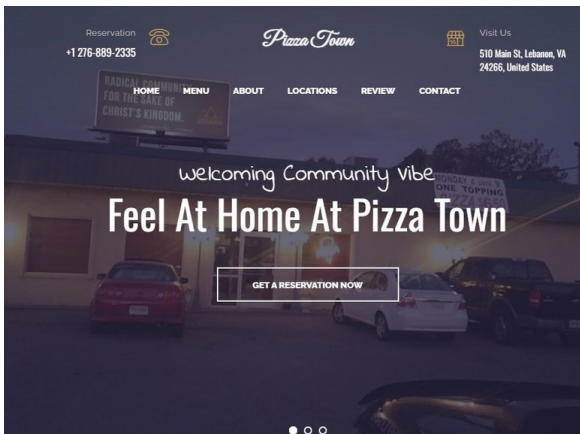
Authorities are investigating a fake website that falsely appears to be of Pizza Town in Lebanon.

"We would like to inform our community about a scam page made of a local business," the Russell County Sheriff's Office said via a statement. "Pizza Town in Lebanon was made aware of a fake business page set up for people to order food and pay online. Pizza Town does not have online services."

Pizza Town's Carmine Graziano said, "Lebanon and customers of Pizza Town, beware of scam."

Graziano added, "Someone started a fake website to order and pay online. It's fake, not us! We do not have online services."

The bogus website offers reservations, online ordering, pictures of a menu and reviews of Pizza Town. The address of the fake website is pizzatown.website.



Anyone with information about the creators of the site is urged to contact the Russell County Sheriff's Office or Lebanon Police Department.

Death at regional jail under investigation

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

A death at one of Southwest Virginia's three regional jails is under investigation.

According to Matthew Demlein, Public Relations Coordinator for the Virginia State Police, the death occurred at the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail in Abingdon on Friday, Sept. 18, 2026.

"Foul play is not suspected at this time," Demlein said.

He added that the death is being investigated by Virginia State Police.

The name of the deceased was not released by authorities. No further information is available at this time, Demlein stated.





TigeRx Pharmacy
is here to serve you
all summer long
(276) 873 - 4700
5638 Redbud Hwy,
Honaker, VA 24260

**ADVERTISE YOUR
BUSINESS
IN THIS SPOT**
ONLY \$7 PER WEEK
EMAIL
advertise@
mainstreetnewspapers.com
OR CALL 276.340.2445

**Family Drug
Center**
“A Tradition of Service”
276-889-1919
www.familydruglebanon.com

**Morgan McClure
CHEVROLET**
Southwest Virginia’s
#1 Chevy Dealer
276-762-2311

Little B
In Loving Memory of
W. E. (Buck) Hylton
**Excavation, Water &
Sewer Contractor**
Castlewood, VA
Office: 276-762-5497
Shop: 276-762-5310

Share Your CHURCH with the COMMUNITY

Help people find a place to worship!



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

Your listing can include:

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





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

Only **\$6.00** *per week*

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



Reach
your
community.



Share
your
message.



Open
your doors
to those
seeking a
church home.

Reserve your church listing today!



Wendi Craig |
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com | 276-340-2445



DATA CENTER

FROM PAGE 1A

centers in Virginia’s site development programs

Remove future large data centers from Virginia’s fast-track permitting process

Enforce the Nation’s Strongest Environmental Protections

Establish strong, transparent, and nation-leading standards for data center energy efficiency, water use, land impacts, and backup generation

Evaluate cumulative impacts of diesel backup generators and require existing and future facilities to move to cleaner backup power

Set clear water-use standards for these facilities to lower overall water consumption and improve efficiency of water usage backed by stronger state agency enforcement against violations

Expedite the new state noise regulations for data centers

Lower Energy Costs for Virginians

Protect ratepayers by requiring all utilities to allocate a more equitable share of electric transmission and generation costs to data centers and other large load customers

Prevent speculative projects that tie up land, resources, and energy infrastructure by requiring stronger upfront financial commitments from developers

Ensure that costs from PJM Interconnection processes to address rising energy demand driven by data centers are allocated to those data centers

Bolster Clean Energy Economy and Grid Reliability

Protect grid reliability by requiring data centers to meet standards that prevent sudden changes in their electricity demand from destabilizing the grid

Limit the amount of electricity data centers can generate from on-site natural gas or behind-the-meter gas generation

Accelerate clean energy deployment by prioritizing grid access for facilities that invest in clean energy, further reduce backup generator emissions, and further limit on-site natural gas generation

For one of the leaders in the fight against the Oasis Properties proposed data center at Moss 3, the governor’s executive order does not go far enough.

“It’s the start of something but it’s really not enough to protect these small municipalities from predatory businesses,” said Dr. Amy Branson. “I wish the governor had went ahead and put in a statewide moratorium, but she didn’t.”

Branson stressed that the public and governing bodies need to exercise patience, especially in light of Spanberger’s executive order and the possibility of stronger restrictions being put in place at a later date.

“I don’t want people to make rash decisions and think that they need to rush into these data centers,” Branson said. “These companies are going to try to rush us before the governor puts in more serious writing. This is a huge project and a potential environmental disaster. We have no idea, really, of what we’re doing. Even on a big, global thing they are saying we need to slow down on AI. So why aren’t we listening to that?”

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 you 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.



**NBD INDUSTRIAL
SERVICES**
Your One-Stop Solution for Industrial Needs!
Custom Fabrication • Mobile Welding & Repairs
Equipment Maintenance • New Construction
Iron Work • Demo & Clean-Up • Metal Roofing
Painting • Pressure Washing
(276) 345-5848
Call Today for a Free Estimate!
Reliable. Experienced. Insured.
All employees are MSHA certified.

**TEMP. LABOR
WE PROVIDE
CWI SERVICES**

**WHERE
THEY FELL**



**WHAT
THEY CLAIMED**



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

**STAMP OUT
FRAUD**
VIRGINIA STATE POLICE
INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM

Rueben

By R.G. Holmes © 2026



Study finds that over half the homes in SWVA face food insecurity

By SHAWN STREET
shawm@virginiamediainc.com

A new statewide study has found that 42 percent of Virginia's households face food insecurity. The region with the highest rate of food insecurity is Southwest Virginia.

The Virginia Hunger Study interviewed over 5,600 Virginians and was commissioned through a partnership between the Federation of Virginia Food Banks, the Virginia Department of Social Services and No Kid Hungry Virginia.

The survey was conducted by the independent non-partisan research organization NORC at the University of Chicago with support from researchers at Virginia Tech.

Food insecurity is defined as any member of a household lacking consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life at some point between May 2025 and May 2026.

The study found that 55 percent of households in Southwest Virginia face food insecurity. In Southwest Virginia households with children, the rate rises dramatically to 70 percent.

"Behind the finding that Southwest Virginia has the highest rate of food insecurity in the Commonwealth are thousands of children, families, and seniors who live with hunger," said Pamela Irvine, president and CEO of Feeding Southwest Virginia. "These neighbors are asked to make impossible choices simply to put food on the table."

Irvine added, "Our region's 55 percent food insecurity rate requires a powerful call to action. Feeding Southwest Virginia and our community partners are committed to meeting today's urgent need, but lasting progress will require all of us working together to address the barriers that keep people from accessing nutritious food."

The study represents the first statewide, Virginia-only survey to measure food insecurity using the U.S. Department of Agriculture's standard 18-item Household Food Security Survey Module, a nationally recognized method for assessing hunger rates. In 2025, the USDA ended its annual state-level food insecurity estimates, which had been published for nearly three decades.

"The survey findings reflect that hunger is an urgent and growing threat for too many Virginians," said Eddie Oliver, executive director of the Federation of Virginia Food Banks. "The charitable food system is doing everything it can to meet growing demand amid higher food prices and declining donations, but we can't do it alone. As families face cuts to SNAP and Medicaid alongside rising costs, this data underscores the need for a comprehensive public-private response to ensure every Virginian has access to the nutrition they need to thrive."

The Virginia Hunger Study is being released as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participation has declined by approximately 130,000 people in Virginia since the enactment of H.R. 1.

"The latest food insecurity numbers are alarming and heartbreaking," said Sarah Steely, director of No Kid Hungry Virginia. "These are our neighbors who are

skipping meals or making difficult trade-offs to pay for housing, healthcare and transportation costs. Congress passed the largest and most damaging cuts to SNAP in the program's history last year. These cuts, plus high grocery prices and other budget pressures, mean that parents living on low incomes are having to make tough decisions about which basic needs to prioritize and which expenses must be delayed or sacrificed."

Survey results point to multiple drivers of the high food insecurity rates. Inflation has had a severe impact on food-insecure households' budgets, with 87 percent saying that higher than usual prices for groceries and food are causing major strain, compared with 42 percent of food-secure adults.

Rural areas experienced the highest rates in the state, though fewer Virginians live in these areas. Additionally, Black and Hispanic Virginians experienced food insecurity at roughly twice the rate of their white neighbors.

Prevalence rates vary throughout the state, with Southwest Virginia seeing the highest levels at 55 percent. However, even in Northern Virginia, the area with the lowest rates, nearly one in three households had experienced food insecurity during the year. And in a state with an unusually large federal workforce, one-third of Virginians said the 2025 government shutdown had a negative financial impact on their household.

"Every Virginian deserves access to the food they need to live, work and thrive, yet too many families across the Commonwealth are struggling to put food on the table," said VDSS Commissioner Duke Storen. "At a time when federal policy changes are reshaping access to nutrition assistance, this study underscores what is at stake. Behind these numbers are real people and families working toward greater stability. The Spanberger Administration remains committed to leveraging every available pathway and partnership to strengthen food security across the Commonwealth."

Food insecurity can also make it harder to manage and afford care for diet-sensitive health conditions, creating a cycle between food insecurity and poor health. Three out of four food-insecure adults have been diagnosed with one or more chronic conditions, and three in five have visited an emergency room or urgent care facility at least once in the past year.

The survey also showed that only 27 percent of food-insecure households in Virginia are enrolled in SNAP. While some are ineligible based on income, others face barriers such as stigma, lack of awareness and perceived administrative burdens. The charitable food system, including a network of more than 1,100 neighborhood food pantries, is acting as a significant buffer to food insecurity. Half of households facing hunger accessed charitable food.

