The Lebanon News

Russell County's Family Newspaper Since 1880

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Russell County IDA to host public forum with Oasis Digital Properties on proposed data center project

The Russell County Industrial Development Authority will host a public forum on a proposed data center project at the Russell County Industrial Complex on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2026, from 6 to 8 p.m. The forum will be held in the Conference Center of the Government Center Building, 139 Highland Drive, Lebanon. It is free and open to the public.

The IDA owns about 234 acres at the Russell County Industrial Complex (formerly part of the Moss 3 site), a reclaimed coal mine property off Gravel Lick Road near the town of Cleveland. IDA representatives will share background on the property since taking ownership and the due diligence completed since then. Oasis Digital Properties, the project developer, will present the proposed project, its timeline to date, and next steps. Residents will have the opportunity to ask questions and share concerns.

"This forum is the start of a conversation between Oasis and our community, and we're glad to facilitate this important dialogue that informs the best path forward on this potential project," said Laura Gilmer, executive director of the Russell County IDA.

The project is still in development, and no construction has begun.



Creatures of the night will be visiting Main Street in Lebanon for Rock of Horrors, a Totally 80s Halloween.

Haunting on Main this Saturday

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Love it or hate it, there is no denying that the 1980s gave us some of the most iconic films and music in history.

Freddy Krueger and Michael Myers gave us nightmares. We rocked out to big haired musicians who taught us how to have nothing but a good time.

This Saturday, Halloween night, Russell County will be celebrating the decade with the most spooktacular event on the calendar – the annual Haunting on Main. This year's theme is Rock of Horrors – A Totally 80s Halloween.

The event is hosted by the Russell County Chamber of Commerce.

Trick-or-treaters from across the region will make their way to Main Street in Lebanon for costume contests, plenty of fun, and, of course, plenty of candy.

Businesses and organizations will have displays set up to welcome the various ghosts and goblins haunting Main Street.

Members of the public will vote for their favorite booth and the winner will keep the coveted Haunting on Main trophy until next year.

In previous years, winners of the various costume contests received trophies. This year, in an effort to boost the local economy, winners will receive gift cards to area businesses.

Chamber president Sharon Vandyke recently told the Lebanon Town Council, "We will give gift cards instead of trophies to put money back into the community."

A Haunting on Main will get underway at 5:30 p.m. and will conclude at 9 p.m.

Nearly 13 percent of students in Russell County lack home internet

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Just under 13 percent of school-aged children in Russell County do not have access to the internet in their homes.

That was the finding of a recent study conducted by Compare Internet and research group The Canny Vulture.

According to Compare Internet's study, 20.3 percent of households in the United States are not connected to the internet. Mississippi had the highest rate at 32.2 percent while New Hampshire had the smallest rate of 14.7 percent.

Virginia ranked 28th in the study. According to Compare Internet, 678,975 households in Virginia are not online, or 20.2 percent. A total of 380,756 households had access via cell phones only.

According to Compare Internet's website, "All figures come from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2024 five-year estimates, table S2801, retrieved through the Census API. This is the most recent vintage the Census publishes at county level; the 2025 five-year file is not released until December 2026. County coverage requires the five-year series, because the one-year series only covers areas with populations above 65,000."

The site also stated, "Three variables were used. Total households (S2801_C01_001), households whose only internet subscription is a cellular data plan (S2801_C01_016), and households without an internet subscription (S2801_C01_019). The headline measure is the sum of the second and third."

According to The Canny Vulture's Justin Lindholm, 4 percent of Virginia's school-aged children do not have home internet. That number runs much higher in Southwest Virginia.

"Far Southwest is where the gap runs deepest in the whole state," Lindholm said.

Russell County has the third highest rate, Lindholm said. A total of 34.2 percent of homes are without internet. That equals 12.8 percent of school-aged children not having access at home.

The region's numbers are as follows:

Bland: 41.2 percent of homes, 32.8 percent of students

Lee: 37.5 percent of homes, 11.2 percent of students

Russell: 34.2 percent of homes, 12.8 percent of students

Smyth: 29.7 percent of homes, 9.1 percent of students

Wise: 28.0 percent of homes, 7.5 percent of students

Scott: 27.9 percent of homes, 11.1 percent of students

Buchanan: 27.6 percent of homes, 11.6 percent of students

Washington: 26.0 percent of homes, 5.2 percent of students

Dickenson: 25.6 percent of homes, 9.9 percent of students

Tazewell: 25.1 percent of homes, 4.0 percent of students

"Virginia sits at 4.0 percent for kids, so most of these run two to three times the state," Lindholm said. "On the household side a quarter to 40 percent of homes have no connection, about as high as anywhere in Virginia."

Four county schools "distinguished" in SPSF report

By SHAWN STREET
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The 2026 School Performance and Support Framework results have been released by the Office of Governor Abigail Spanberger. The SPSF provides school leaders, educators, families and caregivers, and policymakers with a snapshot of the performance and progress of schools across the Commonwealth from the 2025-26 school year.

The SPSF looks at each school's academic performance and growth, student readiness and attendance, and — for high schools — students' preparation for employment, enrollment in a postsecondary institution, and enlistment in the military.

"As Governor and as a mother of three school-aged daughters, I am working to make sure that every child feels safe, supported, and prepared to thrive during their years in Virginia's schools and into their futures. These results show that while we continue to address remaining challenges, we are well on our way toward that being every child's reality," said Spanberger. "Our educators go above and beyond to set every student up for success. Parents and families deserve to know their child is receiving an outstanding education in our Commonwealth. That's why we are focused on using this data to target investments to schools where students need it most. It's why we are putting students first."

Statewide growth illustrated in the new data includes:

More than 99 percent of schools are now fully accredited, meaning that they meet all the Commonwealth's required health, safety, staffing, compliance, and planning requirements.

Schools increased their overall SPSF scores by roughly 5 points on average.

4 in 10 schools improved their overall performance category rating.

Improvement, particularly at the elementary school levels, was driven in part by student progress on the Growth indicator.

3 out of every 4 schools in the Commonwealth saw drops in chronic absenteeism.

Each of those four components is measured by multiple indicators, such as student proficiency on state tests, student growth year to year, graduation rates, absenteeism, and other factors. Schools are then awarded a composite score that correlates with a performance category: Distinguished, Meets Expectations, Approaching Expectations, or Needs Intensive Support.

All nine of Russell County's schools are listed as fully accredited, with four falling in the category of Distinguished. They include Belfast Elementary, Honaker Elementary, Castlewood High, and Honaker High.

Schools in the Meets Expectations category include Lebanon Primary, Lebanon Elementary, and Lebanon High.

Those in the Approaching Expectations group are Castlewood Elementary and Lebanon Middle.

No county schools were found to be in the group of Needs Intensive Support.

Belfast Elementary was among the region's most improved schools, with a gain of 10.69 percentage points.

BES was also among the top five elementary schools in Mastery-Reading and Mastery-Math.



CARRI
BRADSHAW
FOR LEBANON TOWN COUNCIL
Leading Lebanon Forward...
ALWAYS FORWARD.
VOTE NOVEMBER 3
2026

ENDORSED BY
RUSSELL COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
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Russell County's Family Newspaper Since 1880

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Bailey Tate Jackson, Sr.

BAILEY TATE JACKSON SR., --Lebanon, Virginia, Bailey Tate Jackson Sr., passed away on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at the age of 82. He was born in Russell County, Va., on October 3, 1944, the son of the late Bailey and Callie Tate Jackson.

A lifelong farmer, he also worked at the Lebanon Post Office and retired after 28 years of service. He was a member of Lebanon Memorial United Methodist Church, Lebanon Masonic Lodge #251, and a dual member of the Stuart Masonic Lodge #224. He loved his family and especially cherished his two grandsons.

In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his sisters, Elizabeth Ward and Catherine Garnett and husband James Mercer Garnett; sister-in-law, Wanda Couch; nephews, Jay Garnett and Anthony Sean Couch.

Survivors include his loving wife, DeAnna C. Jackson; son, Bailey Tate Jackson Jr. and wife Wendi; grandsons, William Jacob Jackson and Bailey Tate Jackson III; brother-in-law, Jerry Couch; sister-in-law, Libby McMurray and husband Rod; brother-in-law, Don Ward; nephews, Bill Ward, Shannon Long, and Myron Couch; nieces, Susanne Spivey and Anna Ward; special grand fur baby, Apollo.

Pallbearers were his Masonic brothers.

Honorary pallbearers were Shannon Compton, Jerry Fuller, Neal Breeding, Rob Ratliff, Ron Riddle, John Arrington, and Ron Barrett.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, October 22, in the Owens Funeral Service Chapel with Rev. Tom Edwards and Rev. Darrell Fletcher officiating. Masonic rites were conducted at 12:45.



Bailey Tate Jackson, Sr.

The committal service followed at Ketron Memorial Gardens Mausoleum in Lebanon.

Share condolences with the family at www.owensfuneralservice.com.

Owens Funeral Service, 7 Tate Ave., Lebanon, Va., served the family.

Election Day is November 3

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3.

On the ballot will be seats on all three of Russell County's town councils, the Ninth District's seat in Congress and one of Virginia's seats in the United States Senate.

Three proposed amendments to the Virginia Constitution will also be on the ballot.

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

Those seeking a seat on the Cleveland Town Council include Megan Chumbley, Ty Harris, Jeremiah "Tiny" Neal and Thomas Vance.

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

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

Three seats will be contested on the Lebanon Town Council. Incumbents Nina Fields and Leonard Kegley will be running for reelection. Challengers include David Boyd, Carri Bradshaw and Andrew Mays.

Incumbent Democratic Sen. Mark Warner will be challenged by Republican Bert Mizusawa. Warner was first elected to the Senate in 2008.

Republican Congressman Morgan Griffith will be running for reelection against Democratic challenger Joy Powers. Griffith was first elected to Congress in 2010.

Three proposed constitutional amendments will also be on the ballot.

