The Lebanon News

Russell County's Family Newspaper Since 1880

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Permit fees officially waived for AHHP

By SHAWN STREET
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A motion made during the Russell County Board of Supervisors' September meeting has officially been passed in October.

During the September meeting, a request was presented to waive $60,000 in permit fees on behalf of Appalachian Highlands Housing Partners. AHHP plans to move into the former Buster Brown building in Lebanon.

Board attorney Tyler Starnes said at the time that the motion was defeated when board members Andrew Hensley and Tara Dye voted against the motion and Rebecca Dye and Nate Kiser abstained, with Lou Wallace, Steve Breeding and David Eaton voting in favor. He said at the time that abstentions count as a no vote, thus the motion failed on a count of 3-4.

Following a closed session during the October 4 meeting for legal advice among other subjects, Starnes announced, "Upon further review and research, the abstentions should have counted as a non-vote instead of a no vote." He said therefore the motion to waive the permit fees "should have passed."

The Code of Virginia § 13.1-849 states, "An abstention shall not be considered a vote cast."

The board voted to update the minutes, showing the motion did in fact pass.

In September, when it appeared the motion had failed, Wallace said, "We give incentives all the time. This is not anything different. I don't understand the thinking here. I think this is bad business. This is not business at all. It's just bad business."

Tara Dye, who voted against the motion in September, said waiving permit fees for a large home manufacturing company is not fair to smaller companies.

"I am pro-business, and I welcome any company that wants to start, grow, and invest here," she said. "But I also believe we have to be fair and consistent. If we waive these fees for one company, how do we justify not extending the same consideration to the home builders and businesses that have already been here for years?"

She added, "We need to change our precedent. "We need to make sure companies locating here benefit Russell County and not just them. We've seen this movie too many times before."

AHHP will manufacture precision-built modular homes with a price of $250,000 or less. The company is projected to create 90 jobs. Renovation of the former Buster Brown building is expected to get underway next month and the production of homes will begin in October 2027.

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

"This will be a dream come true for many families living in our community," AHHP's Ernie McFadden said in September.

Eaton stated in September, "This will be a game chang-

SEE **PERMIT FEES | 2A**



Lebanon resident Tammy Garrett addresses the board of supervisors regarding the latest delay of a proposed fish farm.

Fish farm project put on pause

By SHAWN STREET
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Pure Salmon's fish farm that would be located on the Russell and Tazewell County line near Southwest Virginia Community College has been delayed once again. The latest delay is blamed on high gas prices and tariffs on equipment.

The announcement was made by Virginia General Assembly Delegate Will Morefield.

"The company was ready to resume construction a few months ago, but due to the instability of the tariffs, it makes planning extremely challenging and costly," Morefield said. "The increase in the price of the project because of the tariffs is estimated to be in the tens of millions of dollars. It does not make economic sense for the company to resume construction until this can be resolved."

An official announcement has not been made by Pure Salmon. The website page dedicated to the company's press releases and other announcements has not been updated since 2023. Efforts to contact Pure Salmon officials were unsuccessful.

The last update given by Pure Salmon came in April 2025 when project manager and chief operations officer Paul Inskeep and engineer Paul Breeding, along with Morefield, spoke to the Russell County Board of Supervisors. At that time the project was supposed to be finished in late 2028 or early 2029.

Pure Salmon officials previously stated that once the facility is completed it would produce 10,000 tons of salmon while creating approximately 200 jobs.

During the 2025 meeting, At-Large member of the board, Nate Kiser, asked Inskeep about the number of jobs that would be created and the average salary employees could look forward to.

"I'm not going to share that," Inskeep answered. "No, I'm not going to share that."

Originally called Project Jonah, the genesis of the project was in 2013 when Morefield, along with other members of the Virginia Israel Advisory Board traveled to Israel. They originally sought to partner with AquaMaof, an Israeli aquaculture startup.

By 2017, Russell, Tazewell and Buchanan Counties formed a regional authority to make the project a reality.

On Nov. 16, 2020 officials announced that Project Jonah would be constructed on land near SWCC. Pure Salmon was expected to invest $228 million in the project.

Via a press release, Pure Salmon announced, "We are pleased to have chosen Southwest Virginia as the location for our Pure Salmon facility. Our decision was driven by the early support and continued assistance we have received from Delegate Morefield, the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority, Tazewell County, Southwest Virginia Community College and the College Foundation as well as the benefits of economic development policies such as HB222. Our aim as a company is to produce clean, healthy and fresh locally produced salmon while providing increased opportunities for the local community."

The project was originally expected to be completed by 2023.

SEE **FISH FARM | 2A**

Community forum about proposed data center scheduled for November

By SHAWN STREET
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A community forum about the proposed data center that would be located on the former Moss 3 coal site has been scheduled for next month.

That announcement was made by Laura Gilmer, executive director of the Russell County Industrial Development Authority, during the Oct. 5 meeting of the county's board of supervisors.

The forum will take place at the Russell County Conference Center on Nov. 18. The event is scheduled to get underway at 6 p.m.

Gilmer said representatives from Oasis Digital Properties will be on hand and "there will be a lot more details about the project."

She explained that county officials have "done a lot of due diligence" and are currently in the "discovery phase" of the project. Gilmer added that in coming weeks the project will move from the discovery phase "to something that could be more concrete."

"We haven't answered all of your questions because we don't have all the answers," Gilmer said. "We admit that."

Several residents also spoke at the October 5 meeting, voicing their opposition to the project.

SEE **COMMUNITY FORUM | 2A**



Protestors voice their opposition to a proposed data center.

Honaker awarded $564,183 grant for downtown revitalization

By SHAWN STREET
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The Town of Honaker has been awarded a Community Development Block Grant worth $564,183. The funding will be used for Honaker's downtown revitalization project.

The grant is part of $22.7 million in CDBG grants awarded to 17 projects across Virginia.

Administered by DHCD since 1982, Virginia's CDBG program allocates federal funding to strengthen physical and economic environments in communities. This year's awards

SEE **HONAKER AWARDED | 3A**



The Honaker Town Council announced the town has been awarded a grant worth over half a million dollars.

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Randy Kevin "Big Cat" Williams

RANDY KEVIN "BIG CAT" WILLIAMS, 48, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, October 3, 2026.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Walter and Francis Williams and Haskell and Lottie Skeen; uncle, Ronnie Williams and grandmother-in-law, Irene Jones.

Kevin graduated from Lebanon High School in 1997. He was All-State in baseball, played football and enjoyed playing softball. He hit 21 home runs in Little League in one season.

He loved to go fishing with his daughter. He attended Green Valley Church. Kevin was a very talented carpenter, pet groomer and loved animals.

Kevin made his family feel safe and gave the best hugs.

Survivors include his loving wife, Jill Fuller Williams; daughter and love and light of his life, Harper Williams; parents, Randy and Eliza Williams; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Kemper and Barbara Fuller; grandfather-in-law, Ed Jones; uncles, Denny Williams and wife Joyce, Gary Williams and wife Ramona. Several aunts and cousins also survive.

The funeral service was conducted at 2 p.m., Friday, October 9, 2026, in the Combs-Hess Funeral and Cremation Service chapel with Rev. Jim Fuller and Pastor Doug Ballew officiating. Burial followed at Ketron Memorial Gardens. The family received friends Thursday, October 8, 2026 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Pallbearers were Dennis Wayne Williams, Chris Williams, Jimmy Skeen, Tony Skeen, Curtis Wayne Sluss, Dan Statzer, Travis Fuller and Michael Blevins.

Online condolences and expressions of sympathy may be shared on the Combs-Hess Funeral and Cremation Service Facebook page or on their website. Combs-Hess Funeral and Cremation Service, 291 Highway 71, Fincastle Road, Lebanon, VA 24266, (276) 889-4444.

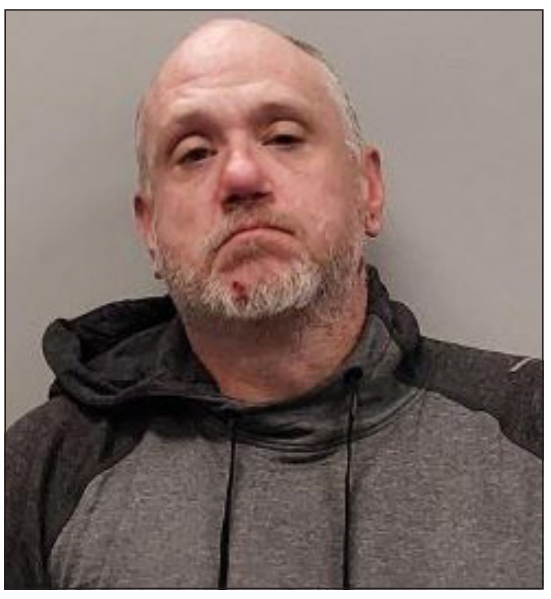


Randy Kevin Williams

Two men sentenced for distribution of drugs



Jack Merritt III



Cody Skeens

By SHAWN STREET
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Two men have been sentenced after being found guilty of two counts of Distribution of a Schedule I or II Controlled Substance and two counts of maintaining a common nuisance.

Commonwealth's Attorney Zack Stoots presented evidence at the sentencing hearing that Cody Len Skeens, 42, of Honaker, sold drugs on two occasions. Stoots also informed the court of the defendant's history of selling illicit substances, including two prior convictions for selling narcotics.

Skeens received a sentence of 32 years of incarceration with 22 years suspended, leaving him with a sentence of 10 years. Upon release, he will spend two years on probation.

Jack David Merritt, III, 48, of Abingdon, was also sentenced to 32 years of incarceration with 22 years suspended. He will serve 10 years in prison and will be on probation for three years following his release.

As was the case with Skeens, Stoots presented evidence at the sentencing hearing that Merritt has a history of criminal activity, including prior selling narcotics.

"These sentences will continue to show drug dealers that eventually a day like this will come if they market drugs to our community," Stoots said.

Russell County Sheriff Bill Watson stated, "The Russell County Sheriff's Office is committed to cleaning up the streets from dangerous drugs. These sentences show drug dealers what is facing them if they continue to sell drugs."

These cases were investigated by the Holston River Regional Drug Task Force which is comprised of members of the Lebanon Police Department, Russell County Sheriff's Office, and Virginia State Police. These cases were prosecuted by Stoots.

Four sentenced for conspiring to illegally distribute oxycodone and other controlled substances

Four Maryland residents who conspired with Dr. Rotimi Iluyomade, an Annandale-based doctor convicted of distributing more than 7,000 oxycodone pills, 34,000 milliliters of hydrocodone-chlorpheniramine solution (also known as "Tussionex"), and 107,000 milliliters of promethazine-codeine solution (also known as "lean") were sentenced today in federal court.

Yared Michael Tesfaye, a.k.a. "Yar," 29, of Montgomery Village, Maryland, was sentenced today to 60 months in federal prison.

Elhadj Malick Diallo, 32, of Silver Spring, Maryland, was sentenced to time served (approximately 13 months) in federal prison. Cameron Isaiah Lewis, 24, and Raymono Alfonzo Russell II, 25, both of Bowie, Maryland, were sentenced to eight months and 10 months respectively.

All four defendants previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute Schedule II controlled substances and to acquire promethazine-codeine solution by fraud.

"Any physician and anyone who conspires with a physician to facilitate the illegal distribution of drugs will be aggressively prosecuted in the Western District of Virginia," First Assistant United States Attorney Robert N. Tracci said today. "I applaud the outstanding work of the FBI and the DEA in this case."