Added Storen: "No Virginian should go hungry – ever. Every organization and every person has a strength to share, and this study is our call to action. VDSS will work shoulder to shoulder with local departments, food security partners, schools, clinics, businesses and faith communities to reduce barriers, boost SNAP enrollment and make sure families can count on consistent access to healthy food. Together, we can – and we will – help Virginians meet their food needs and thrive."

Commonwealth Transportation Board invites public to participate in fall transportation meetings

By SHAWN STREET
shawm@virginiamediainc.com

The Commonwealth Transportation Board will host a series of meetings across Virginia this fall.

The purpose of the meetings is to gain public feedback on transportation projects and programs related to highway, rail and public transportation across the commonwealth. Members of the community may participate by attending public meetings or submitting comments by email or by mail.

Officials have scheduled the Southwest Virginia meeting for Nov. 5. The meeting will take place at Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Room 240 in Abingdon.

The public will have an opportunity to learn and share feedback about top transportation priorities and the vision for transportation in the commonwealth along with information related to various other initiatives.

Representatives from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation will be in attendance to highlight their transportation programs and to discuss the public's ideas and concerns on Virginia's transportation network.

The meetings will consist of remarks from key officials followed by a town hall session where the public may engage in discussion and ask questions about the various initiatives.

Residents may also submit their comments via email or mail by Nov. 30. For roads and highways: Six-Year-Program@vdot.virginia.gov or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1221 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

For transit and rail: drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov or Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.



Sat. **Monster House: 1 PM (\$1)- 3 PM & 5 PM (\$3)**
Oct. 3 **The Lost Boys: 7 PM & 9 PM (\$3)**

Sun. **Monster House: 3 PM (\$3)**
Oct. 4 **The Lost Boys: 5 PM (\$3)**

112 West Main Street - Lebanon, VA
www.therusselltheatre.com

THE RUSSELL
LEBANON, VA

Enjoy a honey of a breakfast

Morning mealtime can be frenetic, as multiple people in a home get ready for work or school at the same time. Stocking the refrigerator with ready-to-go offerings that are healthy and delicious ensures that everyone can grab breakfast even if they're in a rush.

This recipe for "Crunchy Honey-Yogurt Breakfast Parfait" courtesy of the National Honey Board® seems like a dessert but actually can be enjoyed first thing in the morning. With nutrient-dense ingredients like whole fruits, honey and yogurt, it provides the boost of energy necessary to start one's day.

CRUNCHY HONEY-YOGURT BREAKFAST PARFAIT Makes 2 servings

- 1 large banana, sliced, divided
- 1/3 cup honey, divided
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt, divided
- 1/2 cup crunchy granola, divided
- 1/2 cup blueberries, divided

Reserve several slices of banana and a few blueberries for garnish.

Layer 1 tablespoon, 1/4 of the pre-sliced banana, 2 tablespoons blueberries, 2 tablespoons yogurt, 2 tablespoons granola, 1/4 of the sliced banana, 2 tablespoons blueberries, 1 tablespoon honey, and 2 tablespoons granola in a parfait glass.

Repeat for a second parfait.

Garnish with reserved banana, blueberries and a drizzle of honey.



YOUR
HOMETOWN NEWS
is just a click away!



LOCAL NEWS
Stay informed on what matters most.



SPORTS
Follow your favorite teams and athletes.



OBITUARIES
Honoring lives and sharing memories.



COMMUNITY EVENTS
Discover local events happening near you.



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

FIND US ONLINE AT
www.thelebanonnews.com
★ ★ ★

Congressman Griffith: Helene Revisited

Two years ago, Southwest Virginia communities faced some of the most adverse weather conditions in recent memory.

Hurricane Helene damaged homes, businesses, infrastructure, farms, among other properties and items. Hundreds of thousands of people in Virginia's Ninth District were affected by other losses, including a loss of cellular telephone service in much of the District.

Preparing for danger, Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin took decisive steps.

The Wednesday before the storm hit, Youngkin called. He advised me that Virginia's Ninth District would be severely impacted by the incoming storm.

During this time, Youngkin and his team were consulting with the National Weather Service in Blacksburg about the imminent threat.

To help the region prepare for the impending crisis, Youngkin declared a State of Emergency. This action mobilized emergency response resources into our region. Youngkin did so to coordinate agency communications and prepare our communities for the worst, including deploying statewide assets like swift water rescue teams and additional State police.

The deployment of statewide swift water rescue teams included the Bristol, Virginia, Swift Water Rescue Team, the only such team based in Virginia's Ninth District at that time.

Youngkin prepared the region so well that Virginia delivered assistance to Tennessee as well.

Unicoi County Hospital, operated by Ballad Health, was completely flooded during the disaster. More than 50 people were stranded and stuck on the roof of the hospital.

With the help of rescue helicopter crews from Abingdon and the Virginia State Police, those on the hospital roof were saved.

Surviving the storm, however, was just the first test.

In the aftermath, I traveled to the impacted areas with Youngkin and surveyed the damages.

From our borders with North Carolina and Tennessee to our borders with West Virginia, we saw homes lifted off



MORGAN GRIFFITH

WEEKLY REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL

foundations, infrastructure decimated and storm debris throughout the region.

Accordingly, Youngkin submitted a request for a federal Major Disaster Declaration. I pushed for federal authorities to approve his request and helped secure federal approval.

In addition to Youngkin's Declaration request, I voted for a government funding package that included Helene relief.

Money and federal relief resources from this package continue to flow into Ninth District communities. These funds have been used to support various projects, including extensive repairs in Damascus and wastewater treatment system repairs in Wytheville.

Thanks to Youngkin's actions, lives were saved and relief resources are available.

More work is underway in Congress to promote life-saving measures in times of emergency.

The impact of Hurricane Helene left many without access to power, cell phone signal and public communications systems. Friends, neighbors and loved ones could not get in touch with local authorities, missed critical alerts and faced persistent danger.

When surveying damages in our region with Josh Hess, my then-district director, we planned to meet in Indepen-

dence. However, Josh failed to show up. Due to the mobile signal outage, I could not contact Josh to learn that his vehicle had gone into a sinkhole.

While I later learned that Josh and his car were okay, it illustrated the distressing situations many endured from the lack of communications support.

In Asheville, North Carolina, where Hurricane Helene hit hardest, communities struggled with this reality.

How could they contact people to make sure they were okay?

Fortunately, a local AM radio station came to the rescue.

CBS News detailed how WWNC host Mart Starling and producer Tank Spencer served as a lifeline for North Carolina residents. The station received scores of messages from residents who could deliver news and updates during the damaging storms.

Faced with a natural disaster, AM radio provided life-saving communications access.

This story is a testament to the power, value and reliability of AM radio technologies, particularly for those who live in or drive through rural areas.

AM radio is a trusted and reliable technology that can serve folks in real-time with real emergencies.

Accordingly, I supported a bill requiring AM radio technology for new cars.

As a co-sponsor of the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act, I voted in favor of the bill during a House Energy and Commerce Committee markup. Following the hearing, I pushed for House leadership to consider a vote on the bill.

In September, the House overwhelmingly passed the measure. I believe that the Senate should follow suit to support a life-saving technology that helps those in rural areas.

As your federal representative, I will continue to advocate for Ninth District access to natural disaster relief, community recovery resources and mitigation measures.

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

Adult education is about more than earning a diploma or improving basic skills; it can also be the first step toward a new career. For adults who want better job opportunities, higher wages, or a fresh start, education can open the door to many different career pathways.

Many adult education programs provide opportunities to explore careers while building important skills. Students may learn about healthcare, skilled trades, information technology, business, education, manufacturing, and other growing fields. Career exploration can help students discover what interests them, identify their strengths, and understand what education or training is needed to reach their goals.

Earning a GED® or improving reading, writing, math, and computer skills can also prepare adults for additional training. These skills may be required for community college programs, apprenticeships, career certifications, or employer-sponsored training.

Career pathways do not always happen in one big step. An adult learner might begin by improving their math skills, earning a GED®, completing a short-term certi-



BEVERLY PRATER ASHBY

cation, and eventually moving into a higher-paying position. Each accomplishment builds confidence and creates new opportunities.

Adult education also encourages students to think about their long-term goals. Asking questions such as "What kind of work interests me?" "What

skills do I already have?" and "What training do I need?" can help create a clear direction.

Exploring career pathways through adult education is an investment in the future. Whether the goal is to start a new career, advance in a current job, or gain skills for a better opportunity, adult education can provide the knowledge, confidence, and support needed to take the next step.

If you are ready to participate or learn more about the opportunities available through adult education, you can get more information by calling Southwest Regional Adult Education at 276-889-5424.

GED® is a registered trademark of the American Council on Education. Used under license.



DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

A New Season

Fall has arrived. This is not earth shattering news but very welcome news if you have been living in 95 degree plus heat. For those of us who have, we are welcoming cooler temperatures. Autumn can be several weeks of happy weather but by the time it ends we know what follows – winter. We aren't always that excited about winter, but it's okay, it's another season.

Mainly, let's be happy to experience a new season. New seasons bring new days and new opportunities. Life is different in every season of life. Life is filled with seasons. We have weather seasons but we have life seasons. If we are fortunate we have many seasons.

How many Fall seasons have you lived to enjoy? Twenty? Fifty? Maybe even 90 or more? They go by quickly. The long hot days have been a grind but looking back they passed by quickly.

Life goes by quickly. Soon we will be celebrating Christmas, we hope. We should enjoy each of these rapidly passing seasons. Childhood, young adult life, middle age years and our senior years. We hope to experience them all and stretch out as long as possible.

Enjoy your season of health. Health and our daily peace with God are our most valued resources. Regardless of how much money you have you won't enjoy it much without your health. We value and treasure our health. Taking care of ourselves must be a top priority.

Casting all restraints to the side is not a good idea. Pouring a little sand occasionally in your car's fuel tank is never a good idea and neither is occasional garbage in our bodies. We all do it some. Some do it every day and get by with it a long time but none of us can forever.

The seasons of life can change at any given moment. Sometimes life changes with a phone call or just a text message. The news can be good or bad and our entire direction of life is changed regardless of whether we are ready.

Ecclesiastes chapter three talks about seasons. This biblical passage tells us there are many of them. "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to kill and a time to heal, a time to break down and a time to build up. A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.