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

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

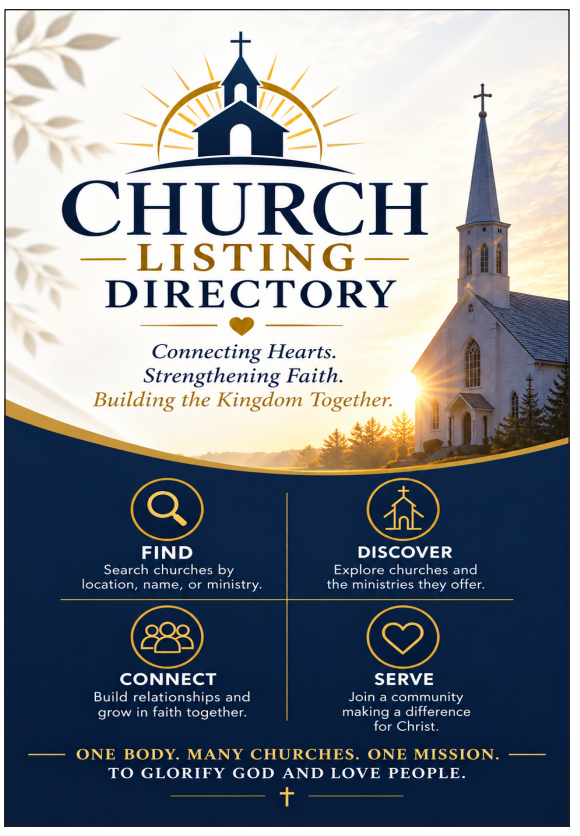
Question 3 asks: Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to provide for the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth, to revise the qualifications of voters so that a person convicted of a felony is not entitled to vote during his period of incarceration but is automatically invested with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

Early voting is still available at the Russell County Office of Voter Registration and Elections from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The final day to vote early is October 31. The office will be open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Absentee ballots must be postmarked on or before November 3. Drop-off for mailed ballots is available during regular business hours at the Russell County Office of Voter Registration and Elections.

The polls will open on Election Day at 6 a.m. and will close at 7 p.m.

All voters will be asked to show one form of identification.



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







PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – QUESTION 3

To Be Voted On at the November 3, 2026, Election

BALLOT QUESTION

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

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS QUESTION 3

Present Law

Virginia's Constitution currently provides that a person who is convicted of any felony loses the right to vote for the rest of their life unless the Governor of Virginia takes administrative action to restore that specific person's right to vote. This is the only means of getting back the right to vote after a felony conviction.

The current constitutional provision also imposes a broad restriction, while using outdated terminology, on voting by persons found to be incapacitated. A person who is determined by a court to be incapacitated, regardless of the kind of incapacity, loses the right to vote, and only a court can restore the person's right to vote later.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment enshrines in the Constitution the fundamental right of all qualified persons in the Commonwealth to vote. Two exceptions to this right are for persons who are serving a sentence of incarceration for a felony conviction and persons who are determined by a court to not understand the act of voting. Such right cannot otherwise be restricted by laws.

Under the proposed amendment, a person who is convicted of a felony loses the right to vote during their period of incarceration. Once released from incarceration, the person gets back the right to vote without needing to apply for restoration by the Governor.

The proposed amendment also requires a specific finding by a court that a person does not understand the act of voting in order for that person's right to vote to be taken away.

With the right to vote, a person also has the right to be a juror, the right to be elected to an office, and the right to be a notary public.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE II.

FRANCHISE AND OFFICERS.

Section 1. Qualifications of voters.

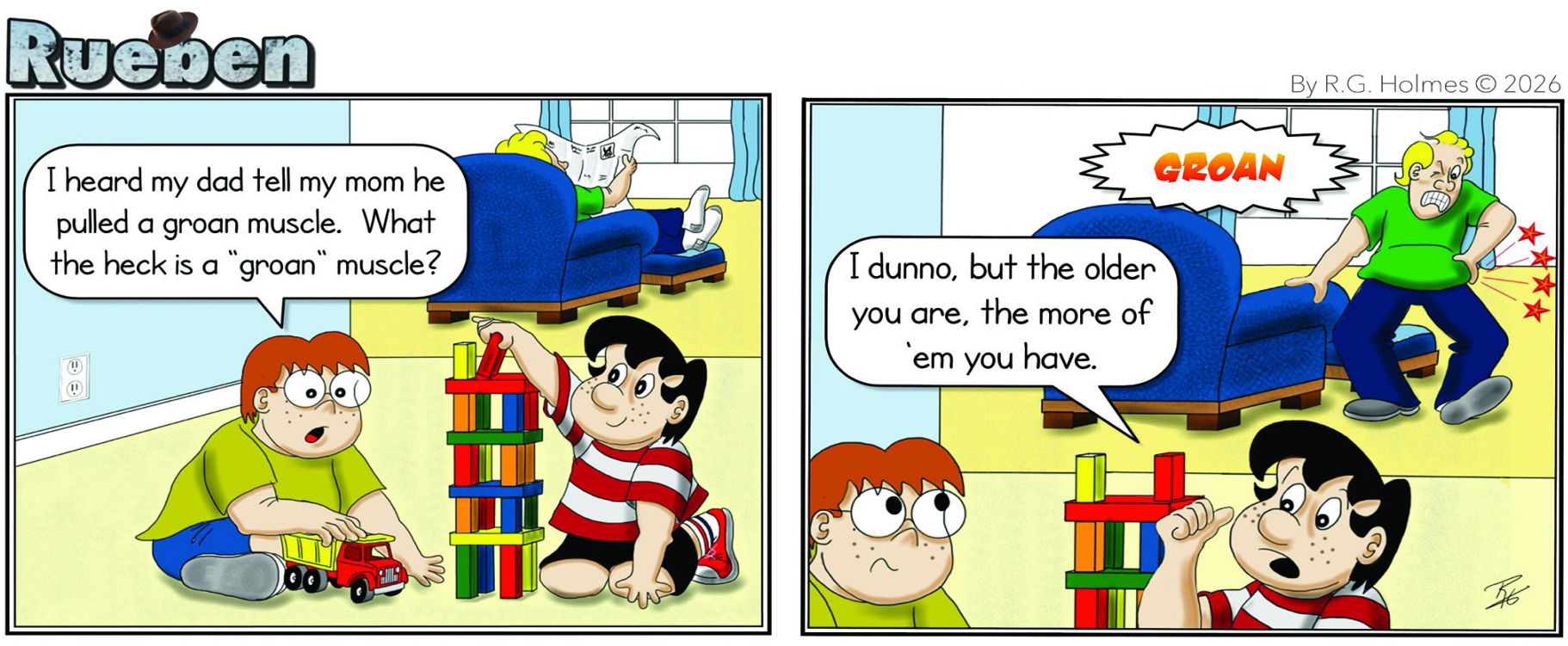
(a) In elections by the people, the qualifications of voters shall be as follows: Each voter shall be a citizen of the United States, shall be eighteen years of age, shall fulfill the residence requirements set forth in ~~this section~~ subsection (b), and shall be registered to vote pursuant to this article. Every person who meets these qualifications shall have the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth, and such right shall not be abridged by law, except that:

(1) No person who has been convicted of a felony shall be ~~qualified~~ entitled to vote ~~unless his civil rights have been restored by the Governor or other appropriate authority.~~ during any period of incarceration for such felony conviction, but every such person, upon release from incarceration for that felony conviction and without further action required of him, shall be invested with all political rights, including the right to vote; and

~~As prescribed by law, no~~ (2) No person who has been adjudicated ~~to be mentally incompetent~~ by a court of competent jurisdiction to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting shall be ~~qualified~~ entitled to vote during such period of incapacity until his ~~competency~~ capacity has been reestablished as prescribed by law.

(b) The residence requirements shall be that each voter shall be a resident of the Commonwealth and of the precinct where he votes. Residence, for all purposes of qualification to vote, requires both domicile and a place of abode. The General Assembly may provide for persons who are employed overseas, and their spouses and dependents residing with them, and who are qualified to vote except for relinquishing their place of abode in the Commonwealth while overseas, to vote in the Commonwealth subject to conditions and time limits defined by law. The General Assembly may provide for persons who are qualified to vote except for having moved their residence from one precinct to another within the Commonwealth to continue to vote in a former precinct subject to conditions and time limits defined by law. The General Assembly may also provide, in elections for President and Vice President of the United States, alternatives to registration for new residents of the Commonwealth.

(c) Any person who will be qualified with respect to age to vote at the next general election shall be permitted to register in advance and also to vote in any intervening primary or special election.



Sheriff's office warns of scams

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

The Russell County Sheriff's Office is warning residents about a widespread telephone scam and another involving EBT cards.

According to a statement from the sheriff's office, "Fraudsters pose as officers, deputies, or bondsmen, demanding immediate money via payment apps or gift cards for fake bonds, fees, or ankle monitors."

That statement went on to say the fraudsters claim that if money is sent to them directly, they can speed up the process of having a loved one released from jail.

The fraudsters most often pretend to be from the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail.

"VPRJ does not solicit or accept payments over the phone for any release options or bond-related matter—under any circumstance," Superintendent Colonel Roy Witham stated. "If friends or family of persons committed to VPRJ have questions regarding bond amounts or wish to verify a booking status, they are encouraged to contact the VPRJ Booking desk directly."

Individuals are urged not to send money or share personal information with unknown callers, and to report suspicious callers to local law enforcement.

As for the EBT scam, fraudsters are sending automated phone calls, text messages, or emails pretending to be state agencies or EBT customer service demanding your card number or PIN, or payment when you click on a link in a text message.

"Be smart, don't fall for scams!" the statement said.

Feeding Southwest Virginia delivers 289,026 free summer meals to families

Feeding Southwest Virginia announced results from its participation in the Summer Meals for Kids pilot with Amazon and No Kid Hungry, delivering 289,026 free meals directly to 3,325 children in Southwest Virginia between May and August of 2026.

"We're incredibly grateful to Amazon and No Kid Hungry for selecting our Food Bank to participate in their home delivery service initiative," says President and CEO of Feeding Southwest Virginia, Pamela Irvine. Irvine continues, "Too many children in our region face hunger. For the second year in a row, thanks to this partnership, Feeding Southwest Virginia could reach these young neighbors residing in especially rural counties."

Feeding Southwest Virginia identified eligible families and prepared shelf-stable meal boxes, while Amazon donated the transportation and delivery through its rural delivery network — at no cost to families or partners. Feeding Southwest Virginia's participation was part of a national pilot that delivered more than 2 million meals to families across 13 states through 18 food bank and school district partners.

Nearly 30 million children in the U.S. rely on free breakfast and lunch during the school year, but only about 1 in 7 eligible children access traditional onsite summer meal programs. For families in rural communities, long travel distances, sparsely located meal sites, limited and costly transportation, and schedule constraints for working parents and caregivers can make reaching a site nearly impossible. In some rural counties, child food insecurity rates approach 50 percent.