"The defendants paid a doctor to issue fraudulent prescriptions for opioid medications and then trafficked those drugs to buyers across multiple states," said Darren Cox, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI Washington Field Office. "We are grateful to our federal, state, and local partners for their help in ensuring these defendants are held accountable for profiting from the illegal distribution of controlled substances."

"Patient care is a privilege. Patient safety is a responsibility. When responsibility is betrayed through the unlawful prescribing of controlled substances, DEA and other law enforcement partners will act decisively and with one purpose: protecting American lives," said DEA Special Agent in Charge Cindy Marx of the Washington Division.

According to court documents, in at least 2023 and 2024, Iluyomade and the co-conspirators entered into an agreement to distribute oxycodone pills, promethazine-codeine solution, and Tussionex to pharmacies in multiple states, including California, Colorado, Nebraska, Arizona, Missouri, Florida, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, Rhode Island, Georgia, Wisconsin, Texas, West Virginia, and in the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia. At least 70 of the illegal controlled substance prescriptions were transmitted to and/or filled at pharmacies in the Western District of Virginia.

As part of the conspiracy, multiple individuals visited Iluyomade's medical clinic to obtain fraudulent prescriptions. The individuals provided Iluyomade with lists of multiple "patients" addresses and identity information or different variations of names and false addresses, and requested prescriptions be sent to pharmacies throughout the United States for the "patients" on the lists.

Tesfaye was the first co-conspirator to visit Iluyomade at Crossover Medical Center in Annandale, Virginia to obtain fraudulent prescriptions. In addition to obtaining his own fraudulent prescriptions, he sold "slots" with Iluyomade to other co-conspirators that they used to obtain fraudulent prescriptions.

Lewis and Diallo traveled to various pharmacies to pick up fraudulent prescriptions written by Iluyomade, which they then distributed for profit, often posting pictures on social media to facilitate drug sales. Lewis and Diallo paid Iluyomade $300 per fraudulent prescription.

The investigation began on September 2, 2023, when Russell attempted to pick up a fraudulent prescription transmitted by Iluyomade at a pharmacy in Honaker, Virginia. Russell was arrested and a search of his vehicle revealed multiple controlled substance prescription bottles in various "patient" names, all from Iluyomade, filled at pharmacies in Roanoke, Radford, Tazewell, and Floyd, Virginia.

The Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Virginia State Police, Russell County Sheriff's Office, Salisbury, Maryland, Police Department, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, Nebraska State Police, HHS-OIG, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are investigating the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Lena Busscher and Randy Ramseyer are prosecuting the case.

COMMUNITY FORUM

FROM PAGE 1A

Former mayor of Cleveland, Jennifer Chumbley, called for strict regulations before the project is approved. She said the regulations should focus on noise, water pollution and control, lighting, and environmental impacts among other areas.

She asked what type of data center the project will be and how it would be decommissioned. "Will Russell County taxpayers have to pay again?" she asked.

"Cleveland has given a lot to support industry in this county," Chumbley stated. "We get tired of bearing the burden and left out. We are tired of feeling like we are on our own over there."

Debra Saylor asked the board to halt the project, as other municipalities have done. "We need to do the same thing here," she said. Saylor added that other localities are halting their projects due to environmental concerns.

Donna Ball said she started a petition to stop the data center and has collected more than 500 signatures. "We don't want this," she said. "I don't care how much money it will bring. It is too risky."

Ball said she has read studies that show traces of radiation could be found up to nine miles away from data centers. She said livestock is affected and pointed to a study that shows 70 percent of calves born near data centers are stillborn.

In addition to speaking out at the board meeting, a protest was held in Lebanon on Oct. 3. Protesters held up signs along Main Street, voicing their opposition to the proposed data center.

FISH FARM

FROM PAGE 1A

Initial delays were blamed on the land selected to house the fish farm. During the 2025 update, Breeding said officials were not expecting to find underground caves, sinkholes, or large deposits of clay. The slope of the land also caused delays he said.

Delays were also blamed on Hurricane Helene in 2024.

In 2025, Pure Salmon announced the center would no longer be raising salmon but rather steelhead/rainbow trout.

By the 2025 meeting, many in Russell, Tazewell and Buchanan Counties were complaining about the cost of the project and the constant delays. Breeding said the ill feelings were caused by social media.

"Thank God there was no Facebook when they brought Eastman to Kingsport," he said.

He said unlike other businesses that have come to rural counties, take advantage of tax credits and then leave, Pure Salmon will remain in operation for at least a century.

"You can't pickup these tanks and leave," he said.

Morefield's announcement that the project has been put on pause was addressed by Lebanon resident Tammy Garrett during the citizens' comments portion of the October 5, 2026 meeting of the board of supervisors.

"The fish farm is not going to happen," she said. "It's been 13 years; it's not ever going to happen. Russell County invested a million dollars. Imagine what that money could've done for the citizens of our county."

Garrett added, "We all know you did not do your own research on that project. You believed what the company told you."

She added during the 2025 meeting Pure Salmon officials said they had $300 million to invest in the project. Garrett asked why the board did not tell them to build the access road with that money. "Instead you just handed them money," Garrett said. "Will we ever get it back? Probably not."

She asked the board to pass a resolution that no more public funds would be spent on the project. "Because it's not going to happen," Garrett said.

PERMIT FEES

FROM PAGE 1A

er for the whole region."

Susan Abel, director of operations for Wellspring Foundation of Virginia, provided more details about AHHP's plans.

"At a high level, the Community Land Trust, or CLT, is one pathway to homeownership designed to help individuals and families, including working households, who may otherwise find homeownership increasingly out of reach," Abel stated.

Individuals may purchase a home manufactured by AHHP but the home will be located on property belonging to the company. The homeowner will pay the mortgage of the home while also paying a lease fee.

"Under the CLT model, the land remains in the Community Land Trust while the homeowner purchases and owns the home," Abel explained. "The homeowner has long-term rights to use the land through a ground lease. Homeowners make their regular mortgage payment on the home and also pay a modest monthly ground lease fee."

Abel added, "The CLT is not intended to replace traditional homeownership. It is an additional pathway for people who are ready for the responsibilities of homeownership but may face barriers created by rising home prices, land costs and other market conditions."

As for its impact on the region outside of Russell County, Abel said, "As the program grows, AHHP will continue working with communities, local governments, property owners and other partners to identify appropriate housing opportunities throughout the region. That may include land acquisition as well as other development and partnership opportunities, depending on the needs and circumstances of each community."

Should the homeowner elect to move, the resale of the house will take a "pay it forward" approach, according to Abel.

"We often describe the CLT as a 'pay it forward' approach to homeownership," she said. "It gives buyers the opportunity to purchase a home at a more attainable price, build equity over time, and benefit financially from homeownership. When the homeowner is ready to sell, there is a process to help determine the sale price. This allows the homeowner to retain a portion of the home's appreciation while also helping preserve an attainable purchase opportunity for the next eligible buyer. In this way, the CLT supports both individual wealth building and long-term homeownership opportunities within the community."



School board hears concerns about a recent fight at a sporting event

By SHAWN STREET
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A fight at a middle school football game was a main topic of discussion during the Oct. 6 meeting of the Russell County School Board.

Ashlee Osburn addressed the board concerning the altercation that involved individuals from Castlewood. Osburn said a mother involved in the incident was reportedly told by school officials that she can no longer attend school activities. The mother in question reported that she had been assaulted and was confused as to why she was punished.

"A parent should not have to guess why she is being excluded from her child's activities," Osburn stated. She added that there is a concern among parents that certain families are singled out because they speak out on issues that concern them.

Osburn asked for an impartial review of the incident with all evidence preserved and closely examined. She said a written explanation of discipline needs to be provided, as well as a process to appeal the decision.

She also asked for a clear plan on how the school system should respond to similar situations and assurance that individuals will not be singled out for retaliation for voicing their opinions on school issues.

"As a board, we will ask Dr. Hooker to get with her administrators and get this addressed," stated board chair Cynthia Compton.

District 2 member Kip Parsons added, "We do have rules that if you throw a fist you will be suspended." He went on to say that he was suspended for fighting when he was on the CHS football team.

In other news from the meeting, Lebanon Elementary School's Jennifer Gualdin was recognized as Employee of the Month.

Teacher of the Month honors went to Mike Wilson, an instructor at the Russell County Career and Technology Center.

Members of Lebanon High School's Future Business Leaders of America state competition winners were also honored. Brock Keen, Alexis Hamilton and Colt Robert all placed second in their respective categories of impromptu speaking, career portfolio and public speaking.

The board also recognized Sgt. Diane White for being named the Youth of Virginia Speak Out School Resource Officer of the Year.



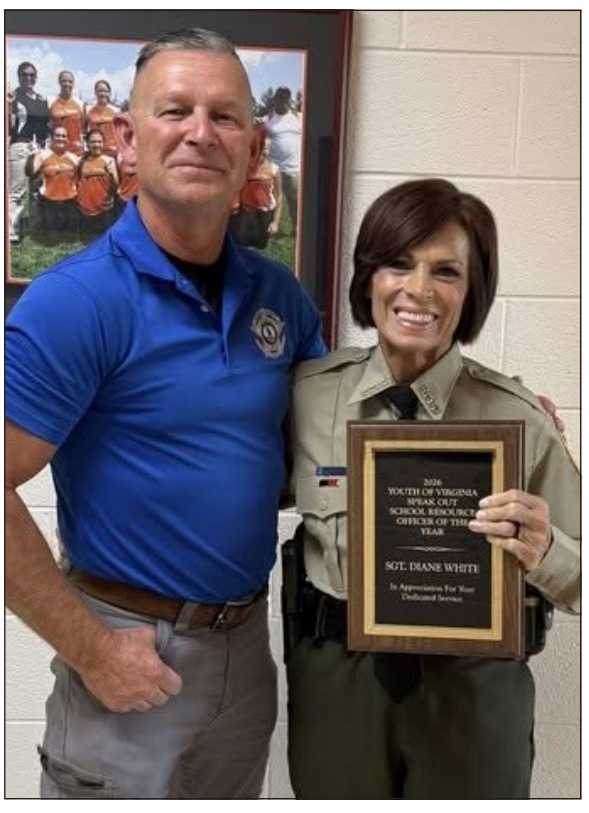
Employee of the Month Jennifer Gualdin



Teacher of the Month Mike Wilson



Lebanon High School's Alexis Hamilton



Sheriff Bill Watson and Sgt. Diane White

HONAKER AWARDED

FROM PAGE 1A

leverage approximately $19 million in new funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development combined with funds carried over from the previous year.

The funding awarded to Honaker will support a façade improvement and restoration program aimed at improving commercial properties in the downtown area.

According to a press release from town officials, the project will provide exterior improvements and rehabilitation to participating properties, helping address deteriorated building conditions while preserving and improving the appearance of the town's traditional commercial district.

Participating properties will receive improvements at no upfront cost through a zero-percent interest deferred loan. Twenty percent of the loan will be forgiven each year until the balance is completely forgiven.

"Community development and economic development go hand in hand," said Mayor Jodi Eaton. "If we want to attract new businesses, create jobs, and encourage people to invest in Honaker, we have to invest in ourselves too. That means taking care of our downtown, improving our infrastructure to make our community more resilient, and creating places where people want to live, visit and spend their time. These projects are about improving the quality of life for the people who are already here while also creating the kind of environment where new businesses can take root and thrive."

The awarding of the CDBG is part of a broader effort to invest in economic development and community development.

Other projects currently underway include the Lewis Creek Rail Trail and Lockhart House Development Study, funded through the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The study will examine the feasibility of developing a rail-to-trail path for walking and cycling along a former railroad corridor following Lewis Creek and the Clinch River between Honaker and Blackford.