A time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones together, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get and a time to let go; a time to keep and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away." Read the rest of this good chapter sometime today or this week. For reflection and meditation.

Every season has its ups and downs. Take hold of this new season with all that we will learn, experience and enjoy.

Another letter from your Mountain Cousin

Dear Cousin,

I started you a letter on Sept. 11, 2025, the 25th anniversary of 9/11. A lot has happened in the past two weeks. The country made it through the anniversary with lots of tears and remembrances. However, how many remember that it was in New York that our country was dedicated to God, (not Islam). George Washington was there on his Inaugural Day, we visited the church, St. Paul's Chapel, where he sat, as we were there feeding the crews sorting through the World Trade Center rubble. Washington worshiped at St. Paul's for almost two years during the time that New York City was the capital of the United States of America. Here prayers were lifted up to God for this country, which is now the richest country in the world. God has blessed the USA but so many have turned away and forgotten the God of their forefathers. Now, like England, we are closing church doors, selling churches and watching our country be invaded by those who hate our freedom and us.

Daily we watch as countries have to fight to save their own lands, to save their history, their religious freedom.

Cuz, I do wonder, are we in the days Jesus called the "birth pains"? For around the world there seems to be one earthquake after another, water breaking up out of the earth like geysers, volcanoes erupting all over the place, and there's even a new island being formed as a volcano is erupting in the Pacific Ocean.

Well here on the farm, the fall campers have come and gone, they were from Richmond and had come to hike the Channels and they also visited the Devil's Bathtub. We spent a good part of a week getting everything ready, firewood gathered, sites cleared, and in the end we put them on the new barn porch because of rain moving in. And they were happy cooking on the grill instead of trying to light wet firewood. (No wet tents either)

On 9/11, we didn't get to go to any ceremonies because we were loading up the spring calves and they were headed to their new farm homes. We still have one more bunch that leaves in October and one little one that escaped to take to Castlewood.

I sure wish I could have gone to one of those services. I pulled out one of our album of pictures and newspaper clipping of 911. It is unbelievable that twenty-five years has passed. I was young then, and now I feel so old. So much has happened in twenty-five years. All of our kids are out of school and college, they have all been married, two have had children, and one adopted three kids as well.

They have made their lives, bought homes and moved on with jobs, relocated and now some of their own kids are working or in college., two have had children, and one adopted three kids as well. They have made their lives, bought homes and moved on with jobs, relocated

and now some of their own kids are working or in college.

Children that were born of women to men who died on 9/11 are now 24, going on 25 years old. They have had a life without their real biological fathers. Children who had mothers on those planes, in those buildings have faced life without their real birth moms. Life has moved on, but the enemy is now not overseas, but right in our own country, taking over cities and towns, teaching their radical hatred of the very country that is feeding them, giving them jobs, homes and too often illegally making them rich! What a slap in the face to all those brave firefighters, police officers and the heroes on flight 93.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said, when speaking of home, "He is the happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home. "

Cuz, how can we have peace when those who shout for our deaths now walk our streets and swear allegiance, not to the flag of the United States of America but to their own country? This is the land of the free because of the brave. Our laws, based on the Bible, uphold freedom and liberty, not tyranny or oppression. That is why the founding fathers and hard working folks who settled America left England, they, folks like the pilgrims, wanted a place where they could be free to worship God in their own way, not according to the king's rules. They wanted to be free to read the Bible in their own language and translation. And the rest of the folks were just tired of being taxed to death by the King, no taxation without representation.

They also wanted freedom of speech, a free press.

Well cuz, this has been the rainiest September I can remember! We had a flash flood the other day, which finished off the big hay patch. We managed to get a few soggy bales. We still have Mom's farm to go. And the teenage chickens have now learned to go to roost in the big chicken house all by themselves. Although sometimes I still have to round up a few stragglers that don't want to leave the fields where they're catching bugs. Everybody is going to bed sooner as the night is closing in earlier every night.

Until Next week, say a prayer for our country, and sorry about the mix up on the meeting dates, forgot about Labor Day. I still say, if they're going to put in a data center, make sure they pay for their own power and water and that they pay taxes like the rest of us. And they should buy out everybody that wants to leave Clinchfield, and get them a comparable size house somewhere in Russell County. And if nobody likes any of these things, please go look for a factory or something to put over there to give the young people jobs.

RJ Kennedy

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS is just a click away!

LOCAL NEWS Stay informed on what matters most.

SPORTS Follow your favorite teams and athletes.

OBITUARIES Honoring lives and sharing memories.

COMMUNITY EVENTS Discover local events happening near you.

The Lebanon News

Local News, Local Stories, Local People.

LATEST NEWS

Your Community, Your Stories, Your Newspaper.

FIND US ONLINE AT www.thelebanonnews.com

Savvy Senior: Planning a Simple, Affordable Funeral

BY JIM MILLER

Dear Savvy Senior,
I'd like to make my end-of-life arrangements, but I want to keep things simple and affordable. What are my options?
--86-Year-Old



SAVVY SENIOR

Dear 86,
Smart thinking. Planning ahead can save your loved ones a lot of stress, and money. With a traditional burial averaging around \$10,000 and a full-service cremation near \$6,500, it's easy to see why many seniors are looking for simpler, lower-cost ways to say goodbye.
The good news is, there are plenty of options that are dignified, straightforward, and much easier on your wallet. Here's a look at some choices, depending on the kind of farewell you want.

Direct cremation

If cremation appeals to you, a direct cremation is the simplest – and usually the least expensive – option. It includes picking up the body, completing the required paperwork, the cremation itself, and returning the ashes to your family. There's no embalming, formal viewing, or casket; a simple cardboard box called an “alternative container” is used to hold the remains.
Depending on where you live and which provider you choose, direct cremation typically costs \$700 to \$3,500. If you want extra services, ask for an itemized price list so you know exactly what you're paying for. Funeral homes are required by law to provide this.

Immediate or direct burial

If burial is your preference, an immediate or direct burial is the most basic option. The body is buried in a

simple container soon after death, skipping embalming, viewings, and the use of funeral facilities. Families can still hold a memorial service at the graveside, at home, or at a place of worship without the body present.
These services usually run \$2,000 to \$3,000, not counting cemetery fees, which can add \$1,000 to \$3,000. Every funeral home offers direct burial.
To find local providers, you can search online for “cremation” or “funeral” along with your city and state. You can also compare prices on sites like Funeralocity.com or Parting.com. Another handy approach is to use AI tools like ChatGPT or Gemini: you can ask them to pull together lists of nearby funeral homes or cremation providers, see which services they offer, check estimated costs, and even compare options side by side – all in a matter of minutes. It's a quick way to get a snapshot of what's available without making a bunch of phone calls.

Green burial

For the environmentally minded, green burial is a

simple, natural option. The body is buried in a biodegradable coffin or shroud, without embalming chemicals or a vault. Costs typically range from \$2,000 to \$5,000.
The Green Burial Council (greenburialcouncil.org, 888-966-3330) maintains a state-by-state directory of cemeteries and funeral professionals who offer these services.
Water cremation
Also eco-friendly, water cremation (or alkaline hydrolysis) uses water, chemicals, and heat instead of fire. Costs usually range from \$2,000 to \$3,500, and it's legal in more than 20 states. Search “alkaline hydrolysis” to find a provider near you.
Donate your body
If you want the lowest-cost option, consider donating your body to science. Medical schools use donated bodies for teaching and research, then return the cremated remains to your family or bury them in a local cemetery – usually free. Some schools may charge a small transport fee.
To find a program in your state, check the University of Florida's U.S. program directory at Anatbd.acb.med.ufl.edu/usprograms, or call the Whole-Body Donation Referral Service at 800-727-0700.
Planning ahead gives you control, saves your family money, and ensures your final wishes are honored. With these options, you can choose a farewell that's simple, meaningful, and within your budget – and doing a little homework now makes it easier for everyone later.
Send your questions or comments to questions@savvy-senior.org, or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.



DEBBIE GIBSON

Aiming for the Target

I have never shot a real bow and arrow, unless you count the little flimsy one they sold at my parents when I was a child so I could play cowboys and Indians. I always rooted for the Indians, therefore the purchase of a bow rather than a pistol. Somehow it seemed more stealthy.
I have told you earlier about my retirement. It is going very well, but rearranging my days and duties has gotten me to think about the ways I have, in the past, been too hard on myself. I am determined to quit that criticality. So go with me as I take aim at my new life.
Aim One: Remember that life is meant to be lived, not perfected. Don't struggle with things that are out of your control. Sometimes what we all need is to relax and let life happen to us. You don't have to know what exactly is going to happen next. You do NOT have to know.
Aim Two: Inasmuch as possible, steer clear of negative people. Negative energy is contagious, and you can come down with a really bad case of the “Why Me?”s when you hang out with negative individuals. These are the people and thoughts that will steal your joy and make you feel tired. Choose wisely the kind of people you let in your life because their energy does affect you directly. Do you want to hang out with Grumpy and Grouse, or would you rather hang with Happy and Smiley? The choice is yours.
Aim Three: Many people come up with different excuses for not taking action NOW. Some wait until tomorrow, others wait for the right time or for a sign. The problem is that they think they have more time than they actually do. Clocks tick. Time passes. If you have dreams, take action toward them today. Not tomorrow, nor next week. Now is the second best time to start. The best moment was actually yesterday.
Aim Four: Take off your mask. It can be overwhelming to keep the person you really are hidden all the time. Not expressing the emotions you feel and the way you think can only make you feel miserable and disconnected from your circle of friends. Wearing a mask is a risky thing to do because someday you might realize you have lost yourself in the never-ending journey to impress other people. Not knowing who you really are can be a really scary experience. So, don't try to satisfy other people's expectations of you. Just be your true self.
Aim Five: It is perfectly fine to fail. Failure isn't necessarily a bad thing. It is just a new opportunity to learn something, to grow and to try again when the time comes. In life, things don't always unfold the way we expect but that shouldn't be a reason to give up. Successful people are never the ones who surrendered. They are the ones who keep going even when the road gets rough. You've probably heard the saying that a smooth sea never made a skillful sailor. Smooth seas and lack of failure do not a successful human make.
Aim Six: You need to remember that you are the architect of your own life. When you know who you really are and what you want most, you have discovered two of the most important things in your life. It takes courage and persistence to actually go after what you want to achieve. This kind of responsibility is feared by many people, and usually they allow others to create their dreams for them. Maybe it is because they aren't brave enough to create their own life path or are too scared to do it alone. Maybe it's because they fear they are going to be judged and considered crazy. But the truth is, if you have a person who disagrees with you, that means you are standing for something you believe in. Listen to your heart. Make your own blueprint.
There you go, six simple, and yet, sometimes difficult things to work on in 2026. I wish I had known and believed them all at twenty instead of almost seventy. Life is good, my friends, live it! Build your world from the stuff you are made of, suffer no discouragement, get up and dust off the seat of your pants if you fall, and find some beautiful people to share your unmasked, vibrant, true-to-self life!