In Southwest Virginia, thousands of children rely on free school meals during the year, but few can reach traditional summer meal sites due to distance, transportation, or working parents.

In 2023, the USDA introduced flexible models for summer food distribution, allowing sponsors in eligible rural areas to provide meals for pickup or home delivery at no cost — a change that opened the door to this pilot program.

"At Amazon, we believe everyone should have reliable access to nutritious food," said Jill Slabey, senior product manager for logistics for good at Amazon. "This summer, we used the same last-mile network that delivers packages every day to bring more than 2 million meals directly to doorsteps across the country — helping local partners reach more children in the communities they serve."

"Families in rural communities have told us that getting to a traditional summer meal site can be a real challenge," said Samantha King, senior manager of Innovation at No Kid Hungry. "Home delivery gives communities another way to reach kids during the summer, and this pilot is helping us build a model that is practical for local partners and centered on what families need."





PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – QUESTION 1

To Be Voted On at the November 3, 2026, Election

BALLOT QUESTION

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

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS
QUESTION 1

Present Law
Currently, the Virginia Constitution does not explicitly provide to its citizens a right to reproductive freedom nor does it explicitly protect or prohibit certain kinds of health care procedures or decisions.

Proposed Amendment
The proposed amendment would add to the Virginia Constitution's Bill of Rights the fundamental right to make and carry out decisions about a person's own reproductive care with only certain, specific exceptions. The proposed amendment specifically allows the state government to pass laws to regulate abortion care in the third trimester of pregnancy, but requires any such law to allow for abortion care when it is medically needed to protect the life and health of the pregnant person or because the fetus is not viable.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE I

BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 11-A. Fundamental right to reproductive freedom.

That every individual has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including the ability to make and carry out decisions relating to one's own prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, abortion care, miscarriage management, and fertility care.

An individual's right to reproductive freedom shall not be, directly or indirectly, denied, burdened, or infringed upon unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

Notwithstanding the above, the Commonwealth may regulate the provision of abortion care in the third trimester, provided that in no circumstance shall the Commonwealth prohibit an abortion (i) that in the professional judgment of a physician is medically indicated to protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant individual or (ii) when in the professional judgment of a physician the fetus is not viable.

The Commonwealth shall not discriminate in the protection or enforcement of this fundamental right.

The Commonwealth shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against an individual based on such individual's own exercise of this fundamental right or such individual's own actual, potential, perceived, or alleged pregnancy outcomes, including miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion. The Commonwealth shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against any individual for aiding or assisting another individual in exercising such other individual's right to reproductive freedom with such other individual's voluntary consent.

For the purposes of this section, a state interest is compelling only if it is for the limited purpose of maintaining or improving the health of an individual seeking care, consistent with accepted clinical standards of care and evidence-based medicine and does not infringe on that individual's autonomous decision making.

This section shall be self-executing. Any provision of this section held invalid shall be severable from the remaining portions of the section.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – QUESTION 2

To Be Voted On at the November 3, 2026, Election

BALLOT QUESTION

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

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS
QUESTION 2

Present Law
Marriages, civil unions, and other legal relationships with the same rights, benefits, and effects of marriage between persons of the same sex or gender are prohibited under Virginia's Constitution. This prohibition is no longer enforceable as a result of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015, but the prohibition on marriages between persons of the same sex or gender remains in the state's Constitution. If the Supreme Court were to overturn its previous decision, that prohibition would be enforceable again.

Proposed Amendment
The proposed amendment removes the prohibition on marriages between persons of the same sex or gender from the Virginia Constitution's Bill of Rights. It is replaced with the fundamental right to marry, requiring the state to recognize and treat equally under the law any lawful marriage between two adult persons, regardless of the sex, gender, or race of either person. The proposed amendment prohibits the state from denying a marriage license to two adult persons because of their sex, gender, or race.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE I

BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 15-A. Marriage.

That ~~only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions~~ marriage is one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness.

This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not ~~create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage~~ deny the issuance of a marriage license to two adult persons seeking a lawful marriage on the basis of the sex, gender, or race of such persons. ~~Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage~~ This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall recognize any lawful marriage between two adult persons and treat such marriages equally under the law, regardless of the sex, gender, or race of such persons.

Congressman Griffith: Wagner



MORGAN **GRIFFITH**

WEEKLY REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL

Major League Baseball (MLB) will crown new champions this fall.

The Tampa Bay Rays and Milwaukee Brewers will compete for their first World Series championship in franchise history.

Just before Americans welcome a first-time baseball champion, Southwest Virginia welcomed a first-of-a-kind Hall of Famer to the region.

In October, Hall of Fame inductee Billy Wagner returned home for a dedication ceremony in downtown Tazewell.

Many in Southwest Virginia claim Billy Wagner as their own.

Wagner's place of birth is Marion. But when he was with his aunt and uncle in his high school years, he lived in Tannersville.

He attended Tazewell High School where he was a dual-sport athlete in football and baseball.

Because of multiple broken right arms he suffered as a kid, he converted to pitching left-handed. Playing for the late Tazewell High School coach Lou Peery, Wagner became a pitching sensation.

Following his high school success, he stayed close to home playing for Ferrum College in Franklin County. After a dominant performance in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III, where he set four records that stand to this day, Wagner was selected 12th overall in the 1993 MLB Draft.

To many MLB fans, Wagner is a legendary ballplayer. But to Virginians in our region, Wagner is more than that.

Wagner is a legendary human being who cares for Western Virginia.

On the day of the ceremony, I traveled to other events, including the Apple Dumpling Festival in Stuart and a fall festival thrown by the Radford Veterans of Foreign Wars.

When talking to constituents about my day's plans, I mentioned that I'd later be attending the dedication ceremony in Tazewell.

I heard numerous accounts from people that Wagner the man was an amazing person.

One lady told me she got to know Wagner through one of his roommates at Ferrum. She recounted to me that Wagner is one of the finest men she has ever met. He cares about people and he gives back to his communities.

Wagner has a history of supporting childhood initiatives. Through the Wagner Family Foundation, Wagner helped direct resources to literacy initiatives, homeless outreach programs and organizations serving at-risk youth.

In 2005, Wagner founded the Second Chance Learning Center in Bluefield, Virginia. This Center provided tutoring and counseling services for local underserved children.

During Wagner's 2025 Hall of Fame induction speech, he wore a Tazewell County pin and Ferrum College pin. Earlier this year, Wagner joined Ferrum baseball's coaching staff.

Despite a time-consuming career that spanned 16 seasons and forced him to move back and forth across the country, Wagner never failed to support his family and stay connected with our region.

Wagner raised his four kids alongside his wife, Sarah, who is also a standout athlete from Ferrum College. Following her collegiate basketball career, she was inducted into the Ferrum College Hall of Fame. The Wagners deeply love their kids, including a son who plays in the MLB.

With the feedback I received, I headed to the Tazewell dedication ceremony.

I focused my remarks on the human side of Wagner that I learned about. I shared my earlier conversations in the day to highlight the kind of positive impact that Wagner had on his many friends here in Virginia.

Those that attended the ceremony included elected officials and community leaders. Coach Peery's wife listened to Wagner comment about the role models that helped shape his life, and how her husband was almost like a father to Wagner.

The only thing that would have made the day better, according to Wagner, was if Peery was alive to celebrate this moment with him.

After opening by thanking God, Wagner's emotional remarks praised Tazewell: "It was you guys that inspired me. The town of Tazewell means more to me than words can express…This is the hardest speech I have ever had to give, because you are my family and I love you."

After the speeches, he threw a pitch to one of his former Tazewell teammates, who caught it on behalf of all of Wagner's Tazewell and Ferrum teammates. It was a heater!

A new downtown park in Tazewell, "Billy Wagner Park," features a statue of Wagner and a plaque noting his membership in the National Baseball Hall of Fame, something no other D-III athlete has ever done.

It was an honor for me to be there in person and celebrate with the community.

Wagner's words and actions not only inspire athletes and athletic programs in our region. They inspire the human heart.

That is what Southwest Virginia is all about.

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



BEVERLY **PRATER ASHBY**

By BEVERLY PRATER ASHBY

Education can provide many beneficial returns, such as a greater lifetime income, increased personal fulfillment, expanded social skills, and more. However, it can be easy for adult students to lose sight of these outcomes while in an educational program due to the financial costs, decreased time spent with friends and family, and the stress of balancing coursework with one's other responsibilities.

For programs to retain their adult learners, it is important that they incorporate support strategies throughout the student journey that keep these students engaged and remind them about the future payoffs of their commitments and sacrifices.

Southwest Regional Adult Education (SRAE) takes key factors into account and strives to make all their adult programs as conveniently accessible as possible. Also, there is never any cost associated with the courses.

The faculty and staff members of SRAE are there for students to provide as much support and encouragement as they can, but there are some things that adult students and their families and friends can do to keep motivation up as well. For instance, students should never feel alone.

It is important for them to feel they have others to support them along their educational path. This includes friends and family who can pitch in to cook meals, watch kids so a student can put in extra hours into studying, or help students recover from an emotional setback such as a low test score.

Adult students can also benefit from having intrinsic motivation, which means that one needs to find motivation within themselves to develop pride and confidence, attach meaning to their work, and persist despite challenges. This motivation can come from the desire to acquire new job skills, to obtain a diploma or a certification, or to gain personal growth. No matter what the motivating factor may be, the bottom line is that persistence is key. If you are an adult student, do not give up on accomplishing your goals. If you are a friend or family member of someone who is in an educational program, please provide as much support as you can. Sometimes it only takes a few words of encouragement or a dropped-off meal or a couple of hours of childcare to make an enormous difference to someone who is struggling to make ends meet. Having a good support system is oftentimes crucial to helping someone successfully accomplish their goals.

Any adult who is looking for an education program to fit their needs and schedule can call the SRAE office at 276-889-5424. Let the staff help you build your confidence and accomplish your educational goals by finding a class that works for you while providing the support and assistance you need.



DR. GLENN **MOLLETTE**

Silence may or may not be golden

By DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

Silence may or may not be golden. You may be hungry for a little bit of silence or terrified of the quiet. Silence can be deafening, but it all depends on the circumstances.

Often the noise of the world and all that is going on can be overwhelming. We may all have moments when we are on information overload. We can't take any more and we have to turn off the television, the social media, text messages and so on. Almost daily I block three or four phone numbers who are sending me more and more unrequested information.