The study will also determine possible uses for the historic Lockhart House. The house could potentially be used as a trailhead.

Officials are also working on the Honaker Flood Recovery and Resiliency Project in an effort to strengthen the town's public water system. The project will repair and protect a critical waterline that was exposed and ruptured during a 2024 flood.

The project, which is funded by CDBG, will also provide an emergency backup generator for the Putnam Well, which supplies a significant portion of the water used by the Honaker public water system.

Implementation of the project has been delayed due to an endangered species study for a portion of Lewis Creek, as required under federal guidelines. Construction on the project is expected to begin in June.

Officials are also pursuing the development of the Honaker Market Square and Downtown Commons, a proposed multi-purpose outdoor space in the heart of the town's historic commercial district.

The goal is to expand Honaker's existing festivals and event capacity while creating another destination for residents and visitors in the historic downtown district.

In August, Governor Abigail Spanberger recommended the project to the Appalachian Regional Commission. If approved by the ARC, a grant would fund preliminary engineering and conceptual plans.

"Things are looking up in Honaker," Eaton said. "In just the last three or four years, we're looking at almost $2 million in investment from local, regional, state and federal grant funds. Those state and federal funds don't always move fast, but they make a big difference for a little town like ours and we're very thankful for them."



Congressman Griffith: Keeping Our Feet on the Ground and Reaching for the Moon



WEEKLY REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL

American leadership in space represents a new frontier for technological progress.

Elon Musk's company, SpaceX, recently undertook an orbital mission with the launch of its Starship rocket. Not to be confused with the Enterprise of Star Trek fame, the Starship launch is a steppingstone for something greater. SpaceX and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are working together to lead manned flights to the moon.

The first step in reaching this goal will rely on low-Earth orbit (LEO). LEO refers to the lowest reach of space closest to Earth and the same altitude where the International Space Station operates. The Starship launch successfully reached LEO for the first time, setting in motion the next phase for Americans to return to the moon.

SpaceX's LEO satellite technologies are not just seen as critical to our prospects in space.

At the federal level, I continue to advocate for LEO technologies with helping rural communities access satellite internet.

Most recently, I delivered opening remarks at an online event hosted by the Connect Everyone Coalition. The webinar focused on the two-year anniversary of Hurricane Helene and connectivity lessons from the natural disaster.

During my remarks, I highlighted the connectivity issues that impacted Ninth District communities.

Helene devastated our public communications networks. The disaster disabled services provided by our cell phone carriers. Further, the floods that swamped our region also washed away fiber optic infrastructure.

Because of the loss of communications, family members struggled to confirm the safety of their loved ones and first responder crews faced challenges with emergency operations.

These issues went on for days.

It was unclear when internet and cell phone coverage would be restored, so one group relied on SpaceX for help.

Wise County's Health Wagon, which traveled to Damascus to help serve and treat those affected by Helene, turned to SpaceX's Starlink.

Starlink consists of a network of LEO satellites which serves high-speed, reliable broadband internet to communities on Earth. This network reduces connectivity dead zones and provides more coverage in regions like Southwest Virginia.

Thus, Starlink is particularly helpful for mountainous and rural regions where fiber installation is extremely difficult and cost prohibitive. Amazon is launching a similar LEO program which should be available in Virginia in late 2027.

Thanks to a portable Starlink unit, a rarity in our area at the time, the Health Wagon could access internet service.

This episode showed that even in times of emergency, cell phone users can take advantage of LEO technologies.

As the recovery from Helene continues, I remain committed to expanding our broadband capabilities through LEO technologies to prepare our region for the next Helene.

Federal initiatives to support broadband innovations like LEO technologies include the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program.

In 2024, I advocated for Governor Youngkin's BEAD Final Proposal. This set in motion various opportunities to expand broadband in Virginia.

The federal entity that runs BEAD is the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA).

This summer, NTIA Administrator Arielle Roth testified before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, on which I serve.

During the hearing, she discussed BEAD as well as signaled support for LEO technologies.

Later in the summer, Administrator Roth visited Bedford County to tour local broadband projects.

There are approximately 1,600 Bedford County addresses that will gain new access to broadband through BEAD funding, according to the NTIA. While new fiber installation will serve a majority of these Bedford County locations, SpaceX and Amazon will make LEO broadband available to eligiblehard-to-reach locations.

Aside from BEAD, LEO broadband will get an additional boost from a bipartisan Congressional bill.

In the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, I supported the SAT Streamlining Act. Following Subcommittee approval, I voted for the bill again in the full Energy and Commerce Committee.

This bill would modernize a federal agency's satellite licensing process by setting more precise timelines and a more predictable list of requirements for satellite applications.

In effect, we make it easier for groups to bring LEO technologies to the market to better provide reliable and secure internet access.

I am proud to have taken these actions to bridge the digital divide in Virginia and the United States.

Broadband in rural America can help our hospitals, schools, businesses and more.

As your federal representative, I will keep fighting for our rural communities to get a fair shot at broadband access.

With the same technologies, we can succeed with broadband while keeping our feet on the ground and reaching for the moon.

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



Financial literacy is an important life skill that can help adults make informed decisions about money, work, education, and their future. For many adults, learning how to manage finances may be just as important as learning academic or job-related skills. Adult education programs provide an excellent opportunity to build financial knowledge and develop practical skills that can be used every day.

Adults may face a variety of financial challenges, including creating a household budget, managing bills, understanding credit, saving for emergencies, or planning for retirement. Adult education can provide learners with the knowledge and confidence needed to approach these challenges. Financial literacy involves understanding how to earn, spend, save, borrow, and manage money responsibly.

One of the most useful financial skills adults can develop is budgeting. Learning how to track income and expenses can help individuals understand where their money goes and identify areas where they may be able to save. Students can practice creating realistic budgets based on everyday expenses such as housing, transportation, food, utilities, and other necessities.

Understanding credit and debt is another important part of financial literacy. Adult learners can benefit from learning what a credit score is, how credit cards and loans work, and how interest can affect the total cost of borrowing money. Understanding these concepts can help adults make more informed decisions before taking on debt.

Adult education can also encourage the importance of saving and planning for the future. Even small amounts saved regularly can help build an emergency fund and provide greater financial security. Students can learn about setting short-term and long-term financial goals and developing a plan to work toward those goals.

Adult education is about more than earning a diploma, passing a test, or developing workplace skills. It is also about gaining the knowledge needed to navigate everyday life. By incorporating financial literacy into adult education, programs can help learners become more confident decision-makers, strengthen their financial independence, and work toward a more secure future. For information on financial literacy programs in our area, please call Southwest Regional Adult Education at 276-889-5424.



Everything Else is Just Stuff

A few years back my wife's parents passed and the time came to sell their house. The house was nice and had nice furniture. When the house sold a lot of their belongings ended up on the street for anyone to carry off.

Even though there were children and grandchildren, no one had room for most of her parents' stuff. A number of pieces of furniture were put into use by family members, but so much of it went out the door to parts unknown.

Chances are you have an attic, basement, garage or closets filled with stuff. Stuff can be clothes, furniture, collections, memorabilia and more. Where will all this stuff end up? Most likely it will be hauled to a garbage dump or possibly to some non-profit who will make it very profitable.

When a non-profit sells your old sofa, table or clothes they come out pretty good because they have nothing invested except some labor and building costs. That makes it very profitable for them. I am not knocking any non-profits because some do some great charitable work. Some pay their Chief Executive Officers big salaries.

You have to make choices as to where you donate. What happens is that so many people become so desperate to get rid of their stuff that they don't have the time to care about how it is sold or used. The main goal is to clean out the garage or storage building.

We will all experience this on some level. We will be responsible for disposing of someone else's stuff or someone will dispose of ours. I really don't want family to have to do that but often we don't get to choose.

What we might consider doing is being proactive today. Clean out one closet, one shelf, one section of an attic and put it where we want. Most likely this could be a dumpster, but it might be to someone who could use it for the time being.

My wife and I bought my dad a jacket for his birthday and he got to wear it about three months before he died. My brother-in-law ended up with the jacket because it was a good fit. He wore it for several years before he died. I think it is satisfying if we can pass on something that someone else can use for a while.

If you have stuff that you have not used or worn in a couple of years then what is the point of it taking up space? I do have a couple of suits I have held on to because, if I can just lose ten pounds, I will be able to wear them again. Sadly, it sure is taking me a long time to lose the ten pounds, but maybe eventually I will.

We can't take anything with us when our lives end. We came into the world with nothing and we leave with nothing. Living in peace with God and man is the best we can do internally and externally. Everything else is just stuff.

Russell County Unit 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 19

Last day to vaccinate calves for the November VQA Sale

October 23

Last day to wean calves for the December 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

Virginia Tech's HOKIE HARVEST Sale

The Hokie Harvest Sale will be held on Friday, October 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Alphin-Stuart Arena on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. This year's sale will include beef cattle (both registered purebreds and commercials) sold as:

purebred spring pair splits

purebred fall pairs

spring-bred commercial cows & heifers

breeding age bulls

Purchasers of purebred Hereford, Simmental, and Angus cattle will be able to select AI-sired animals from a cross-section of Virginia Tech's Beef Herd. Some of the very best animals with "curve bending" genetics will be offered from the university herd. Animals will be available for inspection at your convenience 10 days prior to the sale. Catalogs are available online (https://sas.vt.edu/sales/hokie-harvest.html) or at the Extension Office.

Official schedule listed below:

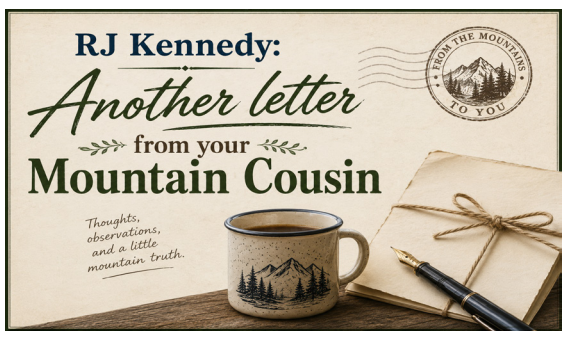
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.Buyer registration in the Beef Cattle Barn

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.Complimentary BBQ Dinner

6:30 p.m.Cattle Sale in Alphin-Stuart Arena

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University





Dear Cousin,

Well the beautiful fall days of October are here. The leaves are slowly turning and the last of the fall hay is in the barn. And what a beautiful cutting it was. No rain, big fluffy bales, nice and dry! What a change from when we did the big hay patch here and got storm after storm. What a relief to be through with hay for the year. Yet we still need to buy some more for winter. This farm has plenty of pasture, not plenty of hay fields. And speaking of fall it's that time of year again, time to go to Clinch View Farms and Big Lee's corn maze over at Nash's Ford. The maze is open Friday at 4 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. until dark. And the Haunted Barn is open every Saturday night in October from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. They have hot apple cider, hot chocolate, coffee and baked goods you can buy. There are also pumpkins, corn shocks, hay bales and mums for sale.

Cuz, I have been working on a project and in the process, I happened to step into "Bee My Honey Bee" in Lebanon. I was never really sure by the sign out front what those Acai bowls were all about, but I had a few extra minutes before better half came back through town, (We've been down to one truck as better half's was in for repairs.) so I decided I'd find out. Now cuz, if you want to feel like you are eating real healthy, get you one of these bowls. They come in three sizes and since I had had a good lunch, I got the small bowl. Basically, you get either yogurt or sorbet (good cold ice cream) you pick out the flavor, I picked coconut and then you add your toppings; they give you a paper to mark your choices, a real good idea. I picked mangoes and pineapple for the fruit and then coconut and walnuts in honey as the topping! Wow! Cuz you've got to stop in there and try one. And when you do tell them your mountain cousin sent you, it's a real treat! It reminded me of a Dairy Queen tropical blizzard but better. Plus they have bees wax products, like bees wax lip balm, and cinnamon infused honey. They are at 107 East Main Street, right below the courthouse. I think it's a good idea to support our local business, and if you want to score some points with your sweet thang, take them there and try one of these yummy bowls. I'm already thinking of something with strawberries or blueberries next time.