Appalachian Family Treasures

There is something truly moving about holding an object that was once held by the hands of family members that came before you. Imagine the first light of morning creeping through the cracks of an old mountain home. Before the sun has climbed over the ridge, the day had already begun. A woman ties on her apron, the smell of wood smoke lingers in the air, and she reaches for the butter churn that has become as familiar to her hands as her own heartbeat. Nearby, milk waits in a heavy can, fresh from the barn. A skillet hangs ready for breakfast, while an old iron sits nearby, waiting for its turn beside the stove. These are not simply household objects. They are relics of countless ordinary days that built the lives of Appalachian families.
The items in this photograph belonged to my grandma, with several being passed down to her from her own mother. Every scratch, every worn handle and weathered surface tells a story no history book could ever fully capture. Our ancestors rarely lived easy lives, yet, they purpose and dignity in the work of caring for their families.
The butter churn was part of everyday life in many Appalachian homes. Before butter could be spread across warm biscuits, cream had to be churned by hand, often for hours. It was repetitive, physical work, but it was simply another chore that had to be done. Like so many household tasks, it was part of the routine of daily life. My grandma once remembered how she, as a child, would stand beside her mother and take her turn at the churn in their small kitchen.
Beside the butter churn stands a milk can, used to carry fresh milk from the barn after the morning milking. Long before grocery stores and refrigerated cartons, families depended on their own cows for milk, cream, butter and other dairy products. For many families, the day's work had begun before breakfast was ever placed on the table.
Resting on the ironing board are an iron skillet and a flat iron. The skillet was one of the hardest working tools in the kitchen. Cornbread fritters, fried potatoes, gravy

and countless family meals were cooked in pans like this. The flat iron had to be heated on wood or a coal stove before it could be used. Most households kept more than one so that as one cooled, another would already be warming on the stove. Ironing clothes took time, strength and patience, but neat clothing was a point of pride for many Appalachian families.
Even the wooden ironing board carries a story of its own. My grandma continued using that old ironing board well into the 2000s, when I was a child, after most had moved on to using aluminum ironing boards many years earlier.
Ordinary chores once required extraordinary effort. Washing, drying, ironing, cooking, gardening, preserving food, tending livestock, sewing and raising children, often filled every waking hour. There were few conveniences and little spare time, yet these homes were rich in something far more valuable than modern comforts: resilience, resourcefulness and a determination to provide for the next generation.
Today, these heirlooms no longer serve their original purpose. They rest in corners, preserved in the homes of the descendants of the people they belonged to. Not because they are rare antiques, but because they are pieces of family history. They connect me to women who came before me along with their sacrifices, their strength and the everyday moments that shaped my family long before I was ever born.
If these objects could speak, I imagine they would not tell stories of extraordinary events. They would tell of simple mornings before sunrise, children laughing around the table, tired hands at the end of a long day's work and generations who found joy in life's simplest blessings. History is not only found in museums or textbooks. Sometimes it sits in the corner of a home, preserving the memory of those who came before us. And perhaps that is the greatest gift our family heirlooms give us. Not just a glimpse into the past but the chance to stand beside our ancestors and see the world through their eyes.

Russell County Unit of the Virginia Cooperative Extension

Your Russell County Unit of the Virginia Cooperative Extension – Scott Jessee, Ashley Clark, Kristen Gibson, and Bill Worrell present this week's Extension News.
Our office is located at 143 Highlands Drive, Lebanon, VA. Check out the Virginia Cooperative Extension Website at www.russell.ext.vt.edu or on Facebook at Virginia Cooperative Extension – Russell County

EXTENSION CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

October 8
Virtual Fencing Field Day
Stuart Land & Cattle Co – Clifton Farm – 4 p.m.
October 19
Last day to vaccinate calves for the November VQA Sale
November 3
VQA Feeder Cattle Sale
DV Auctions: <https://afca.dvauction.com>
If you need information about any of the listed events, please call the Extension Office at (276) 889-8056 or check Virginia Cooperative Extension – Russell County on Facebook.
AGRICULTURE – SCOTT JESSEE
AFTERNOON FARM VISIT
Stuart Land & Cattle Company's Clifton Farm

Thursday, October 8, 2026 • 4 p.m.
Join us for an afternoon visit at Stuart Land & Cattle Company's Clifton Farm to see new technology and practical management strategies being used in a working beef cattle operation.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE & LEARN:
GALLAGHER VIRTUAL FENCING
See the new Gallagher virtual fencing system in operation
Learn how virtual fencing can be used to manage cattle grazing
Discuss potential applications for rotational grazing and pasture management
PASTURE WATERING SYSTEM
Tour the farm's pasture watering system
See the solar-powered pumping station
Discuss how solar energy can provide dependable water for grazing livestock
WINTER FEEDING TIPS FOR THE COW HERD
Practical strategies for preparing cattle for winter
Feeding and nutritional considerations for the beef cow herd
Presented by Dr. John Currin, Virginia Tech Veterinary School

COME SEE THE TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION!
This farm visit will provide an opportunity to see how new technology, pasture infrastructure, and sound cattle management practices can work together in a working beef operation. Dinner will be served. To register go to: <https://tinyurl.com/Beef-CattleVirtualFencing>



Eaton seeking a second term as Honaker mayor

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Incumbent Jodi Eaton is among three candidates seeking the office of Mayor of Honaker. Eaton said of her background, “I’ve been married to David Eaton going on 35 years. We have three sons and three grandsons, with a granddaughter on the way. I’ve served one term as Mayor of Honaker and would like to continue the progress I’ve started if reelected.”

First elected four years ago, Eaton pointed to the securing of grants for town projects and the creation of events that draw people

to the town among her accomplishments. “I’m thankful we have received grant funding for the park and other grants to help with our town,” Eaton said. “It was much needed for the children and families in our community.”

Eaton said she was also proud of one of the events held at the park each year, The Route 80 Festival. The event is free of charge to audiences and it brings nationally known bluegrass artists to Honaker.

“We’re getting ready to start working on the sidewalks in town,” she added. “We are working on a second downtown revitalization project and Rails to Trails project and a farmer’s market.”

Eaton said, “I’m trying to offer more to our citizens and grow our town.”

Among the issues facing Honaker, Eaton cited providing a better quality of life to residents by keeping the cost of living affordable. She also mentioned, “Attracting outside people coming into our town to enjoy our festivities – Redbud Festival, Route 80 Festival, and the Honaker Gospel Jubilee.”

If reelected, Eaton said she will focus on continuing to apply for grants for the town’s park phase

two enhancement.

“I will continue to improve our sidewalks and roads,” she added. In the area of economic growth, Eaton said she will work “with local property owners and stakeholders to improve properties to attract more businesses into the town.”

She said she will also work “with the new housing project opening in Russell County, to build new housing on blighted properties.”

Eaton is being challenged by Ernest Short and Tommy Testerman. The Lebanon News reached out to both challengers but did not receive a reply.



Jodi Eaton

Scott McGlothlin seeking another term on the Honaker Town Council

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Scott McGlothlin is seeking another term on the Honaker Town Council.

“I grew up in the Tunnel Hill section of Honaker,” McGlothlin said when discussing his background. “I went to work in the coal mines in 1984. I married my wife, Alicia Snead, in 1990 and we had a daughter, Ashlee, in 1992. I worked in the mines for 31 years and now I am retired and have been blessed with two grandchildren

and been blessed to keep both of them since they were born.”

When asked about the accomplishments he is most proud of during his time on the council, McGlothlin said keeping water bills low, the creation of the Honaker Town Park and Splash Pad. He said he is also working to bring a grocery store to the town.

“Most of all,” he added, “doing something for the kids – the Honaker Kids Fishing Day.”

Each spring, McGlothlin and volunteers stock Lewis Creek with fish and hundreds of children

dren from the town and across the region enjoy a day of fishing.

If reelected, McGlothlin said he will make it a priority to, “...do something about homes that are run down. Or junked up properties.”

Other areas that have been and will continue to be addressed, according to McGlothlin, include updates to water lines, a water tank project, sidewalk upgrades and updating some of the town’s ordinances.

Economic development and supporting established businesses were issues also mentioned by

McGlothlin.

“We need to support and promote our local businesses,” he said. “Keep revitalizing and updating our town and look for grant funding to improve on what we have started.”

Joining McGlothlin on the November ballot are fellow incumbents Benny Chafin and Nancy Taylor, as well as challengers Cathy Ray and Jennifer Short.

The Lebanon News reached out to each candidate, however only McGlothlin, Ray and Taylor responded.



Scott McGlothlin

Nancy Taylor is running for Honaker Town Council

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Nancy Taylor was appointed to the Honaker Town Council following the passing of her husband James (Big Jim) Taylor. She is now running for a term of her own.

“I am a lifelong resident of the Honaker community and a 1969 graduate of Honaker High School,” Taylor said. “I continued my education with Bristol Business College and at Southwest Virginia Community College. During my working career I have filled retail, clerical, and educational positions in our local and surrounding area.”

Nancy and Jim were married in 1970 and had four children. “Our children grew up learning and developing through the benefits of a small-town atmosphere,” she said. “We are truly blessed that our children and their families live close by and are able to visit often to participate in and enjoy many hometown activities.”

Taylor added, “It has been my pleasure to be active in school, church, community activities and events giving myself and our family a great sense of community values and spirit. I appreciate my town and the people who give of their time, energy and support to provide a safe community and a strong town.”

Taylor spoke of one of her late husband’s favorite events, the Honaker Kids Fishing Day.