Our lives can be noisy and cluttered. We may have vocational overload plus home noise that we deal with daily. You may have a house filled with children and lots of other relatives you hear from daily. You may be involved at church or have other social connections that fill up your life. Your quiet moments may be rare. You long for a quiet peaceful day that seems to be far removed from you.

Most likely, the day will come. Children grow up and they have their own busy lives. The people at church move on. The others you used to talk to are gone or doing something else. The quietness may be more than you really want. I have been in too many nursing homes where people sat staring quietly into space buried deep in thoughts of past happier times.

The reality is that we all need some quiet time to sort out our thoughts. Our brains need a rest. We need time to talk to God and to talk to ourselves. We need time to just sort through our thoughts and to reflect and make good decisions. So, there is a plus side to silence, but we don't need it 24/7.

While you may be having a quiet moment here is something serious for you to think about. Do not overstock on Halloween candy. By all means, do not load up on candy that you like because you will end up eating most of the candy. Buy only what you can give away.

Halloween is the official beginning of the big weight gain season. For the next 10 weeks people decide they are going to eat like crazy and then diet on January 1st. It's your call. However, while you are quiet determine to not buy so much candy for Halloween.

Also, in your quiet time think about who you are going to vote for on Election Day. Take a look at the candidates. Look at who they are and how they have lived and what they have done. Look at what the candidates stand for and what they believe.

The political noise is deafening. We are bombarded daily by political campaign rhetoric. Consider what they represent and if they will make our country and community better. How does their election impact you? Give some thought to your vote which is coming up very soon.

Don't be too afraid of the silence. We can call each visit. Make visits, text and so forth. Also keep in mind that we are never really alone. God is with us and closer than our next breath. Let His presence comfort you and give you peace.

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Kudzu vines in Southwest Virginia

The Curse of the Kudzu



Brittany Breeding

In Appalachia, it's not hard to notice where the mountains seem to be disappearing beneath an emerald sea. Kudzu pours down hillsides, drapes the pines and rolls over barns, fences and telephone poles. In the distance, its shapes can be almost beautiful, like green fairy castles frozen beside the highway. But underneath that living blanket, the light of day has vanished. Trees strain beneath its weight, wildflowers disappear and entire pieces of the landscape are swallowed whole. It is called "the vine that ate the South" and the name is not much of an exaggeration.

Kudzu is a climbing, twisting perennial vine native to Asia and a member of the pea family. It has broad leaves divided into three leaflets, thick roots and fragrant purple blossoms that appear in late summer.

In favorable conditions, its vines can grow as much as a foot in a single day and stretch dozens of feet in one season. Wherever a stem touches the earth, it may form new roots, allowing one patch to advance like an army that builds reinforcements as it marches. Yet kudzu did not sneak into Appalachia unnoticed — we invited it.

The plant was introduced to the United States at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, where Japan created a garden filled with unfamiliar ornamental plants. Americans admired kudzu's large leaves and sweet-smelling flowers and nurseries soon began selling it as a porch vine. By the early twentieth century, it was also promoted as inexpensive forage for livestock.

Its great opportunity came during the 1930s. Generations of logging and intensive farming had left parts of the South badly eroded. Rain carried precious topsoil down bare hillsides, carving gullies into exhausted farms. Federal conservation officials believed kudzu offered an answer. It grew rapidly, tolerated poor ground, added nitrogen to the soil and appeared capable of holding wounded hillsides together. The Soil Erosion Service, later known as the Soil Conservation Service, distributed roughly 85 million kudzu plants to Southern landowners. Farmers were offered as much as $8 an acre to plant it. Civilian Conservation Corps crews placed it along roads, railways and eroding slopes. By 1946, kudzu had been planted on approximately three million acres. For a time, it was celebrated as a miracle vine.

The same qualities that made kudzu attractive made it dangerous. The warm, wet summers of the South gave it nearly a perfect home. Abandoned farms, highway cuts, utility quarters and forest edges offered sunlight and disturbed ground.

As rural land was deserted and regular grazing declined, many kudzu patches were simply left alone. Free from the natural controls found in its native range, the vine escaped cultivation and began claiming the countryside for itself.

By the 1950s, the government had stopped recommending kudzu as a cover crop. In 1970, the U.S. Department of Agriculture listed it as a weed, and it was later placed on the federal noxious weed list. The savior of the southern soil had become one of its most infamous invaders.

Kudzu does not usually kill a mature tree all at once; it conquers it slowly. Vines climb trunks and spread across crowns, forming a heavy green roof above the leaves. Starved of sunlight, the tree can no longer make enough food to sustain itself. Saplings, shrubs and native plants beneath the canopy fare even worse. The vine's weight can bend young trees and break branches, while its dense growth reduces the variety of plants and wildlife habitat below.

Controlling kudzu requires persistence. Cutting it once accomplishes little because its root crowns can send up new growth. Repeated mowing, grazing, careful herbicide treatment or the complete removal of root crowns may be necessary for years.

Even then, the vine waits for one missed season and reaches again toward the light. Across flatter regions of the South, kudzu can often be reached more easily by mowers, grazing livestock and spraying equipment, but on Appalachia's steep, rugged mountainsides, machinery cannot safely follow, leaving the vine to climb unchecked over slopes where few hands can reach it.

This is the curse of the kudzu, a beautiful killer that softens ruined buildings into mysterious green monuments and turns roadside debris into sculpture, yet its beauty depends on concealment. Beneath the emerald sea may stand an apple tree that no longer bears, a farmhouse no one remembers or a forest slowly being denied the sun. Kudzu came to Appalachia carrying a promise that nature could be commanded to repair what people had damaged. Instead, it became a warning across our hillsides. We asked one plant to heal the land quickly and learned the cost. Now it drapes the pines like a funeral cloth and chokes the very landscape it came to save.

Brittany Breeding
Appalachian Bluebird
Visit Brittany Breeding on Facebook at Appalachian Bluebird

Feeding Southwest Virginia delivers 289,026 free summer meals to families

Feeding Southwest Virginia announced results from its participation in the Summer Meals for Kids pilot with Amazon and No Kid Hungry, delivering 289,026 free meals directly to 3,325 children in Southwest Virginia between May and August of 2026.

"We're incredibly grateful to Amazon and No Kid Hungry for selecting our Food Bank to participate in their home delivery service initiative," says President and CEO of Feeding Southwest Virginia, Pamela Irvine. Irvine continues, "Too many children in our region face hunger. For the second year in a row, thanks to this partnership, Feeding Southwest Virginia could reach these young neighbors residing in especially rural counties."

Feeding Southwest Virginia identified eligible families and prepared shelf-stable meal boxes, while Amazon donated the transportation and delivery through its rural delivery network — at no cost to families or partners. Feeding Southwest Virginia's participation was part of a national pilot that delivered more than 2 million meals to families across 13 states through 18 food bank and school district partners.

Nearly 30 million children in the U.S. rely on free breakfast and lunch during the school year, but only about 1 in 7 eligible children access traditional on-site summer meal programs. For families in rural communities, long travel distances, sparsely located meal sites, limited and costly transportation, and schedule constraints for working parents and caregivers can make reaching a site nearly impossible. In some rural counties, child food insecurity rates approach 50 percent.

In Southwest Virginia, thousands of children rely on free school meals during the year, but few can reach traditional summer meal sites due to distance, transportation, or working parents.

In 2023, the USDA introduced flexible models for summer food distribution, allowing sponsors in eligible rural areas to provide meals for pickup or home delivery at no cost — a change that opened the door to this pilot program.

"At Amazon, we believe everyone should have reliable access to nutritious food," said Jill Slabey, senior product manager for logistics for good at Amazon. "This summer, we used the same last-mile network that delivers packages every day to bring more than 2 million meals directly to doorsteps across the country — helping local partners reach more children in the communities they serve."

"Families in rural communities have told us that getting to a traditional summer meal site can be a real challenge," said Samantha King, senior manager of Innovation at No Kid Hungry. "Home delivery gives communities another way to reach kids during the summer, and this pilot is helping us build a model that is practical for local partners and centered on what families need."



CACFP supports nutritional meals with participating non-pricing care centers and family day care home providers

The Virginia Department of Health's Special Nutrition Programs' team is excited to celebrate the institutions participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and their efforts to combat food insecurity in the Commonwealth. Facilities approved for participation receive reimbursements for nutritious meals served to enrolled participants in their care. Care centers interested in learning more about the CACFP and seeing if they are eligible to apply for Program participation may contact VDH's Special Nutrition Programs team at cacfp@vdh.virginia.gov or our Help Desk at 1-877-618-7282.

Participating non-pricing sponsoring organizations, emergency shelters, centers and homes provide the same meals at no extra charge to all participants at their facility without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity (including gender expression and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. A list of participating institutions, including sponsoring organizations for centers and family day care home providers, can be found on the VDH CACFP Livewell page at https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/child-and-adult-care-food-program/195-2/.

Participating child and adult care centers will receive free or reduced price reimbursements for eligible meals served based on the following income eligibility guidelines effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Those eligible are:

Children who receive TANF, FDPIR or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or who a Head Start participant are automatically eligible for free meals. Foster children or a child who is a member of a household receiving SNAP, FDPIR, or TANF assistance or a Head Start participant are automatically eligible for free meals.

Adult participants at enrolled adult care centers who are a part of SNAP or FDPIR households or are SSI or Medicaid participants are automatically eligible for reimbursement benefits at the free rate.

FNS Instruction 113-1, Part IX, Section A (4) (d) Public Notification. State or local agencies, and their subrecipients, must post the following nondiscrimination statement and include it, in full, on all materials regarding such programs that are produced for public information, public education, or public distribution. If a State authorizes additional language, it must be included in a separate statement.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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 Co. Public Library, Lebanon, VA.





The Russell County Democratic Committee has become more visible in 2026.

Local Democrats no longer on the sidelines

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

Less than 30 years ago Russell County was considered a stronghold for the Democrat Party. Voters would overwhelmingly support the Democrats in local, state and federal elections.

The political landscape has drastically changed since then.

The 1992 presidential race saw Republican George Bush receiving just 33.9 percent of the county's vote. In 2024, Donald Trump received an overwhelming 83.4 percent of the county's support.

Mark Warner was the last Democrat to carry Russell County in a gubernatorial election in 2001.