Cuz, my sister is visiting from Florida. She was a schoolteacher down there and hasn't seen a true fall for forty years. Last time she was here in September was four years ago when our Mom died. She was here for the funeral as Hurricane Ian hit her house in Florida. We had to postpone mom's burial until after the hurricane passed. I do believe my sister has gone back to her second childhood as she is running about the old home place, visiting all the places of her childhood. She has been picking up walnuts and hickory nuts and fighting with the squirrel who keeps stealing them from the cast iron skillet she put on the porch. They have been sitting on the steps shelling out nuts lately.

The other rainy day she went back to bed after breakfast and I called to check on her at suppertime and woke her up. She had slept the whole day. She said it was just so quiet and peaceful there in the holler. This break is definitely good for her brain as she is recovering from a concussion after a fall. Her doctor told her it would take a year for her brain to recover. (old people should never wear heels) She lives in a beautiful retirement place in Florida, Shell Point, but this past year they have been doing construction on the island, so there has been no "peace and quiet". Lots of olds folks are leaving the island.

Now if the data center goes through over here, and I bet it will, there will be no peace and quiet for Clinchfield for quite awhile. But I guess there was plenty of noise when the prep plant was built and operating. I'm thinking the campgrounds around will benefit, as they will probably be full of campers if construction crews come in. And I bet the stores in St. Paul and Handy's will see a big boom in business as well as the Western Front hotel in St. Paul.

Oh and talk of noisy construction, better half and I drove over to Damascus and went up to Green Cove for a birthday picnic get away. The Creeper Trail is closed from Green Cove clean to Damascus. They are busy rebuilding bridges and stacking huge cut boulders to rebuild the mountainside where the old railroad used to run. I love the Creeper Trail and personally, and it's neighbors are having to listen to a lot of noise right now, but soon the trail will be filled with happy families biking down the hill.

I think we should not let the Data Center come in unless they help build or support a rails to trails from Wilder to Clinchfield. Now that would bring in some wonderful tourists and I think there should be a big park built all along the creek in front of Moss 3. Fill the woods with flowering trees, like dogwoods and redbuds, plant azaleas and daffodils to bloom in the spring and fill the stream with ducks and geese. Plant fruit trees for the deer and nut trees for the squirrels. We need jobs cuz, but we need peace and quiet too. We love beauty, harmony, and a place to enjoy nature. If they plant a big buffer zone of evergreens, it would help to knock down some noise. Plant some good grass, sow some wild flowers for the bees.

I don't see why we can't have both jobs and beauty. And whatever happened to extending the four-wheeler trails to join up with the ones in St. Paul? You can see how much money that thing brings in, just go eat in St. Paul on a summer evening and you'll see.

Until next week,
RJ Kennedy



Debbie Gibson: Dearest Gentle Reader



As has been my custom for the past sixteen years, there is a cup of coffee to my right, the blank page is in front of me, a collection of pens and notebooks resides to the left of me, and all that remains to be done is to put my heart beneath my words for you. Ponder. Write. Save. Send. Ponder. Write. Save. Send. For sixteen years, that is the world I have lived in. For sixteen years, my words have been written for you.

As some of you are aware, I am writing a book. It is an Appalachian tale of some truth and some fiction. I have carried these characters with me for years now. I know their names. I know their temperaments. I understand their motivations. I hear their voices. I want to tell their stories. I want to let them speak.

I joke that when I am here by myself, were anyone to pass by my house, they would think it full of people as I speak the dialogue I want to write out. I sometimes think I know them better than I know myself, but they have always been hidden on paper, never offered to others to be shared.

Since my retirement, I have attempted to both write for you and to make this book of longings become a reality. It has grown increasingly difficult to be a columnist and a want-to-be author, for the brain has to shift the words, tone, and intent. So with this missive today, I have decided that this column will be my last.

There are so many people to thank. You know who you are, whether you granted me the opportunity to write, or you merely picked up a paper to see what was transpiring in this mountain community. I thank each of you.

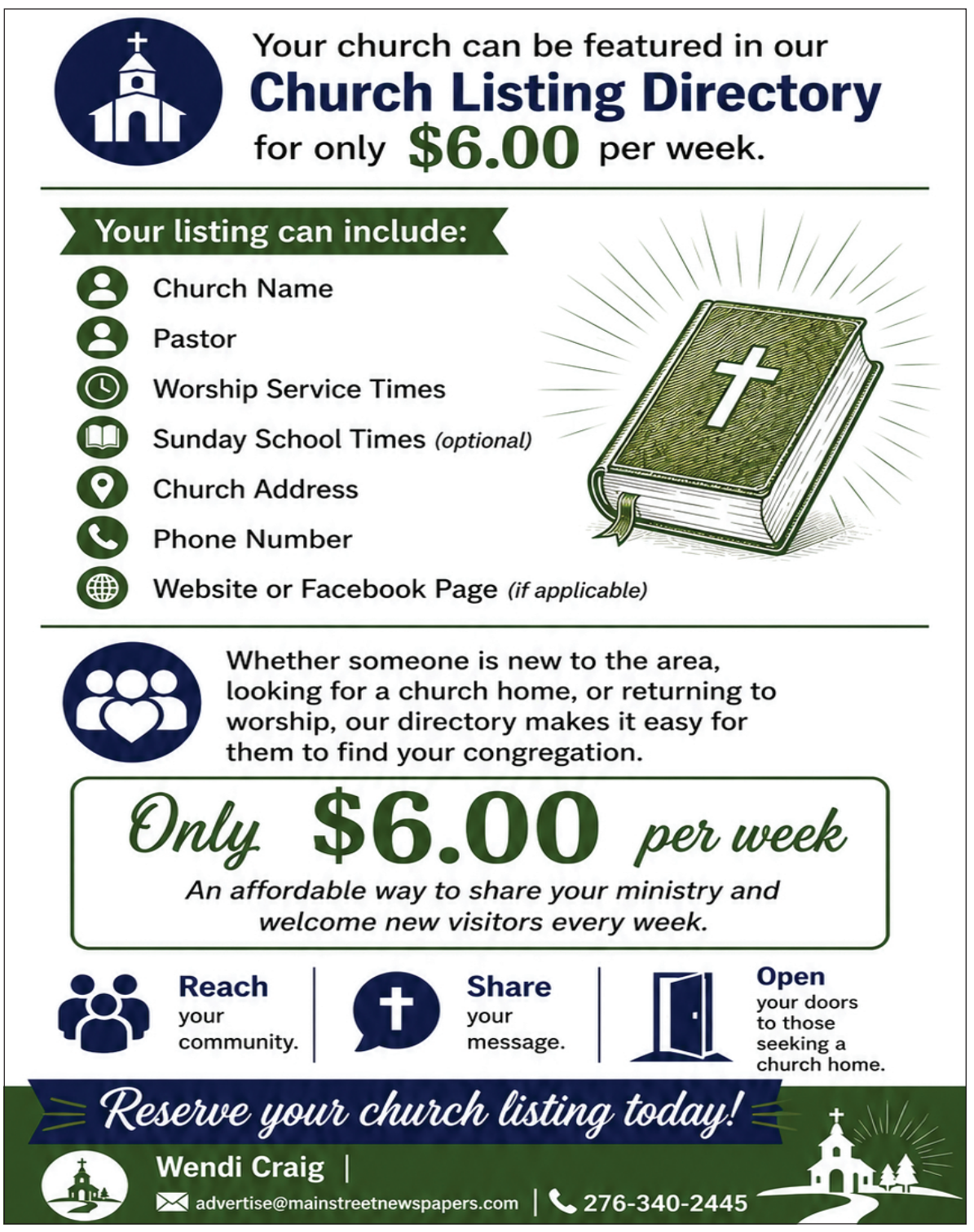
I have been touched by your kind words to me. From the filling station to walking out of the beauty shop with a fresh haircut, you have stopped me and told me what my words have meant to you. Some of you communicated by e-mail. Some by letters to the paper itself. Some of you told me that I made you laugh. Some of you have told me that I made you cry. Some of you have taken my wishes and turned them into realities. Some of you have cut my columns out and saved them. Some of you sent word to me by family members when a particular column hit home. No matter which of these you were, I truly thank you.

I have no idea what or who will take my place in the paper each week. Secretly, I hope it is another columnist with a deep love for Appalachia and her people. Someone who can take a birdsong and make it magical. Someone who can turn canning season into treasure gathering. Someone who knows the bounty of these hills and the beauty of the people who call it home. Someone who has slept beneath a homemade quilt and weathered the blustery cold. Someone who knows what bare feet in fresh dew feel like in the summer. Someone who knows the history and folklore of this place we call home. Yes, I hope it is someone who cares for you as I do.

So, I bid you farewell and godspeed. It has been my beautiful pleasure to put ink against paper for you each week. I wish you joy in your journey. May every good thing chase you down and kiss you soundly.

But most of all, I wish you love, a deep abiding Appalachian love,

Debbie





Date for 2026 Santa Train announced

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com



Santa Claus will be bringing the joy of Christmas to Russell County on November 21.

The 84th edition of the CSX Santa Train will be rolling through the mountains of Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee on Nov. 21, 2026.

Along the 110-mile route, Santa Claus and a host of volunteers will distribute more than 15,000 toys, gifts and winter accessories to families.

Santa and crew will depart from Shelby, Ky., at 6 a.m., making stops at Marrowbone and Elkhorn City before entering into Virginia.

Stops are scheduled for Tom's Bottom, Haysi, Clincho, and Fremont before arriving in Dante at 10:08 a.m. The next local stop will be in St. Paul at 10:53 a.m.

From there the CSX Santa Train will make stops in Dungannon, Kermit, and Waycross before ending the day in Kingsport, Tennessee around 3 p.m.

"As we look ahead to a new year, we're reminded that the CSX Santa Train is about so much more than a journey along the tracks. It's about bringing people together, creating moments of joy and carrying traditions forward from one generation to the next," said Tom Livingston, vice president of Government and Community Affairs at CSX. "The warmth of the communities that welcome the CSX Santa Train and the support from people across the country remind us why this tradition has endured for generations."

The Santa Train began in 1943 as the "Santa Claus Special." It was created by the Merchants Bureau of Kingsport as an effort to thank families who traveled to the city to do their shopping.

The train has operated every year since, with the exception of 2020 and 2021 due to COVID.

Laura Gilmer named executive director of IDA

The Russell County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) announced today that Laura Gilmer will lead the organization as executive director. Gilmer joined the IDA earlier this year, succeeding Ernie McFadden.

"Russell County has remarkable assets: hard-working, entrepreneurial people, beautiful natural amenities, an authentic culture and a strategic location in the region," said Gilmer. "Together, they give us a real opportunity to grow our economy, and I'm honored to work alongside the IDA Board, organizational partners and the communities we serve to lead this important work."

Gilmer outlined three early priorities: strengthening the IDA's capacity to manage grants and loans, increasing awareness of funding opportunities that support businesses in Russell County and the region, and developing a more robust economic development strategy for the county.

Gilmer brings deep experience in rural economies, agriculture and public-private partnerships. Her work has focused on bringing industry, government and community stakeholders together to create durable economic outcomes.