“My husband, Jim Taylor, served on the Honaker Town Council this current three-year term,” she explained. “Before he made the decision to run for council he began working with

Kids Fishing Day, an annual event that Councilman Scott McGlothlin had vision for. Kids Fishing Day was a tremendous success from the very first day. This event is a totally free activity for all children from babies through the age of 15. Areas are set up for each age group and each child receives free food, fishing gear, opportunity and assistance with catching trout, and opportunities to win door prizes and engage with nature.”

“It is especially inspiring to see the kids 16 and up return to help with the younger ones. That is a result of what is poured into them from their community as this event is supported by local volunteers and donations.”

She went on to say, “Kids Fishing Day always brought Jim such joy to see the children’s excitement as they caught ‘the big one’. He would say every year, ‘This was the best day Honaker has ever had!’. He loved every minute from seeing the fish go in the water, the setup, preparation of food, the children, down to the door prizes. You could guarantee that on fishing day you would always find him at the fish cleaning station. He was helping clean, fillet, and package the children’s catch of the day.”

“This year in March, Jim made Heaven his home before Kids Fishing Day arrived in May. Our family asked family and friends to make donations to this event in lieu of flowers so his support could continue. Because Jim so loved and cherished this event, this year was in his memory. Our family and I are most proud and appreciative of our town’s recognition

in honoring Jim in a way that brought so much joy and happiness to him as well as many others. It has been my joy to see my children work alongside their Dad and others in support of this special event.”

Taylor went on to say, “We have had the pleasure of watching our first grandson and granddaughter participate in Kids Fishing Day for many years, then transitioning to volunteering to work, and recently to assisting our youngest grandson and others as they joined the tradition.”

Taylor said if elected, she will continue to support Kids Fishing Day. “Jim and I have supported Kids Fishing Day for years and will continue to do so for many more to come,” she said.

She added, “Completing Jim’s term has been a rewarding learning experience for me. If elected to serve an upcoming term, I will continue to support our town projects and events while looking forward to new ways to grow a strong community. As this time has been a learning experience for myself, it would be my passion to see the people in our town become more involved in participation and knowledge of the process of handling these opportunities and issues as they arise in our town.”

Cooperation is the key to building a stronger Honaker, Taylor said.

“A strong and thriving community is built by people working together with a shared commitment to its future,” she said. “Understanding, cooperation, and courtesy create the foundation for a town where residents, businesses,

and community organizations can grow and prosper together.”

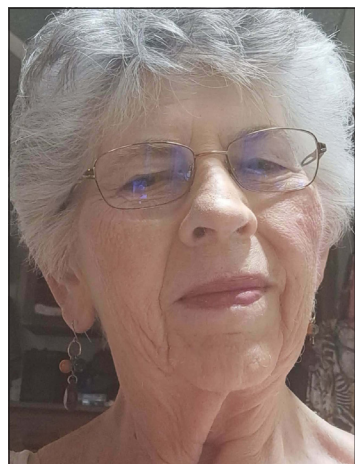
Taylor added, “It truly takes a village—each of us playing a role in encouraging local business, supporting economic development, and creating opportunities for continued growth. At the same time, responsible growth means preserving the unique character, values, and integrity that make our community a special place to live, work, and raise a family.”

Taylor said listening to and supporting one another will create common goals and that produces economic opportunity and something else as well. “We build a stronger, more connected, and more resilient community for everyone,” she said. “Our community’s future is a shared responsibility, and together, we can strengthen what we have, embrace meaningful growth, and protect what makes our town truly unique.”

She said the system of checks and balances protects the integrity of government. “These established processes must be followed to ensure that the town’s affairs are conducted responsibly, transparently, and effectively,” she said. “By adhering to the ordinances and laws in place, the town can maintain structure, promote stability, and support the well-being of its community.”

Taylor said Honaker’s economy is a significant concern. “Just as households must learn to manage their resources wisely and operate within a budget, towns must also make responsible financial decisions that support long-term stability and growth,” she said.

“By working together in unity, understanding our shared responsibilities,



Nancy Taylor

and supporting one another; we can overcome obstacles and the pressures of daily life while building a stronger, more resilient community—one we can all be proud of,” Taylor added. “When questions or concerns arise, we should seek understanding, gain knowledge, and stay informed before criticizing or placing blame. Through open communication and cooperation, we can help our community move forward with confidence and purpose.”

Taylor vowed, “If elected to serve our town, I will strive to treat every person with the same respect, fairness, and consideration I would want for myself. I am committed to serving with compassion, integrity, and transparency while helping guide informed decisions that reflect the needs and best interests of our town and community.”

She concluded, “I would be honored to receive your support in the November 2026 town election. With a grateful heart and a sincere desire to serve, I thank you for your confidence and consideration.”

Cathy Ray is running for a seat on the Honaker Town Council

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Early voting is now underway for the November 2026 election. In Honaker, five candidates will be competing for three seats on the town council. Among the candidates is Cathy Ray.

“I am a wife, mother, and proud Mamaw, and I have had the privilege of calling our community home for most of my life,” Ray said when asked to introduce herself to the public.

“I have always believed in being involved in and giving back to the community I call home,” she added. “I previously had the opportunity to serve on the town council, and I have also been involved with numerous civic clubs, community organizations, and local committees over the years. These experiences have given me a greater appreciation for the people, businesses, and organizations that make our community a special place to live.”

Ray is a Financial Services Specialist for the Southwest Virginia Community College Education Foundation. She said her work has given her the opportunity to help support scholarships, donors and programs that benefit students and the community.

“I am passionate about our town and its future,” she said. “I

believe that when residents, businesses, community organizations, and local leaders work together, we can create opportunities, support one another, and build a stronger community for our families and future generations.”

When asked what decision or policy made by the town would she have handled differently, Ray pointed to recent plans by the county to place a garbage drop-off site in Putnam.

“I would have liked to see the town be more vocal in opposing the proposed garbage site in the Putnam section of our community,” Ray said. “This is a heavily populated area, and I believe a garbage site could create significant concerns for the residents who live there, including increased traffic, noise, odors, environmental concerns, land value and potential impacts on the quality of life in the surrounding community.”

Ray added, “Although Mayor Eaton stated during the July 7 town council meeting that the decision regarding the proposed site would ultimately be a county decision, I believe this issue directly affects the citizens of our town. Because of that, I feel the mayor and town council should stand with the residents they represent and make their concerns known regarding the proposed location.”

She further stated, “Our town has a responsibility to listen to its

citizens and advocate for their interests when issues have the potential to significantly impact our community. I would encourage the mayor and council to take a more active role in expressing opposition to this proposed site and supporting the residents of the Putnam community and the overall effect this will have on our entire town.”

Along with potential trash sites, Ray sees economic growth and community involvement as the biggest issues facing Honaker.

She said if elected she would push for the formation of a committee consisting of the mayor, members of the town council, town employees, current business owners and interested citizens. The purpose of the committee would be to identify ways to better support existing businesses while also developing strategies to attract new businesses and opportunities.

“Our existing businesses are a crucial part of our town, and we need to understand what they need to succeed and grow,” she said. “At the same time, we should actively look for opportunities to attract businesses that will complement our community, create jobs, provide needed services, and encourage people to shop and invest locally.”

Ray added, “Growth is difficult without new opportunities. By bringing together town leadership, employees, business owners,

and citizens, we can share ideas, identify challenges, and work together on practical solutions that will strengthen our local economy and create a more vibrant future for our town.”

Ray was asked what Honaker can do to encourage local businesses and economic development while preserving the community’s character. She answered, “I believe we should begin by listening to the business owners who are already here and learning more about the challenges they are facing.”

Ray added, “I would like to see the town organize a meeting or listening session with our existing business owners to give them an opportunity to share their concerns, identify obstacles, and discuss what the town can do to better support them. By understanding their needs, we can look for practical ways to make it easier for local businesses to operate, grow, and remain successful in our community.”

She went on to say, “We can also support our local businesses through the town’s social media presence by regularly promoting their products, services, events, and accomplishments. Encouraging residents, community organizations, and town officials to utilize local businesses for luncheons, meetings, celebrations, and other events is another simple way we can help generate



Cathy Ray

business. Just as importantly, we can all help by verbally spreading the word about the wonderful businesses we have in our community and encouraging friends, family, and visitors to support them.”

Ray added that supporting the businesses already in existence is a crucial part of economic development. “When our local businesses succeed, our entire community benefits,” she said.

In addition to Ray, Jennifer Short, Scott McGlothlin, Benny Chafin, and Nancy Taylor are running for a seat on the Honaker Town Council. The Lebanon News reached out to Short and Chafin for an interview but did not hear back from them.

Pioneers hold off
stiff challenge from
Richlands 26-19

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

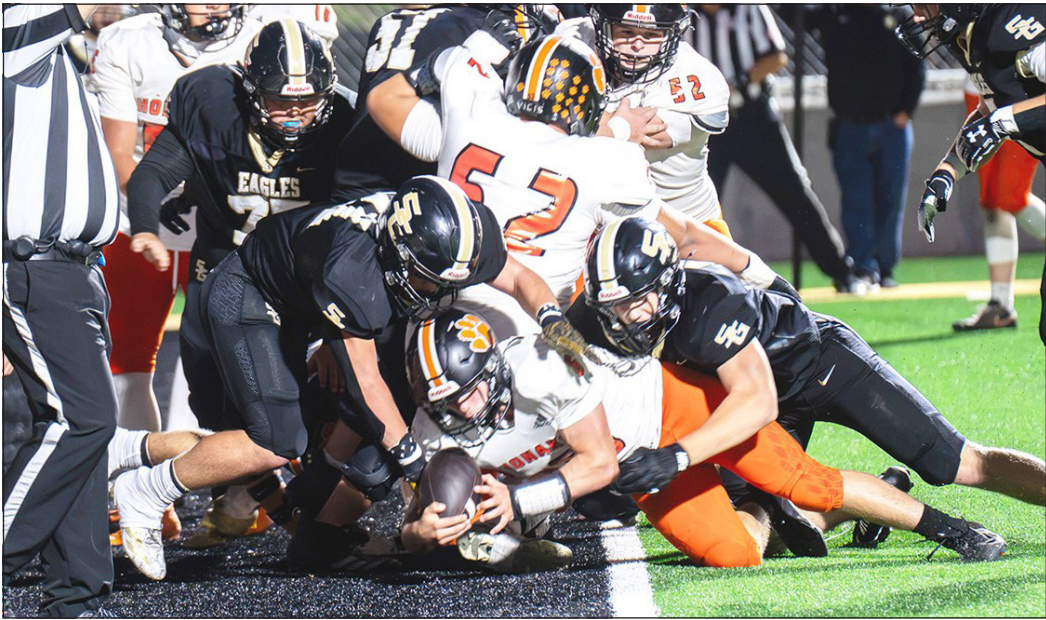
RICHLANDS (September 25, 2026) – No one told Richlands that it was supposed to be an easy Lebanon win. In one of high school football’s most iconic venues, the Pioneers pulled off a surprising close 26-19 triumph over Richlands on Friday at Ernie Hicks Stadium.