The last time the majority of local voters supported the Democrat candidate for the 9th District seat in Congress was in 2010. That year Rick Boucher received 738 more votes than Morgan Griffith.

Since that time, Griffith has carried the county with each reelection bid.

As was the case with Republicans before the turn of the century, the local Democrat Party has not been as active in community events as it once was. But that is changing under the direction of the Russell County Democratic Committee Chair Alice Schlichting.

Throughout 2026 the local Democrats have had a presence at parades, festivals and other events.

"Several things are driving this, but the biggest is the current political climate," Schlichting said. "For a long time, many people in our community felt uncomfortable speaking up. Some worry about how it would affect their jobs or their standing with neighbors, and when you feel isolated, it's hard to know where to start."

Schlichting said a change in the political climate began a few years ago and has picked up noticeably in 2026.

"Our regular attendance has grown from about six people to about 20," she said. "That may not sound like much, but it's the difference between one person doing everything and a team sharing the work. Events take time, energy, and money, and more hands are what let us show up at the fair, Cedar Fest, and the July 4 parade, and more to come."

She said the committee plans to have a booth at the Haunting on Main, as well as entries in the upcoming Christmas parades.

"For many of us, it came down to a simple decision: we weren't going to sit on the sidelines," Schlichting stated. "We started reaching out to like-minded people, and for some, an invitation was all it took. Many didn't know the committee existed. Now we're here, and we're committed to rebuilding our party's presence and making a difference at the local level."

When asked how the Democrat Party can become as popular in Russell County as it once was, Schlichting said, "This is a big question, and there's no single answer. Southwest Virginia changed for many reasons: the decline of coal jobs, shrinking unions, and young people leaving because they couldn't find opportunity here, which left an older population behind. When people are working multiple jobs, struggling to afford groceries, or can't find work, they're in survival mode. Frustration makes people want change, and it's human nature to look for someone to blame."

She added, "So yes, it's an uphill battle, but I believe it's possible. Parties have shifted over the years, and many people are realizing that the most important thing isn't voting Democrat or Republican, it's voting for positive change. A vote is a way to give yourself and your community a chance."

Schlichting said volunteers and voters are the key to changing the party's fortunes in Russell County. She said volunteers are needed to work the polls, make phone calls, etc.

Far too often voters, regardless of party, do not participate in elections. They shrug their shoulders and say, "What difference does it make?"

"That is something we hear all the time, and not just from Democrats," Schlichting said. "To anyone who feels that way, I'd say it makes a difference, and the numbers show how many people sit out. In November 2025, only 54 percent of Virginia's registered voters cast a ballot, which means close to three million registered voters stayed home. Even in the 2024 presidential election, about 30 percent of registered voters statewide didn't vote. Here in Russell County, thousands of registered voters sat out the last presidential election. Elections are decided by the people who show up."

Schlichting said a change of momentum can be felt, especially in the campaign of Joy Powers, who is seeking to unseat Griffith.

"The Joy Powers town hall in Cleveland wasn't just Democrats. Independents and some disappointed Republicans came too," Schlichting stated. "People want someone who will listen, show up, and fight for them, and many feel let down by the promises they were given. I believe a shift is coming."

She added, "It also says something that this year's Democratic primary for this seat had three candidates. That showed real interest, and after the primary, Joy said she saw strong turnout, including many first-time Democratic primary voters. I want to credit Adam Murphy and Douglas Crockett for their hard work. Both have said publicly that they support Joy against Morgan Griffith. I like to think the competition in the primary got people fired up, and I want to see that energy carried forward into November."

Schlichting addressed some of the negative comments that have been hurled at Democrats.

"We keep getting called communists and socialists, among other things," she said. "What we actually want is for people to have their basic needs met: healthcare, food, shelter, and so on. We have so much to recover from as a country. We need to stop hating our neighbors, stand up to this nonsense, and work together."

She also addressed a common Republican slogan of "Pro God, Pro Gun, Pro Life."

"There's a misconception that Democrats aren't Christians or that we hate God," she said. "That's simply not true. About half of Democrats nationwide identify as Christian, and here in Russell County it's likely even higher. We also believe everyone has the right to their own faith, or none at all."

She added, "A lot of our committee members own guns. We are not coming to take them from you, nor are we voting for someone else to."

Schlichting concluded, "We're pro the entire life of a person. We believe people deserve not only to be born, but to be wanted, supported, and cared for throughout their lives. These are deeply personal decisions, and we believe they belong to the people living them, not to the government."

The Russell County Democratic Committee meets the second Friday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Lebanon Recreation Center.

Russell Theatre welcomes back Sunday Songwriters

By SHAWN STREET
shawn@virginiamediainc.com

The ever-popular Sunday Songwriters Series returns to The Russell Theatre this weekend.

The series is a partnership between the theatre and Give Life Ministries.

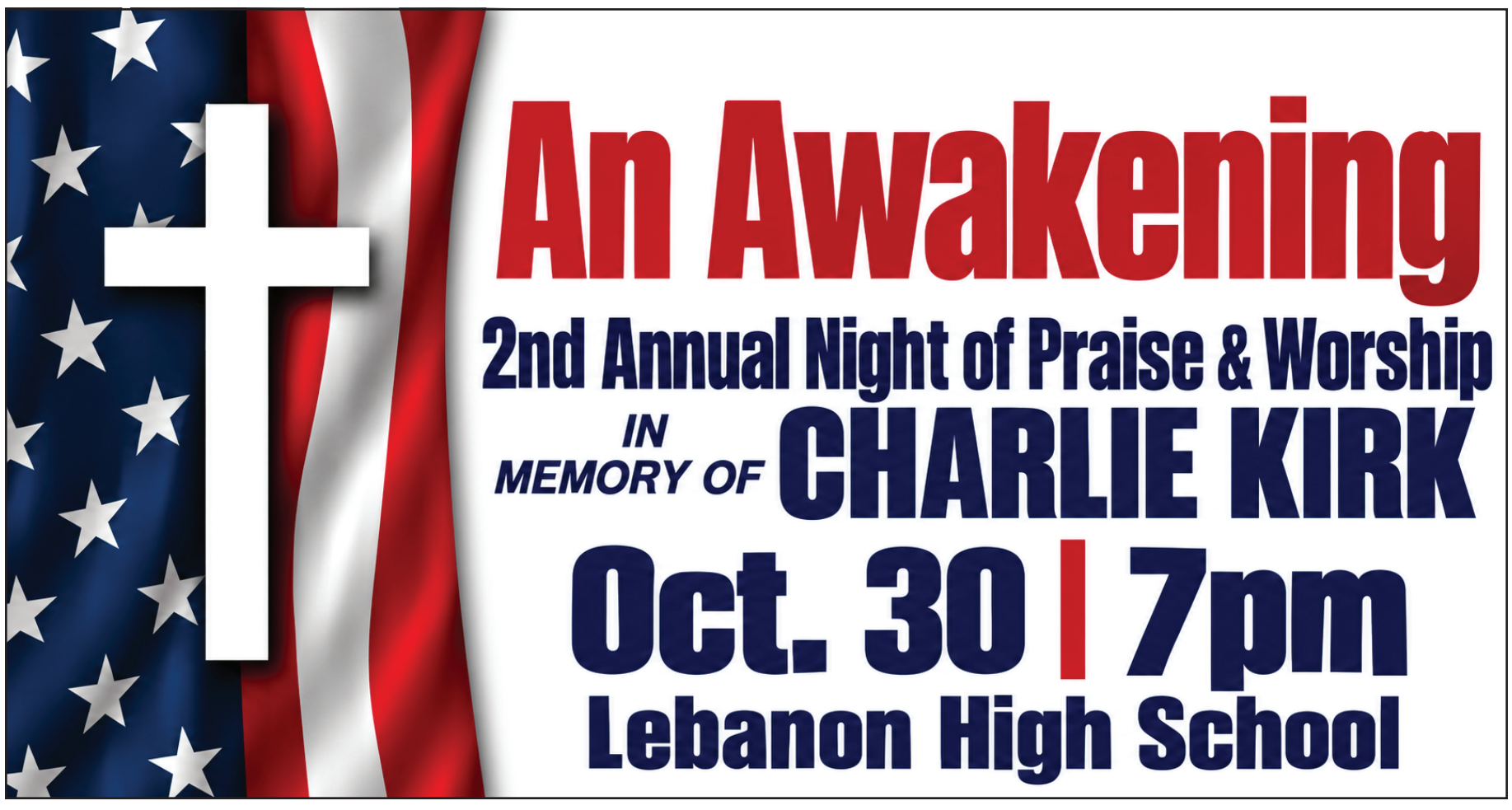
"This partnership is dedicated to fostering a vibrant environment for local artists while also promoting uplifting and inspiring music that resonates within the Appalachian Region," stated Shane Farmer, Director of The Russell Theatre. "The goal of these events is not only to entertain but also to encourage a sense of community and connection among attendees and performers alike. Each concert serves as a platform for local artists to share their stories behind the songs they have written."

Performing this Sunday, October 25, will be Chloe and Jake Angeles, Adam Bolt, and Seth McKay. The concert will begin at 3 p.m. and admission is $20..

Farmer said the partnership with Give Life Ministries will lead to big things in 2027.

"Looking ahead, we are excited about the plans for 2027, where we aim to bring a renowned Christian artist to The Russell Theatre," he said. "This initiative reflects our commitment to continually elevate the quality of performances and provide our audience with the opportunity to experience music that uplifts the spirit and enriches the soul. By collaborating with Give Life Ministries, we are able to tap into a network of talented musicians who share our vision of spreading hope and inspiration through their art and our region."





Honaker Boys & Girls, Castlewood & Lebanon Boys Win District XC Championships

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

Wednesday was a big day for cross country, as the District Championship races were held. It was a memorable day for Russell County, as three teams won titles.

Honaker shone at the Hogoheegee District at Sugar Hollow Park in Bristol, with both the girls' and boys' teams winning gold. The Tigers also had an individual champion, as freshman Lyla Bostic won the girls' championship.

In addition to Bostic, Honaker individual medalists included Varsity Boys: Hunter Dye (2nd place); Lincoln Combs (4th place); and Tyler Boyd (10th place). Varsity Girls: Erin Hubbard (6th place); Shiloh McGlothlin (7th place); and Reese Ratliff (8th place).

Brady Ward won 1st place in middle school boys.