Laura Gilmer

In leadership roles with organizations including Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment and the National Association of Conservation Districts, she has managed large federal grant portfolios, led multi-partner initiatives and developed strategies that support innovation and investment in rural economies.

"Laura has spent her career bringing businesses, public institutions, nonprofits and rural communities together to get results," said Ron Blankenship, chair of the Russell County IDA. "She understands that community needs belong at the center of economic development, and the IDA Board is glad to have her leading this work for Russell County."

Gilmer holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. She lives on a farm near Belfast with her family.

The IDA supports several active projects at various stages, all aimed at promoting the safety, health, welfare, convenience or prosperity of the inhabitants of the Common-wealth. Under authority granted by the Code of Virginia, the IDA administers grant and loan packages that support local businesses and job creation.

The IDA Board meets at 5:30 on the second Thursday of each month in the Jefferson Room of the Southwest Virginia Community College Higher Education Center. Meetings are open to the public.

Calendar of Events

SUPPORT GROUP FOR FEMALE SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

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

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEETING

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

The Fire debuts this weekend at The Russell

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

For generations teenagers in every small town in America have said the same thing, "There's nothing to do here."

The Russell Theatre in Lebanon hopes to change that with the debut of The Fire this Saturday.

"We're trying something new," stated director Shane Farmer. "The Fire is a new monthly night created just for teen acts, ages 13-19."

Farmer added, "It will be a place to hang out with friends, listen to music, play games, compete for prizes, grab some food and signature sips and just have fun."

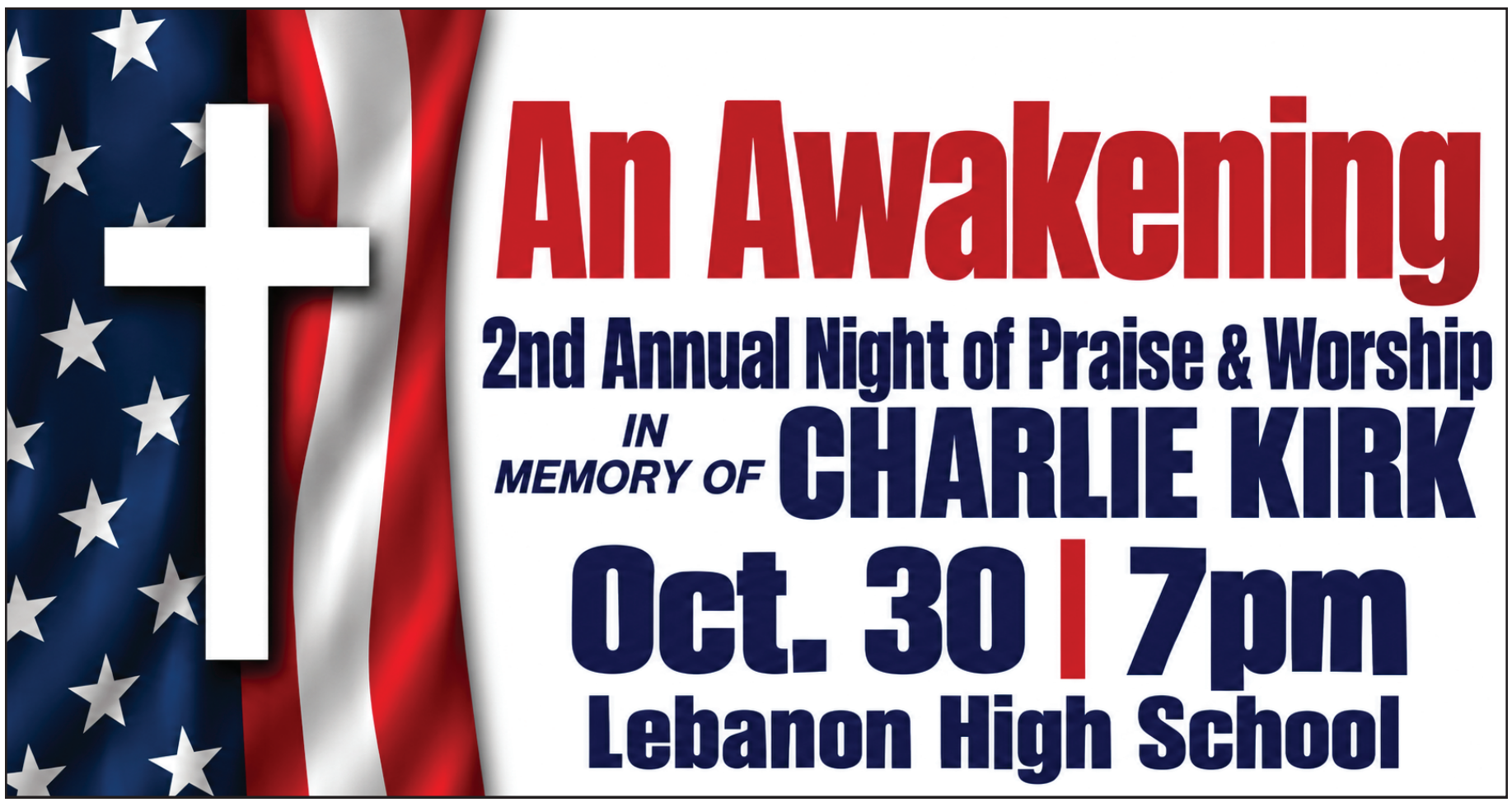
Since the debut of The Fire takes place in October, the first event will have a Halloween Spooktacular theme.

There will be a costume contest, lip sync battle, as well as games and prizes.

Admission is $5. The Fire will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will conclude at 10 p.m. For more information, visit https://www.therusselltheatre.com/other-events.







Lebanon grounds Eagles in SWD Sweep

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

LEBANON (Oct. 6, 2026) – The Lady Pioneers earned a Southwest District sweep on Tuesday night, defeating Southern Gap in straight sets inside Charles C. Long Gymnasium. Set scores were 28-26, 25-17, 25-17.

Lebanon (15-7, 7-1 SWD) maintained its position a game behind Marion, which remains undefeated in SWD play, with this win.

"This is one we really tried hard to prepare for because we knew it was a big game," said Lebanon coach Dennis Price. "Southern Gap has a good team. It was slow to get going for both teams, and we took off in the second set and took advantage. It could have gone either way for a while, but the girls stepped up, played well, and got the job done."

The Pioneers held a 24-20 lead in the first set, but the Eagles stormed back.

A pivotal play came when the score was tied at 25. Lebanon's Jaidyn Fields slammed a kill that went out of bounds. Officials ruled that a Southern Gap player had touched it,

SEE **LEBANON GROUNDS | 2B**



Brooklyn Sutherland with a dig for the Pioneers as Kenlie Fields looks on. Preston Ball Photography | For the Lebanon News



Cadence Rose, with a hit, led the Tigers with nine kills. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

Honaker falls in five-set thriller

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

HONAKER (Oct. 8, 2026) – After winning the opening two sets, the Lady Tigers fell to Holston. The Cavaliers battled back to sweep the back end of the sets.

Holston took a 20-25, 23-25, 25-18, 25-18, 15-11 victory on Tuesday in A.P. Baldwin Gymnasium.

"Any win right now is a good win," said Holston coach Jason Delp, whose club ended a four-game losing streak. "When we won that third set, I told them, 'We needed to win a set. Now let's go win a match.' The girls answered the call."

The first set was tied for the ninth time at 20 on a kill by Holston's Ella Evans. An attack error by the Cavs brought Ava Keene to serve for Honaker. The Tigers took the final five points to win the set, highlighted by a key spike and block by Tayler Honaker.

"I thought we were going to pull it out for the win. I really did," Honaker coach Lindsey Marshall noted. "We came in with a different energy level. Before the game, I even told them they seemed to want to be here and to win. I really thought we would come out with a win tonight, so it's a tough loss."

The second set went down to the wire. With the score 23-all, the Cavs committed a service error, and then Aliyah Hilton's serve wasn't returned when an errant pass went into the net, putting the Tigers up 2-0 in the match.

"We just didn't compete very well in the first two sets," Delp stated. "We weren't competing on the floor, which isn't like our team. We've lost, but we always compete. We play hard and scrappy, as you saw in those last three sets. Those first two sets were very similar to how we played (and lost) at Rural Retreat the other night. We just weren't getting after it, and that's not like our team."

Honaker held a 16-14 advantage in the third set, but the Cavs scored 11 of the final 12 points. Holston raced to an 11-3 lead in set four and cruised to victory, evening the game at 2-all.

"When the girls bring energy to the floor, they're much better and hard to beat," commented Delp. "But when they're dead out there and not very energetic, it's hard for us to overcome our mistakes."

Honaker built an 8-5 lead in the decisive fifth

SEE **HONAKER FALLS | 2B**



Aliyah Hilton goes low for a dig for the Tigers. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

Day-by-Day

Tuesday (10/6)

Twin Springs 3, Castlewood 0 (Volleyball)

Bella Lawson dished out 44 assists and served two aces as the Twin Springs cruised past Castlewood 25-12, 25-19, 25-13 in Cumberland District action.

Meadow McConnell (28 kills), Addison Counts (eight digs, seven kills, two aces) and Ana Lopez (seven digs, four aces) played well for the Titans.

Leanna Franklin dished out 14 assists and served two aces, while Layla Ervin and Cheyenne Elam each had four kills for the Blue Devils.

Northwood 3, Honaker 0 (Volleyball)

Emma Burress led at the net with 20 kills and three blocks in Northwood's straight-set victory over the Tigers, winning 25-16, 25-12, 25-12 in the Hogoheegee District win.

Other key contributors for the Panthers included Channing Waldie with 11 kills, Khloe Salyer with five kills, Gabby Call with four kills and four blocks, and Aubree Kegley, who dished out 33 assists.

Thursday (10/8)

J.I. Burton 3, Castlewood 0 (Volleyball)

Presley Hall returned to the court after an injury, and Juliana Adkins reached a milestone as the Black Raiders recorded a 25-16, 25-15, 25-16 Cumberland District win over Castlewood.

Hall had 12 kills, six digs, and four aces, while Adkins had 29 assists (including the 1,000th of her career) and two aces. Reyana Sensabaugh also had 10 kills and a stat line of 12 digs, five kills, and three aces.

Layla Ervin led the Blue Devils with four kills, while Kadence Culbertson and Sophie Hall each served two aces.

Lebanon 3, Virginia High 0 (Volleyball)

SEE **DAY-BY-DAY | 2B**



Kenlie Fields with a dig for the Pioneers in their win in the Bearcat Den. James Sword | For the Lebanon News



DAY-BY-DAY

FROM PAGE 1B

Carlee Ingram served seven aces and dished out 17 assists as Lebanon rolled by Virginia High 25-23, 25-21, 25-11 in the Bearcat Den.

Kaytie Lampkin (10 digs, six kills), Kenlie Fields (23 digs), Olivia Gibson (14 digs), Jaidyn Fields (12 kills, nine assists) and Rhealynn Barton (six kills) were other leaders for the Pioneers.

Wrigley Belcher recorded six kills, six assists and three blocks for VHS, while Kileeah Tucker tallied 17 digs and six kills in the loss.

Friday (10/9)

Twin Springs 69, Castlewood 6 (Football)

Sophomore Isaiah Kiser led Twin Springs to a 69-6 win over Castlewood in a Cumberland District game.

Kiser rushed for 116 yards on nine carries and scored on 16-, 20-, and 39-yard runs. He also returned a fumble for a score and a Pick-6. Kiser did all of that in the first half.