Winless Richlands (0-5, 0-2 SWD) had been shut out three straight games and had only scored one touchdown all season. A local publication had predicted a 42-0 Leba-



Easton Taylor gets outside as Richland's Cadynn Rowe chases. Taylor had two TD receptions for the Pioneers. Michele Ball | For the Lebanon News

SEE **PIONEERS HOLD OFF** | 2B



Malachi Gilbert punches one into the end zone to score for the Tigers. Keith Ray | For the Lebanon News

Eagles soar by Honaker 46-19

By CHAD COOPER
coopkam@gmail.com

VANSANT (September 25, 2026) – Southern Gap has a winning record in their inaugural season. The Eagles defeated Honaker 46-19 on Friday at Smiley Ratliff Field at the Red Robertson Athletic Complex. Southern Gap turned a three-point halftime lead into a commanding win with two touchdowns in the opening minute of the third quarter.

Senior quarterback Brayden White threw a 43-yard touchdown pass to tight end Kanan Justice, giving the Eagles breathing room. Matthew Thompson followed with a squib kick that Reid Stiltner recovered, and Carson Blankenship scored moments later.

Just like that, a 16-13 battle had become a 32-13 Southern Gap (3-2) lead.

Blankenship, a freshman, finished with 172 rushing yards and three touchdowns.

“We knew all night it was going to be a tough battle for us,” Southern Gap coach Greg Tester said. “With the type of offense they run, they can score at any time. All the credit goes to my guys up front. They took over the ballgame for us.”

The Eagles built their early lead with two runs that brought the home crowd to its feet. Freshman Gunner Baker broke several tackles on a 54-yard touchdown run with 3:22 left in the first quarter, and Blankenship added the two-point conversion.

Later in the quarter, freshman Mason Rife stopped a Honaker reverse, helping force a turnover on downs. Two plays later, Southern Gap took possession; Blankenship reversed the field, broke free, and raced 64 yards for a touchdown. White ran in the conversion, making it 16-0 with eight seconds left in the first. Honaker answered with two second-quarter touchdowns.

Quarterback Levi Honaker hit Kameron Keen for a 37-yard gain before finding Malachi Gilbert

on a swing pass, and Gilbert carried it 15 yards into the end zone.

The Tigers recovered a Southern Gap fumble on the Eagles’ next offensive play. A roughing-the-passer penalty later extended their drive, and Gilbert scored from one yard out. Honaker trailed 16-13 with 4:10 left in the half.

“We battled,” Honaker coach Aaron Lowe said. “We made some adjustments in the first half and got back in the game.”

At halftime, Tester told the Eagles to keep fighting, protect the ball and avoid the penalties that had put their offense behind the chains.

“We get a first down, then a penalty backs us up to second-and-20,” he said. “There’s not a good play for second-and-20 or third-and-20. We’ve just got to stay in front of the sticks.”

Southern Gap answered. Justice caught White’s 43-yard touchdown pass and carried defenders into the end zone. White ran in the two-point conversion for a 24-13 lead with 11:02 left in the third quarter. Tester said Justice had suggested the play after seeing how Honaker was covering him. Honaker was called for a facemask penalty on the touchdown, which allowed Southern Gap to kick from midfield.

The Eagles then took the ball right back. Thompson sent a squib kick toward Honaker, and Stiltner recovered it at the Tigers’ 28-yard line. Blankenship ran for consecutive gains of 6 yards, and a roughing-the-passer penalty helped set up his 8-yard touchdown run. Gunner Baker added the conversion to make it 32-13 with 10:02 left in the third.

“They scored twice in about two and a half or three minutes,” Lowe said. “You go down three scores, and that’s hard to come back from.”

Honaker cut the deficit to 32-19 on an 8-yard touchdown pass from Levi Honaker to Brayden

SEE **EAGLES SOAR** | 6B

Lady Pioneers
battle in three-
set loss at Marion

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

MARION (September 22, 2026) – A Southwest District showdown at the Hurricane House didn’t go Lebanon’s way. Marion sits alone atop the SWD volleyball standings after handing the Pioneers a 3-0 setback (25-18, 25-22, 25-22).

“This was a good win,” said Marion coach Amanda Hanshew. “We’re working to maintain our consistency from point to point, set to set, and throughout the match. We’ve struggled a little with being up by a minute, only to have a couple of things go wrong and bottom out. So, we really want to work on our consistency and focus throughout the match.”

Lebanon (8-4, 3-1 SWD) had been undefeated until a tournament in Abingdon on Saturday. The Pioneers were undone by mistakes on Tuesday.

“We never really seemed to get the momentum,” Lebanon coach Dennis Price said. “We played from behind most of the game. In the second set, when we did get the lead, we went through a stretch where we didn’t play well and let them back in.”

“We just had so many errors. I think we had over 40 errors tonight. You can’t beat a good team making that many errors and mistakes. But we’re working at it, and we’ll keep at it and see what happens.”

The Scarlet Hurricane sprinted to a 4-0 lead in the first set and was never tied or trailed as they rolled to the win. Lebanon put up a strong fight in set two, which was tied 11 times and saw nine lead changes. With the Pioneers up 21-17, and Sadie Amos dominant at the net, Marion took eight of the final nine points to rally.

“I called a timeout and told them we were running out of time,” Hanshew noted. “If we were going to make a move, we had to make it then. We had to take it one point at a time. I was proud of how they maintained their composure and played smart. Instead of getting overly aggressive with the ball, they were smart about their placement. That consistent surge behind the service line helped us out there, too.”

In set three, with the Pioneers leading 19-17, Halle Richardson served an ace to tie it for the eighth time, then gave the Hurricanes the lead with another ace as they pulled away for the sweep.

The Pioneers had two critical service errors in the third.

“That’s the big thing. It seemed like we could never get over the hump,” Price declared. “We couldn’t ever get that confidence. I felt like if we could get one set, we’d get a little confidence and play a whole lot better.”

“We’ll just get back at it and get back to work. That’s all we can do right now, and hopefully we’ll play better the next game.”

Amos and Aubrey Yarber pounded 10 kills each to

SEE **LADY PIONEERS** | 2B

Lady Devils fall To
Eastside in Cumberland Play

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

COEBURN (September 24, 2026) – Castlewood is still looking for its first Cumberland District win. The Lady Blue Devils dropped a 3-1 decision at Eastside on Thursday. Set scores were 15-25, 18-25, 25-18, 11-25 as Castlewood lost its seventh consecutive contest.

The defending CD volleyball champion Eastside (8-5, 2-0 CD) is off to a good start in defending their title.

“We’ve still got a lot to work on,” Eastside coach Bri-

anne Casteel Bailey said. “I wasn’t really happy with how we played tonight, but a win’s a win, so I’ll take it.”

The Spartans graduated seven players off last year’s squad.

“This is a whole new team for me,” Bailey stated. “This is a whole new group. We’re still working to build the chemistry and figure everything out.”

Eastside took the lead at 7-6 in the first set and at 12-11 in the second set on Castlewood attack errors and never

SEE **LADY DEVILS** | 5B



Sophie Hall gets low for a dig in the Blue Devils' loss at Eastside. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

New Peoples Bank

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Blair Clark

Made a clutch interception to secure the win and caught three passes for 76 yards, including a touchdown, helping the Pioneers win at Richlands.

New Peoples Bank

CONGRATULATIONS!

www.NewPeoples.Bank

Member FDIC

PIONEERS HOLD OFF

FROM PAGE 1B



Blair Clark (3) had three receptions and a key interception in the Pioneers' win at Ernie Hicks Stadium.

Michele Ball | For the Lebanon News

non win.

“Richlands is not a bad football team,” said Lebanon coach Hunter Norris. “I know they’re getting a lot of flak for being 0-4, but they’ve faced a tough schedule against some good football teams. They’re a good football team, and they did a lot of good things on both sides of the ball.”

With a 26-19 lead in the fourth quarter, Lebanon was driving down the field, with an opportunity to put the game away. Inside the Richlands 10, quarterback Will Jessee ran an option and attempted to pitch the ball, but the Blue Tornado’s Treyton Kiser recovered it with eight minutes to play.

Richlands used quarterback Jamie Capshaw’s arm and a strong run by Ethan Cordle, along with a Lebanon penalty, to move deep into Pioneer territory.

“We had the fumble on the pitch, which was a bad decision,” said Norris. “We also had a late hit when they were driving down the field before the interception. Little penalties like that put us in bad situations. We’ve got momentum going, and then we shoot ourselves in the foot. We’ve got to do a better job of limiting those mistakes.”

After an eight-yard rush by Cordle, the Blues had a 2nd-and-2 at the Lebanon 22. Capshaw dropped back to pass, and Honaker transfer Blair Clark picked it off for the Pioneers.

“I really wish we could have that last interception back,” Richlands interim coach Noal “Bubba” Edwards said. “That’s on me. I called a play we hadn’t practiced. It was there, but we underthrew it. That’s my responsibility, and I wish I could have that call back.”

No one was happier with the interception than Will Jessee after the ill-advised pitch.

“That was a big interception,” said Will Jessee. “Blair’s a stud. He came over from Honaker and has been a great player for us. He’s someone we can really rely on to make big plays on both offense and defense.”

Richlands had the momentum and was driving.

“It gets a little stressful, but you’ve got to keep your head and trust that God’s got it,” Will Jessee stated. “You’ve also got to trust that we can go down and punch one in if they score.”

“Richlands is a good football team. They’ve had a tough schedule coming in, and they wanted to win this one badly. They played a heck of a game, but we were able to pull through at the end.”