The Lebanon boys won the Southwest

SEE **HONAKER BOYS & GIRLS | 2B**



Cumberland District Boys Team Champions



Parker Lowe (1) hands off to Cole Morrison. Deanna Keen | For the Lebanon News

Tigers can't overcome injuries, fall to PH

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

HONAKER (Oct. 23, 2026) – The Tigers' turnaround lasted one week. All-State quarterback Parker Lowe was injured early in the second quarter, after playing just one game since being injured in the season opener.

Patrick Henry star Jeb Stewart, known for his rushing prowess, used his arm to help defeat Honaker 21-14 on Friday at Fuller Field.

On 2nd-and-24 at their own one-yard line, Stewart lined up in the left slot. Stewart went in motion, took the handoff from quarterback Kolby Hicks in the end zone, and sprinted to the right as the Honaker defense converged on him. He threw to a wide-open Kallum Gobble, who raced 99 yards for the go-ahead touchdown.

"We caught them," Stewart said. "We knew he was going to bite, and I threw it over the top. We tried the play earlier in the season, but it just hadn't worked. We told him the defender was going to bite, and he did, so we threw it."

It was a brilliant play called by the Rebels. No defense wouldn't be focused on Stewart.

"I think that's a play we can talk about for a long time," Patrick Henry coach Austin Cooper said. "In that situation, backed up on our own one-yard line and down one, it was time to try something crazy. Go big or go home. We practice it every now and then, and with Jeb being the athlete he is, when people see him get the ball, they're going to come up on him. We knew it would work at the right time, and it did tonight."

Stewart was injured early in Patrick Henry's 28-14 loss to Holston. He appeared to be at full speed against the Tigers.

"Well, they'd been running Jeb all night, and we were gearing up to stop it," Honaker coach Aaron Lowe said. "We bit on the run, and he was wide open. Jeb is an exceptional kid and a really good athlete. He does a lot for that football team. It was a great call by Austin (Cooper). You've got to give those guys credit."

The Rebels fell behind Honaker by two touchdowns early.

After a short punt by Patrick Henry, Honaker took over on the 50. On their third play, Lowe connected with Levi Honaker on a 24-yard scoring strike.

After the Rebels turned the ball over on downs, the Tigers struck again. Lowe found Kameron Keen in the flat on a 28-yard TD pass, making it 14-0 with 1:39 remaining in the first quarter.

PH took the ensuing kickoff and cut the deficit to 14-7 just before the end of the first frame. Stewart answered with a 51-yard scoring run,

SEE **TIGERS CAN'T OVERCOME | 6B**

Marion Claims SWD VB Title Defeating Pioneers

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

LEBANON (Oct. 22, 2026) – Marion volleyball has been a stumbling block for Lebanon. The Pioneers put up a strong fight, but the Scarlet Hurricane claimed its fifth straight Southwest District regular-season championship.

On Thursday at Charles C. Long Gymnasium, Marion rallied to win the final two sets, taking a hard-fought 3-2 (16-25, 25-21, 23-25, 25-7, 15-10) victory.

"We definitely got off to a rough start, but I think we have fight in us, and we really wanted to win," stated outside hitter Aubrey Yarber, who dominated up front for the Scarlet Hurricanes. "We knew it was Lebanon's senior night and that it was going to be a big game, and that they would have a lot of energy, but I think we had even better energy, and we pulled it out. It was back and forth in the sets, but I think we finished it out great."

Lebanon (18-8, 10-2 SWD) had lost only one set during a six-game winning streak. The only blemishes on their SWD record were by Marion.

"Our kids competed. They played hard, had great energy, and were relentless," said Lebanon coach Dennis Price. "We got down in the fourth set and couldn't come back, then tried to recover in the fifth. That was

SEE **MARION CLAIMS | 2B**



Carlee Ingram (7) serving for the Pioneers finished with three aces and 17 assists against the Scarlet Hurricane. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

Lady Devils end 14-game Drought, sweeping Tazewell

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

CASTLEWOOD (Oct. 21, 2026) – The Castlewood girls had gone more than five weeks without a win. On Wednesday, at Buddy Poole Court in Tom Allen Gymnasium, the Blue Devils swept Tazewell, 3-0 (25-20, 25-6, 25-22).

Castlewood had won only two sets during a 14-game losing streak that began after their Sept. 14 defeat of Honaker.

"It's been a while since we've had a win. It feels good to finally get one," said Castlewood outside hitter Layla Ervin. "When we can slow down and focus on what we need to do next, instead of what we did wrong, it helps us zone back in on what we can do."

The Blue Devils struggled in the first set. It was tied four times, but Castlewood didn't take the lead until 18-17 on a kill by Cheyenne Elam. They won seven of the final 10 points to rally and win the set.

Set two was tied once at one. The Blue Devils dominated to win it going away.

The Bulldogs took a 15-7 advantage in set three. Ervin brought them back with five straight points on the service line. Leading 23-21 with Sophie Hall serving, Ervin pounded two free balls to give Castlewood the set and match.

"Slam, kill, do something with it," remarked Ervin.

SEE **LADY DEVILS | 2B**



Cheyenne Elam (5) with a spike as Tazewell's Molly Carver (10) and Olivia Sweeney jump up to block. Elam had nine kills in the win over the Bulldogs. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News





Hogoheegee District Boys Team Champions

HONAKER BOYS & GIRLS

FROM PAGE 1B

District Championship at Cavitts Creek Park near Tazewell. Elliott Breeding led the way with a second-place finish.

Aybrum Hammond (4th place), Asher Taylor (5th place), Jack Garland (7th place), Clayton Brown (8th place), and Landin Littrell (11th place) also had strong showings for the Pioneers.

Jaylin Osborne (3rd place) and Chloe Ratliff (17th place) ran for the Lebanon girls but didn't have enough girls for a team.

Lebanon won the middle school boys and girls team championships. Mason Tincher (boys) and Emma Osborne (girls) brought home the individual gold.

The Castlewood boys won the Cumberland District team championship, with the race held at the University of Virginia's College at Wise. Isaac Cooper led the way for the Blue Devils with a second-place finish.

Parker King (4th place), Dalten Keith (9th place), and Salem Hall (15th place) ran well for the Blue Devils.

Region 1D and 2D Championships will be held at Sugar Hollow Park in Bristol on Wednesday, Oct. 28, with 1D beginning at 10 a.m.

2D begins at 2 p.m.



Hogoheegee District Girls Champion



Southwest District Boys Team Champions

LADY DEVILS

FROM PAGE 1B

"Anything but free ball it or miss it."

"We have to work together to identify our strengths and weaknesses. When one player moves from one spot to another in the rotation, we have to learn how to replace one player with another."

Castlewood (5-17) didn't want the Bulldogs to get any momentum by winning the third set.

"The girls fought back and found their rhythm," Castlewood coach Derek Allen said. "They started trusting their play and stopped free balling it back over the net."

"They started swinging and it made a big difference."

Tazewell (2-15) last won on Sept. 24 at Bluefield, 3-1, and has now lost seven straight. Olivia Sweeney (seven kills) and Skyy Viney (six kills) led the Bulldogs.

Ervin filled the stat sheet with eight kills, five blocks, and eight aces. Elam hammered nine kills and Hall added four spikes.

"We played well tonight, especially in the first two sets," Allen noted. "We didn't have many dropped balls. We made better choices at the net."

"They didn't force things and communicated better. Good things happen if you keep the ball in play. We hit the ball and didn't play scared."

"If they don't play scared, these girls can play. Once they get into slow motion, it's bad, but tonight they were ready to go."



Senior Sophie Hall with a hit in the win over the Bulldogs. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

MARION CLAIMS

FROM PAGE 1B



Kaytie Lampkin (13) and Jaidyn Fields (2) go up to block Marion's Halle Richardson. Anthony Stevens | Lebanon News

the difference."

With the Pioneers leading 2-1 in the match, the Hurricanes dominated the fourth set, with Yarber and Abby Rabara controlling the net. The decisive fifth set was tied for a fifth time at 7-all.

"Before the fifth set even got going, I felt like we gave them three swings right at the net," Price noted. "We couldn't get any offense going, and we were scrambling too much. That's tough to overcome against a team like Marion.

"But our girls never quit. We fought right to the very end, and I'm proud of their effort and what they did. Our hearts were all in this. We were ready to roll, but that's volleyball. It's a tough road, and I'm really proud of the kids and how they played."

Rabara ripped a slam down the line to give Marion (16-9, 12-0 SWD) an 8-7 advantage in the fifth. They won the next three points to gain some breathing room. They then took four of the final seven points to win the set and the match.

"You expect your seniors to step up because this is it for them," Marion coach Amanda Hanshew said. "They want to leave a legacy, and they want to go out on top. So, you expect them to step up in those situations."

Yarber totaled 23 kills, two blocks and 10 digs. Rabara added 11 kills and five aces.

"Once again, they're seniors, and you expect them to step up and do that," declared Hanshew. "At the end, I kept telling them: "Do your job. Everybody has a role to play. Do your job out there." If you do your job to the best of your ability, there's nothing else we can ask. They really stepped up and made key plays when we needed them."

Jaidyn Fields (15 kills, two blocks), Rhealyn Barton (five kills) and Abigail Mullins (five kills) paced Lebanon. Carlee Ingram (17 assists) and Kenlie Fields (27 digs) also performed well.

It wasn't a typical match for the Scarlet Hurricane, who struggled in the first and third sets.

"Honestly, we've struggled this week," noted Hanshew. "We played Monday and Tuesday and won those games, but I've been telling the girls that's not us. That's not how we're capable of playing. I don't know if it's getting to this point in the season, thinking, "We're almost done. This is the last week of the season." I don't know if that's getting to them or what it is. Hopefully, we've learned some lessons this week that we can fix and identified weaknesses we can address as we head into the tournament next week."

Marion will host the SWD tournament semis and finals. The Scarlet Hurricanes will be the SWD No. 1 seed and host the Mountain-7 No. 4 seed in the Region 2D tournament next week.