Isaac Horne, Ty Page, Bryce Parks, Luke Kern, and Ryan Perry also visited the end zone for the Titans.

The Blue Devils had 26 yards of total offense in the first half.

Hunter Hileman had a 22-yard TD run for Castlewood; the kick failed.



Abigail Mullins (12) with a kill for Lebanon in the 3-0 victory over Virginia High. James Sword | For the Lebanon News

HONAKER FALLS

FROM PAGE 1B



Ava Keene makes a return for Honaker against Holston. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

set. Holston (9-9, 2-4 HOGO) fought back to tie the score at eight, nine and ten before earning six of the final seven points for the win.

"We've got some pretty good servers spread throughout our rotation, paired with our front-row play," Delp said. "If we attack with our serve in certain situations and get free balls sent back over the net, we can really take advantage of that with our front row."

Honaker (1-15, 0-6 HOGO) has lost eight in a row, but this was the hardest loss.

"This was for sure the toughest because we were right there and had them," Marshall stated. "My girls came out and played the first two sets. They showed up and played, and then our batteries just died a little bit.

"Volleyball relies on momentum, and right at the end, it shifted away from us. Once you lose your momentum in this game, it's tough to get it back."

Bailee Singleton (12 kills) and Lydia Reid (eight kills) led the Cavs at the net. Payton Long dished out 14 assists. On defense, Holston stood out with Lucy Howard (23 digs), Reid (22 digs), and Haleigh Dutton (22 digs).

Cadence Rose (nine kills) and JuJu Farmer (eight kills, five blocks) paced the Tigers. Paislee Lowe added three blocks in the loss.

Three weeks remain in the regular season in the competitive Hogoheegee District.

"It's brutal," remarked Delp. "It's brutal every night. Next week, we've got Patrick Henry and Northwood. Then, in the last week, we've got John Battle and Rural Retreat. It's one of those schedules that's a gauntlet, and you try to work your way through it. I said at the beginning of the year that the Hogoheegee champion probably wouldn't be undefeated. I said the same thing in softball last year, and that was the case. The district is so good from top to bottom that a team like Honaker or us could really sneak up on somebody. That's our plan."



Paislee Lowe goes up strong at the net for Honaker in the match against the Cavs. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News



Lebanon's Carlee Ingram (7) sets Kaytie Lampkin as Lebanon gets a SWD win over the Eagles. Preston Ball Photography | For the Lebanon News

LEBANON GROUNDS

FROM PAGE 1B

giving the point to the Pioneers.

"I think that was a game-changing call," Southern Gap coach Hannah Lester said. "I think it changed the momentum of the game. Honestly, I think that was our point, and the rest of the game would have been different if the call had been different. Obviously, I'm going to stand up for my team. I do think it was a game-changing call for us."

With Lebanon up 26-25, Leah Rasnake had a kill for the Eagles, tying it for the 11th time. Abigail Mullins and Fields had spikes to give the Pioneers the first set.

"We had a good lead there, and we blew it, letting them get back in," noted Price. "We were fortunate to get that first set. As soon as we won it, the momentum carried into the second set. And when we got up in the third, it really helped us. Momentum is a big thing in volleyball, and we were lucky to have it."

Southern Gap's (6-9, 4-3 SWD) only lead was at 1-0 in the second set. Lebanon took the lead at 6-5 in the third set and never relinquished it.

"In the first set, we came back and fought and only lost by two," declared Lester. "I think that loss kind of took us down a little bit, and we had trouble finding our way back after that."

Abigail Mullins played her best match of the year for Lebanon, finishing with 10 kills and was also a factor at the line with three aces.

"The last time we played Southern Gap, our energy was really good, and I think we came out with the same energy tonight, and it worked for us," said Mullins. "We all had really good energy, and my teammates were boosting me up. It made me feel better about how I was playing. Once you get on a roll, it's hard to stop."

Jaidyn Fields (10 kills), Kaytie Lampkin (eight kills) and Carlee Ingram (six kills) played well on the frontline. Ingram (18 assists) and Jaidyn Fields (13 assists) directed the offense. Kenlie Fields (20 digs) and Brooklyn Sutherland (15 digs) paced the defense in the win.

"We've got some young players stepping up and playing well," Price stated. "Abby played well tonight—had some kills and played well at the net. We're playing better defensively. Tonight, we were a step slow for some reason, I don't know, but we played well when we needed to. I think we're moving in the right direction for sure, but we're sort of up and down."

It couldn't have been more balanced for the Eagles. Lucy Savage, Madison Lester, and Rasnake each pounded eight kills. Bela Hurley (12 assists) and Adyson Bell (10 assists) distributed the ball for Southern Gap. Claire Grifgey sparked the defense with 26 digs.

"We didn't play to our full potential tonight, and anyone who knows them knows that wasn't their best," Lester said. "The first set was probably our best, and then we just lacked energy. We lacked a little hustle tonight, and I'm hoping we've got that out of the way and can move forward."

The Eagles have played well in their first year after consolidation, competing in the SWD.

"I feel great about this team," noted Lester. "I know what they're capable of. Last week, we went four sets with Marion, who is probably the top team in the district, as anyone who has seen them play knows. We lost the first set by two, the second by two, won the third, and lost the fourth by about five or six, I think. So, I know what we're capable of. We just have to find it and keep pushing."

Lebanon wants to keep chasing Marion until a showdown on Oct. 22.

"We've got to try to get more consistent," Price commented. "Serve receive is a big thing for us. As long as we're serving well and handling serve receive, we compete pretty well. The girls are moving in the right direction. I think they're playing well. It's a good time of year to be playing well. I know there are three more weeks to go, but I can't say enough about them. They work hard every day, and it's good to see that."



Lebanon's Jaidyn Fields with a slam as Madison Lester (7) goes up to block for Southern Gap. Preston Ball Photography | For the Lebanon News

Modern Chevrolet
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1. Union at Lebanon

Since 1984 The Lebanon News Football Contest

$40
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SIA
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SHRADER INSURANCE AGENCY
"Right In The Heart Of Lebanon"
(276) 889-1701
11. Twin Springs at Eastside

DILLON™
Rock Solid. Since 1868.
2. Narrows at Honaker

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

BONANZA STEAKHOUSE
Senior Bar 60+
(Includes Tea or Coffee)
MON-FRI 2-4 p.m.
$11.99
12. Memphis at Tulane

RESIDENTIAL ● LAND ● COMMERCIAL
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Melanie Waugh
Broker
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3. Castlewood at Thomas Walker

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Honaker FUNERAL HOME
4686 Redbud Highway Honaker, Virginia
Kim McGlothlin Harris • Ashlee Cook • Josh Combs
276-873-6446
honakerfuneralhome.net
13. Notre Dame at BYU

HIGHLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE
Lebanon
276-889-5877
Tazewell
276-988-7994

4. Holston at Northwood

Scores from last week (10//7/26) Contest

1. Twin Springs 69, Castlewood 6
2. Union 23, Ridgeview 20
3. Eastside 14, Rye Cove 12
4. Auburn 28, Northwood 26
5. Grayson Co. 33, George Wythe 20
6. Southern Gap 71, Tazewell 34
7. Wise Central 49, Richlands 9
8. Gate City 42, John Battle 0
9. Graham 51, Pulaski Co. 13
10. Lee High 34, Marion 6
11. Holston 28, Patrick Henry 14
12. Harlan (KY) 28, Thomas Walker 20
13. Louisville 44, Florida State 20
14. BYU 24, Iowa State 10
15. Georgia 20, Alabama 17
16. Kentucky 35, LSU 34 (OT)
17. California 25, Va. Tech 20
18. NY Giants 27, Washington 27 (OT)
19. Pittsburgh Steelers 34, Indianapolis Colts 22
20. New England Pats 45, Las Vegas Raiders 17

FAMILY DrugCenter
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276-889-1919
www.lebanonfamilydrug.com
14. Alabama at Tennessee

The Pioneer Restaurant
Monday through Sunday 11a-9p
1951 East Main St, Lebanon, VA
276-889-2922
"Great Food - Not Fast Food"
5. Abingdon at Wise Central

MERCY AMBULANCE SERVICE

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Richlands 276-964-9111
Grundy 276-935-8200
15. Missouri at Ole Miss

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OWENS CORNING
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Metal Roofing, Pole Barns, Free Estimates & More
6. Gate City at Lee High

LAST WEEKS WINNERS!

1. Michelle Ratliff (15-5), Lebanon
2. Scott Clark (15-5), Lebanon

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. Georgia Tech at Virginia Tech

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www.autoenergy.org
7. Graham at Virginia High

FERGUSON FAMILY DENTISTRY
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17. Ohio State at Indiana

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AUTO HOME LIFE COMMERCIAL
McCoy INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.
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LEBANON AGENCY 547 W MAIN STREET LEBANON, VA
CASTLEWOOD AGENCY 19392 US HWY 58 CASTLEWOOD, VA
PROUD TO BE A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY
8. John Battle at Ridgeview

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24-Hour Same Day Service • www.starnesinc.com
18. Chicago Bears at Atlanta Falcons

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 Union at Lebanon.

SECOND TIE-BREAKER

_____
will be the total points scored between Narrows at Honaker.

NAME:_____
ADDRESS:_____
CITY:_____
STATE:_____
ZIP:_____
PHONE:_____

CLIP AND BRING OR MAIL TO:
THE LEBANON NEWS
P.O. BOX 1268
LEBANON, VA 24266

CHEVROLET GMC
MORGAN McCLURE
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www.morganmcclureauto.com
9. Marion at Tazewell

Lebanon Lube
Larry Runyon, owner
M-F 8-5 • Sat 8-12
976 East Main St, Lebanon
19. New Orleans Saints at New York Giants

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10. Chilhowie at Rural Retreat

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1541 Thompson Creek Road, Honaker, Virginia 24260
Phone: 276-991-9100 - www.drpeandls.com
20. Pittsburgh Steelers at Tampa Bay Bucs

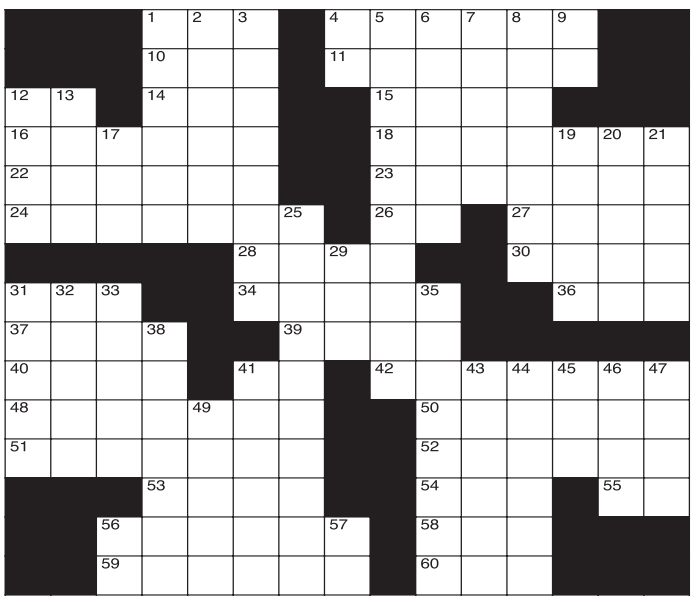
AT THE CHIROPRACTOR WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

ADJUSTMENT
BIOMECHANICS
CAVITATION
DECOMPRESSION
DISC
DOCTOR
ERGONOMICS
HERNIATION
INFLAMMATION
JOINT
MANIPULATION
NERVE
PALPATION
POSTURAL
RELIEF
SACRUM
SCIATICA
SPINE
STENOSIS
SUBACUTE
SUBLUXATION
TRACTION
VERTEBRAE
WELLNESS



CLUES ACROSS

1. Small Eurasian deer
4. Province in Northern Ireland
10. A major division of geological time
11. Broadway actor Lane
12. Canadian province (abbr.)
14. Human gene
15. Two
16. A notable one was "blue"
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Ring-shaped objects
23. Sullies
24. Occurs
26. Commercial
27. Near
28. Tools you may need
30. A pledge
31. They start the alphabet
34. Silk garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Longtime mayor of Rio
39. Hot meal
40. A type of gin
41. Atomic #84
42. $10 bill
48. About ground
50. Medicine man
51. Seedless raisin
52. National capital of Albania
53. Appendage
54. OJ trial judge
55. European government entity (abbr.)
56. Bike parts
58. Friend to "Barbie"
59. Stretched to see or hear
60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Make up for
2. Baltimore ballplayer
3. Wages
4. International organization of countries
5. Engravers of gems
6. Declared as fact
7. One who steals
8. Jewelry
9. Hospital worker
12. Nonsense (slang)
13. Town in Galilee
17. Value
19. Alternative identity
20. Sheep in their second year
21. Town in Surrey, England
25. Appropriate to a time of year
29. Creative work
31. Recesses
32. Largely forested municipality in Germany
33. Rider of Rohan
35. Ancient symbol co-opted by Nazis
38. Pioneer
41. Scribe
43. Painted a bright color
44. Member of British nobility
45. "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman
46. Helps people walk
47. Crest of a hill
49. People of southeastern Alaska
56. One's own device
57. The Mount Rushmore State

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to chiropractic care.