The Pioneers controlled the first half of play, but not on the scoreboard. Will Jessee completed 10 of 19 passes for 242 yards and three touchdowns. His scoring throws included a 24-yard pass to Braelin Hess, a 17-yard pass to Easton Taylor, and a 58-yard screen pass to Clark, who made an impressive run.

Capshaw threw touchdown passes of 75 yards to Kiser and 24 yards to Landon Absher for the Blue Tornado. Lebanon led by only 18-13 at the break.

“We had more than 300 yards of total offense at half-time,” remarked Norris. “Other than two plays, our defense did a really good job of holding them to under 100 yards in the first half. Those two big explosive plays gave them momentum and got them back in the game heading into halftime.”

Late in the third quarter after a short Richlands punt, Will Jessee connected with Taylor a second time for a 23-yard score. Capshaw answered with a 26-yard TD toss to Ethan Cordle.

“Richlands had a good game plan coming in,” commented Norris. “I think they attacked us in some spots on defense, particularly when we were playing man-to-man coverage. They took some 50-50 balls and executed on them. That was a good game plan by them, and it kept them in the ballgame.”

Will Jessee went 14-for-24 for 297 yards and four touchdowns. Layne Jessee rambled for 126 yards on the ground, with many coming on the final drive to run out the clock. Lebanon (3-2, 2-0 SWD) totaled 12 penalties for 115 yards.

“We’ve got to cut out the penalties and bad decision-making,” Norris said. “We put ourselves in some bad situations. We were lucky to convert and make a big play on that screen pass for a touchdown. We were backed up so far, it felt like we were back in Lebanon on that play. We did a great job executing and making a big play to turn the momentum around. I think that was a big play for us before halftime. If we can cut out the penalties, learn from our mistakes, and limit them, the sky’s the limit for these guys.”

Capshaw went 9-for-21 for 187 yards and three TDs for the Blues.

“I felt like the seniors really stepped up and held our younger kids accountable,” Edwards noted. “We’re starting six freshmen on defense, and we’ve got to hold them accountable. They’ve got to learn the standard we’re trying to establish here. We had only one player back from last year’s offense. We’ve got a lot of young kids, and it’s a lot to ask of them. But, man, they played hard tonight. I couldn’t be happier with them.”

Richlands is looking for the elusive first victory.

“Like I tried to preach all week, we’re going to win games in practice on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. That’s when we’re going to win them,” declared Edwards. “We’ve got to take advantage of our weeks and our days at practice. We’re going to get better. I know we’re getting better. I know the community isn’t very happy with us, especially with me, and they shouldn’t be. The results have been unacceptable for the standard at Richlands. But we’re working, and we’re going to get there.”

Lebanon 26, Richlands 19

Lebanon		6	12	8	0-26
Richlands		0	13	6	0-19

First Quarter
LEB—Hess 24 pass from W. Jessee (kick blocked), 5:00.

Second Quarter
LEB—Taylor 17 pass from W. Jessee (run failed), 11:49.
RIC—Kiser 75 pass from Capshaw (Onate kick), 7:38.
LEB—Clark 58 pass from W. Jessee (pass failed), 5:02.
RIC—Absher 24 pass from Capshaw (kick failed), 1:59.

Third Quarter
LEB—Taylor 23 pass from W. Jessee (Hart pass from W. Jessee), 3:36.
RIC—Cordle 26 pass from Capshaw (pass failed), 1:30.

	LEB	RIC
First downs	18	10
Total Net Yards	433	244
Rushes-yards	35-136	17-57
Passing	297	187
Comp-Att-Int	14-24-0	9-21-1
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-0
Penalties-Yards	12-115	7-45
Punts	3-24.7	4-24



Quarterback Will Jessee (4) gets pressure from Brock Breeding (50) for the Blue Tornado. Michele Ball | For the Lebanon News

LADY PIONEERS

FROM PAGE 1B

lead the frontline for Marion.

Macie Hanshew doled out 26 assists.

“Yarber hits the ball well,” remarked Price. “She’s quick. They’ve got an excellent setter (Hanshew), which makes it easy for her. The setter just puts it on a silver platter for her and does a great job. But, yeah, Yarber can swing. She’s quick, gets off the floor quickly, and she did a good job.”

It seemed whenever Marion needed a point, Amos was there to provide it.

“Sadie’s a senior, and you’d expect your seniors to step up when it’s time to put some points on the board and help lead your team, Hanshew said. “So, I’m proud of them.

“I thought Sadie Amos played one of her best games tonight offensively at the net. Yarber is so explosive. When she gets up and gets a hold of a ball, she can really put it down. We’ve got some good offensive weapons. As long as we’re passing well and placing the ball well, hopefully we can finish.”

Marion (7-9, 3-0 SWD) has played an extremely tough schedule. It appears to have paid off.

“I think so. That’s the reason we play in those tournaments—to get different looks at people and see different styles of play,” remarked Hanshew. “We talk about them, analyze them, and go back to look at what we did well and the weaknesses we have.

“When you’re playing outside your normal area and against bigger schools, it really shows you what you need to work on. That’s been a focus, and hopefully we can build on that and keep pushing forward.”

Jaidyn Fields (eight kills, 11 assists) was solid in the loss. Carlee Ingram (five kills, five aces) and Kaytie Lampkin (five kills) provided support. Kenlie Fields led the defense with 23 digs.

The Pioneers will have another shot. They host Marion later this season.

“We get another chance,” Price stated. “It’s early in the season, and it’s always tough to play up here. Marion always does a good job. We’ll see what happens. We’ve just got to let this one go and move on. It’s hard, but you’ve got to.”



Carlee Ingram (7) with a hit as Marion goes up to block. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News



Rhealyn Barton (10) battles at the net in the match against Marion. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News



The Lady Pioneers work to keep a ball in play against the Scarlet Hurricane. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News



276-873-6801
www.modernchevrolet.com

1. John Battle at Lebanon

Since 1984 The Lebanon News Football Contest

\$40

FIRST PRIZE

\$20

SECOND PRIZE

CONTEST RULES

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

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

Scores from last week (9/12326) Contest

1. Lebanon 26, Richlands 19
2. Southern Gap 46, Honaker 19
3. Rye Cove 54, Castlewood 21
4. Essex 10, Eastside 6
5. Graham 27, Princeton (WV) 14
6. Tennessee High 58, Abingdon 28
7. Union 49, Wise Central 6
8. Patrick Henry 42, John Battle 6
9. Ridgeview 43, Lee High 0
10. Tazewell 34, Giles 33
11. Grayson Co. 7, Virginia High 0
12. Chilhowie 56, Northwood 22
13. J.I. Burton 35, Galax 0
14. George Wythe 26, Rural Retreat 21
15. Happy Valley 48, Thomas Walker 6
16. Craig Co. 44, Twin Springs 14
17. Georgia 41, Oklahoma 13
18. LSU 35, Texas A&M 6
19. NY Giants 12, Tennessee Titans 7
20. Buffalo Bills 24, LA Chargers 16

LAST WEEKS WINNERS!

1. Luke Ratliff (20-0), Lebanon

2. Michelle Ratliff (19-1), Lebanon

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Pick The Winner Only! No Scores

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

FIRST TIE-BREAKER

will be the total points scored between
John Battle at Lebanon.

SECOND TIE-BREAKER

will be the total points scored between
Honaker at Chilhowie.

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. Fort Chiswell at Holston

BONANZA STEAKHOUSE

Senior Bar 60+

(Includes Tea or Coffee)

MON-FRI 2-4 p.m.

\$11.99

12. Rural Retreat at Patrick Henry

"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. Pittsburgh at Va. Tech



Main St. Lebanon, VA

276-889-1919

www.lebanonfamilydrug.com

14. Auburn at Tennessee

MERCY
AMBULANCE SERVICE



Lebanon
276-889-3099

Richlands
276-964-9111

Grundy
276-935-8200

15. Virginia at Florida State

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. Kentucky at South Carolina

FERGUSON
FAMILY DENTISTRY

GENERAL • COSMETIC • ADVANCED

138 Highland Dr.
Lebanon, VA

276-889-5141

17. Florida at Missouri

STARNES, INC.
REFRIGERATION & AIR CONDITIONING

23 Employees Strong NOW OFFERING FINANCING CALL FOR DETAILS

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

1-800-STARNES

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

18. New York Jets at Chicago Bears

Lebanon

Lube

Larry Runyon, owner

M-F 8-5 • Sat 8-12

976 East Main St, Lebanon

19. Jacksonville Jags at Cincinnati Bengals

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



- Personal Property Surveys
- Construction Surveying
- Erosion & Sediment Control Plans
- Mine Planning & Engineering
- Permitting
- Land Development & Plans
- ALTA Surveying

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

20. Arizona Cardinals at NY Giants

Doors Lumber Plywood Hardware



Windows Paint & Plumbing



889-2921



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

6. Richlands at Southern Gap

Auto Energy
MOTORSPORTS

Vehicles • Powersports • Buildings

Lebanon, VA

Abingdon, VA

www.autoenergy.org

7. Abingdon at Johnson Co. (TN)

McCoy
INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.

PROTECTING WHAT MATTERS

ONE AGENCY TWO LOCATIONS

276-889-2300

LEBANON AGENCY
547 W MAIN STREET
LEBANON, VA

CASTLEWOOD AGENCY
15392 US HWY 58
CASTLEWOOD, VA

8. Graham at Marion

CHEVROLET GMC
MORGAN McCLURE

Castlewood, VA

276-762-2311

www.morganmcclureauto.com

9. Virginia High at Tazewell

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
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. J.I. Burton at Eastside

LADY DEVILS

FROM PAGE 1B

relinquished it to go up 2-0 in the match.

Castlewood (4-10, 0-3 CD) never fully found its offensive rhythm until the third set.

“The girls came to play for about half of the first two sets, but then we fell off the gas,” said Castlewood coach Derek Allen. “In the third set, we came to play. They knew what they were supposed to do, communicated, and came out with the win.”

What happened to the Spartans in the third?

“There was miscommunication,” noted Bailey. “We stopped talking. The lack of communication was causing a lot of confusion, and we were letting balls drop that we shouldn’t have.”

The Blue Devils’ momentum didn’t last long. Eastside dominated the fourth set to win.

What caused the Blue Devils’ struggles?

“Serve-receive,” noted Allen. “We get crossed up about whose line is whose. We don’t communicate that. I always tell them that as soon as she touches the ball, I should be calling it and knowing my line.”