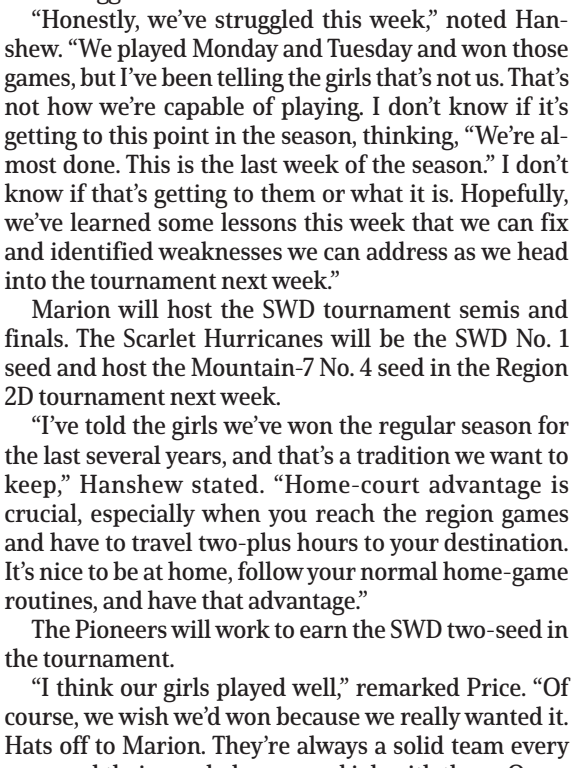
"I've told the girls we've won the regular season for the last several years, and that's a tradition we want to keep," Hanshew stated. "Home-court advantage is crucial, especially when you reach the region games and have to travel two-plus hours to your destination. It's nice to be at home, follow your normal home-game routines, and have that advantage."

The Pioneers will work to earn the SWD two-seed in the tournament.

"I think our girls played well," remarked Price. "Of course, we wish we'd won because we really wanted it. Hats off to Marion. They're always a solid team every year, and their coach does a good job with them. Overall, I'm really proud of how our kids competed. I wish things had gone the other way, but it wasn't meant to be."

It will surprise no one if these two teams meet in the SWD tourney finals, giving Lebanon one more shot at the Hurricane.

"We'll have to earn that, of course," Price noted. "This year, the tournament is a little different. With the addition of Southern Gap, teams seeded second through seventh have to play, so we start Monday. I think the schedule is Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, so it'll be a big week for us."



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10. Ridgeview at Perry Co. (KY)

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FIRST PRIZE

$20
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CONTEST RULES

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

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

Scores from last week (10//14/26) Contest

1. Graham 61, Lebanon 7
2. Patrick Henry 21, Honaker 14
3. J.I. Burton 50, Castlewood 13
4. Ridgeview 62, Abingdon 14
5. Lee High 14, Wise Central 13
6. Marion 56, Fort Chiswell 19
7. Richlands 14, Tazewell 7 (OT)
8. Southern Gap 40, River View (WV) 6
9. Chilhowie 42, Rye Cove 6
10. Eastside 48, Thomas Walker 8
11. Northwood 49, Rural Retreat 35
12. Duke 19, Virginia 16
13. Stanford 31, N.C. State 28
14. South Carolina 27, Tennessee 24
15. Va. Tech 20, Clemson 16
16. Texas 34, Ole Miss 27
17. Kentucky 34, Vanderbilt 17
18. Cleveland Browns 27, Tennessee Titans 24
19. Tampa Bay Bucs 43, Carolina Panthers 13
20. New York Giants 27, Houston Texans 21 (OT)

LAST WEEKS WINNERS!

1. Leo Kegley (14-6), Lebanon
2. Chuck Greever (13-7), Lebanon

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Pick The Winner Only! No Scores

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
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18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

FIRST TIE-BREAKER

_____
will be the total points scored between Lebanon at Virginia High.

SECOND TIE-BREAKER

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

NAME:_____
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18. Arizona Cardinals at Dallas Cowboys

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19. Minnesota Vikings at Detroit Lions

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20. Atlanta Falcons at Tampa Bay Bucs

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
38 May Drive, Swords Creek, Virginia 24649

In execution of that certain deed of trust in the original principal amount of $59,280.00 dated December 28, 1994 and recorded among the land records of Russell County, in Deed Book 430, Page 406 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 19, 2026 @ 11:00 AM
The property described in said deed of trust located at the above street address, and more particularly described as:
All that certain piece or parcel of land lying and being in Clark`s Valley, northeast of Sword`s Creek Station in the New Garden Magisterial District of Russell County, Virginia, and bounded and described as follows:
BEGINNING at a stake in the southwest corner of that certain tract or parcel of land sold to Curry, now Miller, Deed Book 253 Page 774, thence with the line of Miller S 60 70 38 E 31.81 feet to an iron rod set in the western boundary line of a 25 foot right of way leading to the Miller property; thence with the western right of way line of the 25 foot right of way S 06 78 19 E 3.05 feet to a stake; thence S 02 40 34 W 74.28 feet with the western right of way line of the 25 foot right of way to an iron rod set in the norther right of way line of Virginia Secondary Route No. 633, a corner; thence the following calls with the northern boundary line of Secondary Route No. 633S 67 119 30 W 56.09 feet, S 52 09 37 W 50.08 feet, S 41 46 10 W 75.19 feet, S 54 37 11 W 69.69 feet, S 62 40 29 W 19.31 feet to a stake, a corner; thence N 02 42 52 E 319.55 feet to a spike set in pavement; thence N 65 04 19 E 28.69 feet to an iron rod; thence S 60 70 36 E 75 feet to the point of BEGINNING, containing 1.00 acre plus, or 43,560 square feet, and shown on that certain map or plat, designated, the Kyle Matney, Jay Carl Matney and Leonard C. Matney lands, being the remaining portion of that certain tract as recorded in Deed Book 363 at Page 131, situate in Clark`s Valley, New Garden Magisterial District, Russell County, Virginia", dates November 28, 1994, and made by L.R. Addison, Certified Land Surveyor, and to be recorded with that certain deed dated December 28th, 1994, and to be recorded just prior to the recordation of the Deed of Trust.
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.
(VA202500000061)
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 10-21,28;11-4,11;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.
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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

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



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.

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN OF LEBANON ZONING ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the Lebanon Town Council and Lebanon Planning Commission will hold a Joint Public Hearing on November 9th at 6:00pm, at The Lebanon Town Hall, to receive public comments regarding proposed amendments to the Town of Lebanon Zoning Ordinance.

The proposed amendments would establish minimum residential dwelling square footage requirements for all new residential construction, including site-built (stick-built), modular, and manufactured homes, within the R-1 and R-2 Residential Zoning Districts.

The proposed amendments are as follows:

Section 21-III-3 – Area and Dimensional Regulations (R-1 Residential District):

Establish a minimum dwelling size of 1,000 to 1,250 square feet of finished, heated living space, with the specific minimum to be determined following public consideration.

Section 21-IV-3 – Area and Dimensional Regulations (R-2 Residential District):

Establish a minimum dwelling size of 1,000 square feet of finished heated living space for all newly constructed residential dwellings.

For purposes of these amendments, finished, heated living space shall exclude garages, carports, porches, decks, unfinished basements, and other unfinished or unheated areas.

The proposed amendments are intended to establish consistent minimum dwelling size requirements for new residential construction within the respective zoning districts, regardless of construction type.

All interested citizens, property owners, and concerned parties are invited to attend the public hearing and provide comments regarding the proposed amendments.

For additional information, please contact Lebanon Town Hall at (276) 889-7200.

Town of Lebanon, Virginia

TOWN OF LEBANON

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

The Town of Lebanon would like to inform our residents and property owners of an upcoming change regarding the collection of delinquent personal property and real estate taxes. Taxes will be considered delinquent after 90 days.

Beginning November 1, 2026, the Town will begin utilizing a third-party tax collection agency to collect delinquent personal property and real estate taxes owed to the Town of Lebanon.

Once a delinquent account has been turned over for collection, payments on that account will need to be made directly to the third-party collection agency rather than to the Town of Lebanon. In addition, accounts referred to collection are subject to collection costs of 20% of the outstanding balance.

The Town is providing this advance notice to give everyone an opportunity to review their accounts and take care of any outstanding taxes before the collection process begins and additional collection costs are applied.

We strongly encourage residents, business owners, and property owners who are unsure whether they have an outstanding balance to contact Town Hall prior to November 1. Our staff will be happy to check your account, answer questions, and assist you with making payment directly to the Town before the account is referred for collection.

The Town understands that circumstances vary, and our goal is to provide notice and an opportunity for taxpayers to address any outstanding balances before additional costs are incurred.

For questions or to check whether you have delinquent taxes, please contact:

Town of Lebanon Town Hall
276-889-7200

We appreciate your attention to this notice and your cooperation.

Town of Lebanon

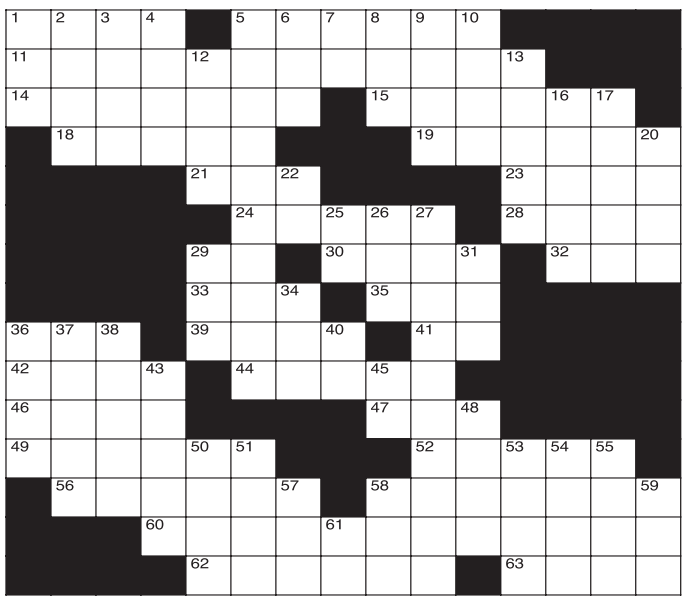
PRESCRIPTIONS WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

AUTHORIZATION
BRANDS
COATED
COMPOUNDING
CONTRAINDICATION
COPAY
DISPENSE
FORMULARY
GENERIC
MEDICATION
MOUTH
OTC
PHARMACY
PRESCRIPTION
PRO RE NATA
REFILL
SIDE EFFECT
SIGNA
STATIM
SUBLINGUAL
TOPICAL



CLUES ACROSS

1. El Dorado High School
5. A sculpture representing a human or animal
11. A type of return
14. Tie the knot again
15. Washington city
18. Hairlike structures
19. Mark used over a vowel
21. Explosive
23. Popular 500 car race
24. Pile up
28. Currency
29. Commercial
30. A minute amount (Scottish)
32. Mass of fish eggs
33. Baseball stat
35. Licensed accountant
36. Japanese classical theater
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood group
42. Assist in wrongdoing
44. Language of Cameroon
46. Grayish-white
47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
49. Microorganism
52. Strong social customs
56. Calm and dependable
58. Congressman
60. Force
62. As a result of this document
63. A main branch of Islam

CLUES DOWN

1. Make a mistake
2. American DJ Rick
3. Fictional Asimov planet
4. Coughed out
5. Singing to one's lover
6. Scotland's longest river
7. One of the six noble gases
8. Body art
9. Two-toed sloth
10. Electronic counter-countermeasures
12. A foolish person
13. Of the wind
16. Mansion
17. Sound
20. English river
22. Business symbol
25. Exclamation of surprise
26. Pouch
27. Individually
29. Satisfaction
31. The bill in a restaurant
34. Japanese delicacy
36. Port in southern Japan
37. Double-reed instruments
38. Center
40. "The Mount Rushmore State"
43. Soldier
45. Indicates position
48. Beauty treatment: __-pedi
50. Nonsense (slang)
51. Republic of Ireland
53. Ballplayers' tools
54. American state
55. Clusters of a fern frond
57. Patriotic women's group
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep
61. Of I

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermedia

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to prescriptions.