NIOJT

Answer: Joint

GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born on October 12, 1968, in Australia. I attended the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, turning down a role on a soap opera to do so. I am best known as an action star, but I'm also an accomplished singer and performer, having appeared in musicals.

Answer: Hugh Jackman

CRYPTO FUN

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

Solve the code to discover words related to chiropractic care.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 24 = N)

A. 7 8 22 6 26 2
Clue: Move into place

B. 26 16 9 24 21
Clue: Holds up the body

C. 16 7 9 24
Clue: Discomfort

D. 24 21 20 19
Clue: Supports the head

Answers: A. adjust B. spine C. pain D. neck

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

Horoscopes

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Focus your energy on family and home this week, Aries. Although you might feel more comfortable working alone, you may find yourself doing group work soon enough.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
You have lots of mental energy this week, Taurus. You might be pushed into a leadership role that will help you feel independent.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Sports and competitive physical activities might appeal to you this week, Gemini. Teams, friends and group activities will be priorities, as will sharing ideas.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, you will be noticed this week and you will be encouraged to speak up and share your point of view. Be humble, but keep the courage of your convictions.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, this week you can explore new ideas, meet new people and learn new things. Politics and controversial subjects might appeal to you, but probably should be avoided right now.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
This is not the week to agree to anything significant, Virgo. Instead, do your homework and gather all of your information before you commit to a major project or expense.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you might attract someone to you this week who is interesting but a bit feisty. See what they have to say because it might be enlightening in some way.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
You are ready to roll up your sleeves and work, Scorpio. Keep in mind that you might have to delegate some things to others because you tend to take on too much.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Be patient with spouses, partners and close friends, Sagittarius. Your patience will pay off and others will appreciate your calm demeanor.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
You might be tempted to make some improvements around home this week, Capricorn. Start with the spaces you use the most and then build from there.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
You feel energized and ready to take charge, Aquarius. This week you will defend your ideas and explain what you want. Some people will agree with your line of thinking.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Restrict your spending to the essentials this week, Pisces; otherwise, you might be tempted to spend money quickly and rashly.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 11
Cardi B, Singer (34)

OCTOBER 12
Josh Hutcherson, Actor (34)

OCTOBER 13
Caleb McLaughlin, Actor (25)

OCTOBER 14
Usher, Singer (48)

OCTOBER 15
Paul Walter Hauser, Actor (40)

OCTOBER 16
John Mayer, Singer (49)

OCTOBER 17
Charles Oliveira, MMA Fighter (37)

Offer something new at Thanksgiving dinner this year

Thanksgiving dinner offers a lot to look forward to. The unofficial kickoff to the holiday season, Thanksgiving is a chance for families and friends to get together, watch some football and, of course, share a delicious meal.

Food is a focal point on Thanksgiving. Turkey is the traditional centerpiece, but side dishes garner their share of the glory, too. Stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetable casseroles, and more have a way of finding their ways onto the Thanksgiving menu. But hosts looking to offer something a little less traditional and more unique can look to this delicious recipe for "Stuffed Zucchini" from Lines+Angles.

STUFFED ZUCCHINI
Makes 6 servings

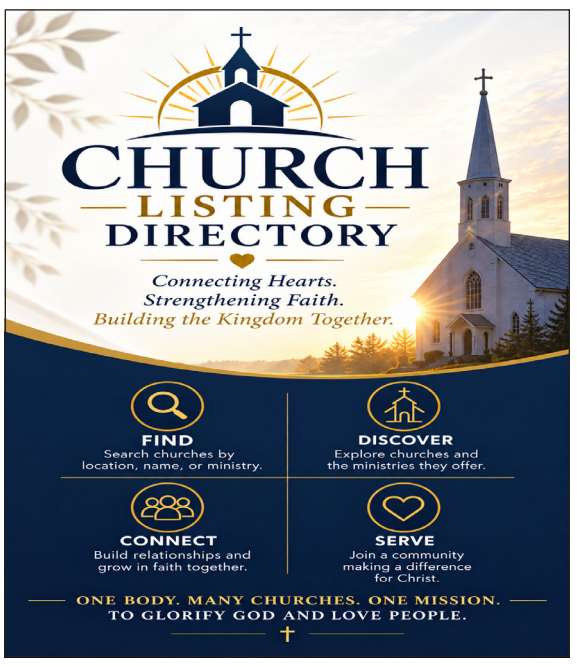


6 medium zucchini, washed and ends trimmed
3 cups butter cracker crumbs, crumbled
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese, plus extra to sprinkle
1 small onion, peeled and minced
3 tablespoons minced fresh parsley, plus extra for garnish
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
1 teaspoon salt
2 eggs, beaten
2 tablespoons butter
15 ounces canned diced tomatoes, drained well

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.

2. Cut zucchini in half lengthwise; scoop pulp out with a spoon. Place zucchini shells in a large baking pan.

3. In a large bowl, combine zucchini pulp, cracker crumbs, cheese, onion, parsley, salt, pepper, and the beaten eggs. Fill zucchini shells with mixture; dot with butter and spoon tomatoes over the filling. Sprinkle with additional Parmesan cheese and bake for 30 to 35 minutes. Garnish with chopped parsley and serve.



BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Shawn White (interim)
Sunday Worship 11 AM
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Wednesdays 7 PM
60 Ketron Ave, Lebanon, VA (beside RCCTC)
Phone 276-889-5963
Email: bbchurchlebanon@gmail.com
Website: bbchurchlebanon.org

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Rev. Jacquelyne Booher
Sunday Worship Service 11 AM
Hotdog Dinner October 16 – 11 AM – 3 PM
485 Cleveland Road, Lebanon, VA
(276) 889-5922

CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTIONS

AUCTION: HISTORIC "LOCUST GROVE," AMHERST COUNTY, VA. 125± acres in 8 tracts featuring a stately 2-story brick manor built in 1840, nestled in the Blue Ridge foothills. 1024 Sunset Dr., Amherst, VA. Onsite auction Oct. 29 at 11 AM. Previews Oct. 11, 18 & 25, noon–4 PM. Online bidding available. Buyer's premium: 5% real estate; 10% personal property. Details: woltz.com or 800-551-3588. Woltz & Associates, Inc., Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers (VA #321).

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LEGAL NOTICES

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 171 HERITAGE DRIVE, HONAKER, VA 24260. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated June 30, 2021, in the original principal amount of $80,101.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Russell County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2101505. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Russell County, 121 East Main Street, Lebanon, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on November 12, 2026, at 1:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL OF THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE NEW GARDEN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF RUSSELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA, ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE NEW GARDEN ROAD AND IMMEDIATELY SOUTHWEST OF THE TOWN OF HONAKER, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT A POINT IN THE NEW GARDEN ROAD, A CORNER TO THE LANDS OF ROBY BARNHART, AND LEAVING SAID ROAD, AND RUNNING WITH THE LINE OF THE SAID ROBY BARNHART N 0-15 W 125 FEET; THENCE RUNNING IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION APPROXIMATELY 100 FEET TO THE NOTHEAST CORNER OF THE LANDS OF LEWIS TAYLOR; THENCE WITH THE TAYLOR LINE S 0-15 E 125 FEET TO A POINT IN SAID NEW GARDEN ROAD; THENCE FOLLOWING SAID ROAD N 73-45 E 100 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND BEING THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF LOT NO. G AS SHOWN ON PLAT OR SUBDIVISION MADE BY TATE-HORNEY LAND AUCTION COMPANY, BEARING DATE OF MAY 1941, PROPERLY RECORDED. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a $50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepite.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepite.com. VA-383954-1.
LN-09-9,16;2026; 10-14-2026

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
93 Clairmont Circle , St. Paul, Virginia 24283
In execution of that certain deed of trust in the original principal amount of $55,280.00 dated September 7, 1994 and recorded among the land records of Russell County, in Deed Book 426, Page 586 and subsequent modifications or re-recordings, if any, as amended by an instrument appointing the undersigned as Substituted Trustee dated in the land records of Russell County, Virginia, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and having been requested to do so by the holder of the note evidencing the said indebtedness, the undersigned Substituted Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the Front Doors of the Russell County Courthouse located at 53 Main Street, Lebanon, VA 24226, on:
November 12, 2026 @ 11:00 AM
The property described in said deed of trust located at the above street address, and more particularly described as:
All those certain pieces or parcels of land containing 0.35 acres, by survey, lying and being in the Castlewood Magisterial District of Russell County, Virginia, in Clairmont Estates, which said pieces or parcels of land are described as a portion of Lot Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, and are more particularly described from the hereinafter mentioned plat as follows:
Beginning at an iron pin set in the eastern boundary line of Cross Street and in the northern boundary line of Clairmont Drive, at the intersection of Cross Drive and Clairmont Drive; thence with the eastern boundary line of Cross Street and the western boundary line of Lot No. 1 N 03 47 00 E 123.00` to an iron pin in the eastern right- of-way line of Cross Street and the western boundary line of Lot No. 1; thence leaving Cross Street N 85 03 13 E, crossing Lots Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, 151.14` to an rod set in the eastern boundary line of Lot No. 5 and the western boundary line of Lot No. 6; thence leaving the boundary line of Lot No. 6, and crossing Lots Nos. 4 and 5 S 24 16 20 W 133.50` to a roof-bolt in the southeastern corner of Lot No. 3; and in the northern boundary line of Clairmont Drive; thence with Clairmont Drive, and with the southern boundary lines of Lots Nos. 1, 2 and 3 S 82 17 00 W 104.76` to the point of beginning, containing 0.35 acres, a plat of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, designated, "Plat showing the Vaughn L. Hammacker and Sharey Hammacker Lands, recorded in D.B. 400, Pg. 578, see also D. B. 305, Pg. 695. Being a portion of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 in what is known as Clairmont Estates. Situated in the Castlewood Mag. District of Russell County, VA.", dated August 22, 1994, made by Hubert T. Nash, Certified Land Surveyor.
TERMS OF SALE: Cash or certified funds. A non-refundable deposit of ten percent (10%) of the successful bid price, payable in cash or by certified or cashier's check to the undersigned will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Terms of sale to be complied with within 14 days from date of sale or deposit will be forfeit and property will be resold at costs of defaulting purchaser. All real estate taxes to be adjusted as of date of sale. Seller shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by the purchaser in connection with their purchase or settlement, including, without limitation, state and local recording fees, title insurance or research, or any other costs of purchaser's acquisition. The property and the improvements thereon will be sold as is, without representations or warranties of any kind. The sale is subject to all other liens, encumbrances, conditions, easements and restrictions, if any, superior to the aforesaid deed of trust and lawfully affecting the property. Trustee shall have no duty to obtain possession for purchaser. All risks of casualty pass to successful bidder at conclusion of bidding. Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower(s) entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the Purchaser's deposit without interest. Additional terms to be announced at the sale.
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Terra Abstract Virginia, Inc.
1581 Main Street
Suite 200
Warrington, PA 18976
(215) 572-8111, M-F Between 8:00AM - 5 P.M.
(VA202500000087)
In the event of postponement of the sale, which may be done at the discretion of the trustee, the date of the postponed sale will be announced at the sale. No new or additional notice will be provided other than the announcement at the sale.
LN-10-14,21,28,11-4;2026

PUBLIC HEARING

The Cumberland Plateau Regional Housing Authority announces that on or about November 16, 2026 the Authority shall make available for public review a draft copy of components of its 5 Year/Annual Agency Plan per the guidelines of 24 CFR 903, a requirement of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998.