Freshman setter Leanna Franklin recorded 16 assists in the loss. Cheyenne Elam led Castlewood with five kills. Madison Goottschall, Kadence Culbertson, and Sophie Hall each added four kills.

“I think the more we play, the better we’re going to get,” Allen said of his young squad. “The girls figured out a few more things about team chemistry tonight. That’s what we’ve been working on in practice. They’re enjoying the game again.”

Hedi Craiger (11 kills, four blocks) and Abby Ward (nine kills, one block) played well at the net for the Spartans. Lexi Nixon directed the action with 29 assists and also had eight spikes. Dakota Clay (11 service points, 25 digs) and Peyton VanWinkle (eight service points, 12 digs) paced the back row in the win.

Will Eastside be at the top at the end of the season?

“It depends on which team shows up for me,” declared Bailey. “There are moments when we’re playing, and we look fantastic, and then there are moments when I’m thinking, ‘Have we even touched a volleyball?’”



Castlewood's Layla Ervin (2) with a tip in the loss to the Spartans. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News



Leanna Franklin (16) with a set as Layla Ervin (2) and Sophie Hall (22) look on.

Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News



Kadence Culbertson (14) goes up strong for Castlewood as Lexi Nixon leaps to defend.

Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTIONS

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

CEMETERY LOTS

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

HOME IMP

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

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

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
SURFACE MINING
BLASTING SCHEDULE

In compliance with Section 816.64 of the Virginia Coal Surface Mining Reclamation Regulations, notice is hereby given that Russell County Reclamation, LLC, having been issued Surface Mine Permit No. 1302253 located 2.5 miles north of Carbo off Route 615 in Russell County, Virginia, will be conducting blasting on the area covered by the permit. Blasting will be in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws and will commence according to the following schedule of dates and times, as approved by the regulatory authority:

TIME PERIOD
October 30, 2026 through October 30, 2027
DAYS
Mon. through Sat.
TIMES
Sunrise - Sunset

Access to the blasting area will be controlled to prevent unauthorized entry at least ten (10) minutes prior to any blasting event. A warning signal, indicated by three long blasts on an air horn, will be sounded to clear the area. Then another warning signal indicated by two long blasts on an air horn, two-minute delay, then one long horn blast prior to the blasting and an all-clear signal indicated by three short blasts will be audible within a range of one-half mile from the point of the blast in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws.

Also, blasting will not be conducted at times other than those announced except in emergency situations where rain, lightning, atmospheric conditions, or operator or public safety requires unscheduled detonation as approved by the regulatory authority.

Russell County Reclamation, LLC
2389 Lee Highway
Bristol, Virginia 24201
Phone: (423) 646-3400
LN-09-30;2026

LEGAL NOTICES

VIRGINIA:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF RUSSELL COUNTY
CASE NO. CH26-748
JUDY MORRISON,
PLAINTIFF

v.
JACQUELINE JESSEE CHAFIN, et al, DEFENDANTS
ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to partition certain lands located in Castlewood, Castlewood Magisterial District of Russell County, owned by the heirs and successors of G. V. Osborne, deceased, and Maxie Osborne, deceased, described in the Russell County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 119, at Page 256, and Deed Book 109, at Page 547. An Affidavit has been made and filed that the number of defendants upon whom process has been served is seven (7), and the defendants so served represent like interests with the parties not served with process; and The defendants not served with process are designated in the attached Exhibit "A", and

It appearing from the pleading that certain unknown defendants, as possible heirs or devisees of the defendants; if they be dead, and possible heirs or devisees of G. V. Osborne, deceased, and Maxie Osborne, deceased, and any other persons that may have an interest in the subject property, are proceeded against as all other parties unknown. It is so Ordered that the aforesaid defendants designated in the attached "Exhibit" and all other persons 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

LEGAL NOTICES

four (4) consecutive weeks, and that a copy of this Order be posted at the Courthouse of Russell County, Virginia, and also a copy of such Order be mailed to the defendants designated in the attached Exhibit "A", at their last known address, all to be done within ten (10) days after the entry of this Order. ENTER this 3rd day of September, 2026.

Michael L. Moore
JUDGE
REQUESTED:
TILLER & TILLER, P.C.
P.O. BOX 466
LEBANON, VA 24266
BY:
LINDA TILLER, Counsel for Plaintiffs
EXHIBIT "A"
CASE NO: CH05-123
DEFENDANTS TO BE SERVED BY
ORDER OF PUBLICATION
DEFENDANTS
JACQUELINE JESSEE CHAFIN
ADDRESS UNKNOWN
RICHARD GRIFFIN
ADDRESS UNKNOWN
SHEILA RIFFEY
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

SERVICES

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

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



NOW ACCEPTING

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.



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

EAGLES SOAR

FROM PAGE 1B

Justus, but the Eagles shut down the comeback. Blankenship scored his third rushing touchdown on a 28-yard run in the fourth quarter, then intercepted a pass on the Tigers' next possession. Aidan Baker capped the scoring with a 12-yard run with 2:55 remaining.

Blankenship averaged 10.75 yards on 16 carries. Gunner Baker rushed five times for 70 yards and a touchdown. White completed 2-of-7 passes for 74 yards and a touchdown, rushed for 24 yards and scored three two-point conversions.

Southern Gap's defense held Honaker to 51 rushing yards and 95 passing yards.

Blankenship quickly credited the line for his big night. "I wouldn't rather run behind anybody else," he said. "They're some real dogs. They work their tails off every day, and it's really paid off. It's showing."

Honaker (1-4) have lost four straight since their season-opening win over Lebanon, when they lost their all-state quarterback, sophomore Parker Lowe, to injury. The Tigers have allowed more than 40 points per game in their four losses.

Southern Gap 46, Honaker 19
Honaker 0 13 6 0—19
Southern Gap 16 0 16 14—46
First Quarter

First Quarter
SG—Baker 54 run (Blankenship run), 3:28.
SG—Blankenship 64 run (White run), 0:05.

Second Quarter
HON—Gilbert 15 pass from Honaker (pass failed), 9:42.
HON—Gilbert 1 run (pass failed), 4:08.

Third Quarter

SG—Justice 43 pass from White (White run), 11:07.
 SG—Blankenship 7 run (Baker run), 9:50.
 HON—Justus 8 pass from Honaker (pass failed), 6:33.

Fourth Quarter
SG—Blankenship 28 run (White run), 10:34.
SG—Baker 13 run (run failed) 2:45

	HON	SG
First downs	14	16
Total Net Yards	146	369
Rushes-yards	34-51	33-307
Passing	95	62
Comp-Att-Int	9-15-1	2-7-0
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	4-1
Penalties-Yards	5-53	13-97
Punts	2-47.5	2-38



Malachi Gilbert crosses the goal line for the Tigers as Mason Rife (17) pursues for the Eagles. Keith Ray | For the Lebanon News



Kameron Keen leaps to make a catch for the Tigers as Blake Payne (2) defends for Southern Gap. Keith Ray | For the Lebanon News



Honaker's Tyler Hubbard (5) get outside running the jet sweep. Keith Ray | For the Lebanon News

Local students
eligible for
scholarship from
Roanoke College

By SHAWN STREET

shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Students from across Southwest Virginia are eligible for a scholarship from Roanoke College.

The scholarship automatically awards \$5,000 per year to first-year students from 24 counties, including Russell County, and eight cities.

Combined with other financial aid, including the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant, merit awards and need-based grants, the new scholarship can result in free tuition for the region's highest-need students — closing a critical gap and removing barriers to opportunity.

The Southwest Virginia Scholars Award is available for incoming first-year students beginning in fall 2027.

“Education continues to be one of the most powerful engines for prosperity and opportunity that a community can provide,” Roanoke College President Frank Shushok Jr. said. “Through the Southwest Virginia Scholars Award, we’re making an enduring investment in the students of Southwest Virginia and in the future of this vibrant region we’re proud to call home. This is part of our core commitment to ensuring that talent and ambition are able to flourish here.”

The scholarship is distinctive because it has no income requirements. It will be automatically given to all admitted students from eligible localities.

"We recognize how financially challenging a college education can be for families. This initiative reinforces our longstanding commitment to ensuring that cost should not be a barrier for students who wish to attend Roanoke College," said Mark Campbell, vice president for enrollment strategy and student success. "We are particularly proud to signal this idea in the strongest possible way to our own region."

Roanoke College has introduced an array of new pathways for students at all stages of life to learn, grow and build career-ready skills.

Other recent initiatives include creating a free associate's degree program for local high school students and launching online courses for working professionals. These 360-degree efforts reflect the college's commitment to supporting a bright future for its students, neighbors, and communities.

To learn more about the Southwest Virginia Scholars Award, visit roanoke.edu/SWVAScholars.

ACP Releases Summer 2026 Dean's List

The Appalachian College of Pharmacy has released its Dean's List for the summer 2026 term. Students named to the Dean's List have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

"We congratulate our students who have achieved Dean's List status," said ACP Provost and Dean Susan Mayhew. "Our accelerated three-year program in the study of pharmacy is the only one offered in the state of Virginia. It's a fast-paced and rigorous program which makes their achievements all that much more noteworthy."

Members of the Class of 2027 named to the list included: Omar Al Aqeeli; Ali Al-tekreeti; Shereen Albazzaz; Kareen Awuro; Ibrahim Boateng; Haydon Caudill; Justin Ensminger; Brad Gustafson; Dalton Jenkins; Rutvik Kheni; Taylor Layne; Ryan Lester; Dhruvi Patel; Prince Patel; Rutul Patel; Drew Simmons; Meredith Williams; and Zavia Williams.

Members of the Class of 2028 named to the list included: Kofi Adutwum; Yousif Al Inizi; Yasir Al Nageeb; Ola Ali; Vatsal Amin; Philopater Badawi; Keyvan Baei; Ally Blevins; Nick Deboard; Nishat Eit; Caitlyn Hackworth; Emilie Hall; Abid Hasan; Ali Jaber; Summer Madden; Nadia Nusrat; Mikhail Ozbek; Eddy Padgett, Jr.; Akash Patel; Ashina Patel; Jeet Patel; Elizabeth Quagrain; Allison Scarlett; Dalia Suliman; and Kaleigh Tillev.

Caught something other than a fish? Find your remedy at TigRx Pharmacy!

(276) 873-4700