These documents will be available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Cumberland Plateau Regional Housing Authority administration office located on 35 Fox Meadow Drive, Lebanon, Virginia for a period of approximately 45 days.

A Public Hearing is scheduled to be held on January 4, 2027 at 11:00 a.m. in the community room at Fox Meadow Apartments in Lebanon, Virginia. At this time, the Housing Authority shall receive and consider any and all comments prior to finalization of their agency plan for submission to HUD on or before January 15, 2027.

Authorized by: Keith L. Viers
Executive Director

VA ABC NOTICE
Full Name of owner: 2BY3 LLC
Trading as: Hanging Rock Market n Deli
1273 Dante Road, St Paul, Russell County, VA 24283-3660
The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a convenience grocery store, beer, wine, off premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
Deveshkumar Patel, Owner.
Note: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.
LN-10-14,21;2026

SERVICES

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

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

We 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.

Incumbent Fields seeking another term on Lebanon Town Council

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Five candidates are on the ballot this November for three seats on the Lebanon Town Council. Among those running is incumbent Nina Fields.

Fields worked as a salesperson for Morgan McClure Chevrolet for 21 years before retiring in 2012. "Since then I have taken care of grandchildren and also worked for H & R Block," she said.

A member of Cedar Pointe Baptist Church, Fields was married to Doyle Fields for 30 years before his passing in 2023. Upon his passing, she was appointed to her husband's seat before winning a special election.

During her three years as a member of the Lebanon Town Council, Fields said she was especially proud of the banners that were put on display throughout the town earlier this year. The banners honor the town's military veterans.

"I am most proud to have played a small part in the displaying of the banners with photos of our veterans on Main Street," she said. "It is an honor to live in a town that recognizes our veterans and the contribution they have made for our freedom."

Fields said some of the main issues facing the town include, "Maintaining our level of services for our citizens while keeping water/sewer/trash rates and taxes low."

Other important issues include prioritizing updates to the town's infrastructure, including the water treatment plant, wastewater plant and distribution systems.

Supporting community and economic development is also crucial, Fields said, such as offering events and programs for youth and citizens and supporting small businesses within our town. "If reelected, I would make it a priority in the next year to continue the progress already made on updating our wastewater treatment plant to modernize our infrastructure," she said.

Fields said one thing that will help the local economy is shopping locally."I feel the best thing the town and our citizens as a whole can do to encourage local business is to SHOP LOCAL," she said. "If a new business comes, it will not survive if we don't patronize those businesses. That's something everyone can do."

She added, "Also, the town has in place a grant program that is designed to help new businesses with start-up costs at a time when profits are lowest. Plus, the town works closely with the IDA to recruit new business and industry for the town and county."



Nina Fields

Boyd running for seat on Lebanon Town Council

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

David Boyd is among the five candidates seeking one of three seats on the Lebanon Town Council.

A graduate of Lebanon High School in 1984, Boyd moved away from the area for a while before returning to Lebanon in 2001.

"My wife, April, and I have been married for 33 years, and we love living in town," he said.

"I have served on the Town of Lebanon Planning Commission for three and a half years," he added. "I work with some great people at Lebanon Block, and am proud to be part of the team responsible for our growth over the last decade. My main duties include sales, purchasing and resolving any issues that arise. Common sense usually wins out in any situation."

If elected, the infrastructure of the town's water plant and retaining officers in the local police department will be among Boyd's top priorities, he said.

"As I have spoken to a lot of our residents, two main issues have consistently been raised," he said. "I have heard numerous comments about the infrastructure surrounding our water plant. I think our water plant is one of the best in the state, but the facility probably needs some structural upgrades."

He went on to say, "Also, I have been told that although our police department is probably in the best shape it has been in years, residents would like to see more retention in the department."

Boyd offered praise for the local farmer's market.

"Our local farmers market is fantastic," he said. "I have really grown to appreciate the products and the people there."

Boyd went on to state that listening to the concerns of the residents of Lebanon is key to the town's growth.

"I think open conversation is a great thing," he explained. "I am always open to new ideas and comments. Feel free to stop by my office anytime. I have heard a lot of talk about transparency, but I feel in a small town it's kind of hard to hide very much. Rather than talk about people, why not talk to people? As I stated, common-sense conversation achieves more than bickering."

In regard to economic development, Boyd said, "The economy during these times will dictate whether or not any economic development can happen in our town. There is no magic button to push to bring more jobs and/or businesses to Lebanon.

I'm confident that our current council along with the IDA, is working to develop business plans. I look forward to learning and being part of this development."

Boyd added, "Our town is a beautiful place. I have vendors come into the store and comment on how much they love this area. They love the landscape and the people that they interact with. In closing, I appreciate all of the positive comments that have come our way, and I would appreciate your vote!"



David Boyd

Bradshaw seeking term on town council

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Five candidates are running for three seats on the Lebanon Town Council. Among those challenging for a seat is Carri Bradshaw.

"I graduated Lebanon High School in 2014 and attended Southwest Virginia Community College, where I served as an SGA Senator, Vice President and President, before continuing my education at Liberty University," Bradshaw said.

She has spent more than 14 years working in parks and recreation, including several years in local government and currently works as a Benefits Program Specialist with the Russell County Department of Social Services.

Bradshaw said some of the most important issues facing Lebanon are infrastructure and responsible financial planning; transparency and accountability; and public safety, employee retention and quality of life.

"First, we have to take care of what we have. Water, wastewater, streets and other infrastructure may not be exciting issues, but they are among the most fundamental responsibilities of local government," she said. "We need to maintain them proactively, plan for future needs and pursue every reasonable opportunity for outside funding."

She added, "Second, residents deserve transparency and accountability. Agendas, decisions, expenditures and major projects should be easy for citizens to access and follow. People shouldn't have to attend every Council meeting to know what their government is doing. And when Council commits taxpayer money to something, we should follow that project through and make sure residents receive what they paid for.

"Third, we need to invest in the people who make Lebanon work," Bradshaw went on to say. "That means supporting our police officers and first responders, retaining experienced Town employees, and providing opportunities for residents at every stage of life. I want our seniors to have things to look forward to, our teenagers to have positive places to go, our children to have opportunities to grow, and our families to see Lebanon as somewhere they want to stay. Ultimately, my approach is pretty simple: take care of what we have, spend responsibly, work together, listen to our citizens and plan ahead for the Lebanon we want to leave to the next generation."

When asked if there were particular decisions the current town council has made that she would have handled differently, Bradshaw stated, "One decision I would have handled differently is the purchase and implementation of livestreaming equipment for town council meetings. I strongly support livestreaming. In fact, I have personally livestreamed town council meetings since July 2024 because I believe residents should be able to see their local government at work even when they cannot physically attend a meeting."

She added, "My concern is the expenditure and the follow-through. The town spent $17,489 on equipment intended to provide that service. The equipment was installed in August 2025, and 'trial runs' were discussed during the September and October 2025 meetings. More than a year later, not a single town council meeting has been publicly livestreamed using that equipment. Meanwhile, the town's own public records document millions of dollars in identified wastewater infrastructure needs. That raises a question I believe council should ask whenever we spend taxpayer money: Is this our greatest need, and are taxpayers receiving what they paid for?"

Bradshaw said transparency is important to her. "I've been providing that livestream myself since July 2024. But if we can accomplish that goal inexpensively, I would rather direct limited taxpayer dollars toward critical infrastructure, public safety and other essential needs. Whatever Council chooses to fund, we owe taxpayers both responsible spending and follow-through."

Bradshaw said if elected her first-year priority would be moving Lebanon from reactive infrastructure repairs toward proactive maintenance and long-term planning for the water and wastewater systems.

"This problem didn't appear overnight," she said. "The town's own meeting minutes document years of infrastructure needs, equipment failures and sewer-line replacements. In 2023, Council was told that a wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report originally identified approximately $6.7 million in needs before the project was prioritized down to approximately $2.5 million. I want a clear capital-improvement and preventative-maintenance plan that identifies our most vulnerable infrastructure, prioritizes projects based on need and gives Council and the public a clear picture of what needs to be done, when we intend to do it and how we intend to pay for it."

She added, "Part of that plan should be building stronger partnerships outside Town Hall. Lebanon does not have to tackle every major project alone. I believe there is an opportunity for greater cooperation between the Town and Russell County, and we should also be actively working with our regional partners and state and federal representatives to identify grants and other funding opportunities. I already have established relationships with officials at each of those levels, and I would be eager to put those relationships to work on behalf of Lebanon. I recognize that the Town has made investments in infrastructure, and I'm glad those investments have been made. My concern is making sure we move away from repeatedly reacting to problems and toward identifying and addressing them before they become emergencies."

On the issue of economic development, Bradshaw said, "Economic development doesn't have to mean turning Lebanon into somewhere else. We can grow while preserving the small-town character that makes people want to call Lebanon home."

She went on to say, "The town should make it as straightforward as possible for entrepreneurs to open, expand and invest here. That means reviewing ordinances and permitting requirements, communicating clearly with prospective businesses, maintaining dependable infrastructure, and working with property owners and economic-development partners to put vacant or underused properties back into productive use."

Bradshaw added, "We also cannot overlook the businesses already here. Supporting local businesses, promoting community events and encouraging residents to spend locally helps keep money circulating within our community."

She continued, "I also believe quality of life is economic development. Just this weekend, an older resident told me she wished there were more activities for seniors in Lebanon. We already have facilities that could support more programming not only for seniors, but for children and teenagers as well."

"I spent more than 14 years working in parks and recreation, and I know firsthand that successful programming doesn't always require constructing a new facility or spending tremendous amounts of money," Bradshaw said. "Sometimes it means being creative and making better use of what taxpayers have already provided. A town with strong businesses, good recreational opportunities, reliable infrastructure, public safety and an active community is a town where people want to live, raise their families, retire and invest. Growth should complement Lebanon—not erase what makes it special."



Carri Bradshaw

Bradshaw concluded, "My husband and I have chosen to build our life here because I genuinely love this community. I believe Lebanon has tremendous potential, and I want to help make sure the decisions we make today leave our town stronger for the next generation."