S L P L I

Answer: pills

GUESS WHO?

I am a singer born in California on October 25, 1984. I grew up listening to gospel music, but eventually pursued a career in pop music. I have been nominated for 13 Grammy Awards, and have five Billboard Music Awards. I have many hits and I performed during the Super Bowl halftime show in 2015.

Answer: Katy Perry

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 prescriptions.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 21 = A)

A. 19 5 14 15 2 21 1 15 13 6
Clue: Treatment

B. 14 13 2 1 13 7
Clue: Physician

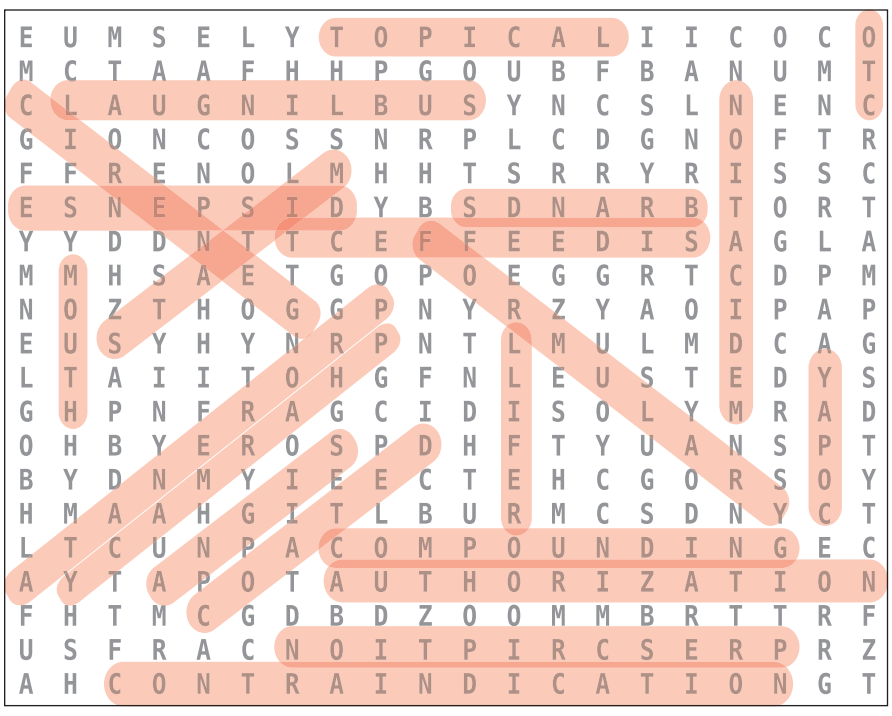
C. 10 3 21 7 19 21 2 22
Clue: Fills prescriptions

D. 7 5 24 15 8 8
Clue: Renew a prescription

Answers: A. medication B. doctor C. pharmacy D. refill

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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



Sports Day-by-Day

Tuesday (10/20)
Rye Cove 3, Castlewood 0 (Volleyball)

Senior Morgan Edwards had 17 assists and eight digs as the Rye Cove collected a 27-25, 25-18, 25-20 Cumberland District victory over visiting Castlewood.

Kendal Osborne (23 digs), Lindsey Vincent (11 digs, six kills) and Chloe Davis (eight kills, three blocks) played well for the War Eagles.

The Blue Devils were led by Cheyenne Elam (six kills), Layla Ervin (four kills, three aces), and Leanna Franklin (11 assists).

Patrick Henry 3, Honaker 0 (Volleyball)

Andie Boone and Kinsley Counts each recorded 10 kills as the Rebels clinched the Hogoheegee District regular-season title with a 25-19, 25-7, 25-17 win over Honaker on Misty Davis-Miller Court. The Rebels (17-7, 9-0) also secured the district's top seed in the Region 1D tournament.

Emma Harris (14 digs, seven kills), Aspyn Harner (26 digs, three aces), Autumn Parks (11 digs, three kills), and Mia Owens (31 assists, three aces) also contributed to the Rebels' balanced attack.

Thursday (10/22)
Northwood 3, Honaker 0 (Volleyball)

Aubree Kegley dished out the 1,000th assist of her career as the Panthers powered past Honaker 25-13, 25-21, 25-16 in a Hogoheegee District victory.

Kegley finished with 31 assists, five digs and four aces.

Channing Waldie (11 kills), Emma Burress (19 kills, five blocks, four digs), Pyper Chapman (12 digs, two aces), and Bailee Nutter (five kills, five digs) were also pivotal to the Panthers' win.

Friday (10/23)
J.I. Burton 50, Castlewood 13 (Football)

The Black Raiders built a 50-0 halftime lead and rolled to a 50-13 victory over Castlewood at B.C. White Stadium. Castlewood had negative two yards of total offense in the first half.

Alex Colley rushed for 162 yards on only 12 carries with TD runs of 14, 46, and 13 for J.I. Burton (5-3, 2-1 CD).

Jacob Farmer had a 61-yard TD run for Castlewood (0-8, 0-4 CD). Hank Glovier added a 17-yard fumble return for a score.

Graham 61, Lebanon 7 (Football)

Graham (7-1, 3-0 SWD) built a 47-0 halftime lead on their way to a 61-7 Southwest District win over Lebanon in a wild one at Harry Stuart Field. The teams were penalized 14 times.

Gage Palmer rushed for three touchdowns, Je'von Lane added two TD runs, while Cambel Fix, A.J. Bradshaw and Connor Cecil also reached the end zone.

The Graham G-Men totaled 353 yards, while the Pioneers managed only 107 yards of total offense.

Quarterback Will Jessee threw an eight-yard TD pass to Ayden Cook in the fourth quarter for Lebanon (4-4, 2-1 SWD).

TIGERS CAN'T OVERCOME

FROM PAGE 1B

getting loose around the left end.

In the next series, Parker Lowe had to leave the contest; his right shoulder appeared to be injured again. He returned and handed the ball off three times but never attempted another pass, before leaving the game and not returning.

"We don't have any luck, that's for sure," Lowe said. "The football gods definitely aren't on our side.

"We don't know the extent of Parker's injury yet. We took precautions to see where we're at. We'll evaluate him Monday and see, but he feels good. I don't know for sure, though, and he can't throw."

Lowe was 8-of-14 passing for 150 yards and two TDs in a little over a quarter of play.

"I hate it. He's a great kid and a great quarterback, too," Cooper said. "I hate to see any kid get hurt, especially him. He can do some great things with the ball. Obviously, we were able to play a different type of defense than we would have if Parker had been in the game. But I hate it for him, and I hope he recovers quickly."

The defense, led by Kam Robinson, Keaton Smith, Cole Morrison, and Colt Hubbard, kept Honaker (2-6, 0-3 HOGO) in the game and preserved the seven-point lead at the break.

"Our kids just keep battling and battling," Lowe said. "We just can't get past these injuries. We lost our starting guard on the first series, and obviously Parker went out, and that was kind of the dagger. But our kids kept fighting, and we had every opportunity to win the game."

Patrick Henry (6-2, 2-1 HOGO) took the second-half kickoff and drove 66 yards in six plays. Stewart scored on a one-yard plunge. However, the extra point was wide, and the Tigers clung to a 14-13 lead.

Honaker kept it standing until just over four minutes remained, when Stewart's halfback option pass gave the Rebels the lead.

The Tigers still had a chance, but Stewart's interception ended any hope of a rally. The Rebels ran out the clock.

"The defense played amazing all night," Lowe said. "As I said, Austin made a good call on the halfback pass. We had them pinned deep, and if we had stopped them there, we probably would have won the game. But congratulations to those guys. They've got a good football team, and we came up short."

Stewart totaled 188 rushing yards with two TDs, caught five passes for 72 yards, completed one pass for 99 yards, and also had four tackles on defense, including an interception.

"It's unbelievable," Cooper said. "Tonight, probably put him at 2,600 all-purpose yards, or maybe more than that. He's definitely over 2,000 rushing yards already. He's just an unbelievable athlete."

Unfortunately, it wasn't the kind of game most people expected.

"No. Coming into it, I expected a high-scoring shootout, to be honest," Cooper said. "Both defenses battled really well. Hats off to Honaker. I thought they played a heck of a football game. They're much better than their 2-6 record shows, that's for sure."

PATRICK HENRY 21, HONAKER 14

P. Henry	7	0	6	8	—21
Honaker	14	0	0	0	—14

First Quarter

HON—Honaker 24 pass from Lowe (Beavers kick), 5:30.
HON—Keen 28 pass from Lowe (Beavers kick), 1:39.
PH—Stewart 52 run (Ratliff kick), 0:36.

Third Quarter

PH—Stewart 1 run (kick failed), 9:59.

Fourth Quarter

PH—Gobble 99 pass from Stewart (Stewart pass from Hicks), 4:16.

	PH	HON
First downs	19	15
Total Net Yards	402	320
Rushes-yards	40-225	26-96
Passing	177	224
Comp-Att-Int	8-17-0	16-26-1
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	8-81	3-20
Punts	5-27.6	4-41



Kameron Keen (2) gets a block from Levi Honaker (4) to score for Honaker. Deanna Keen | For the Lebanon News



Brayden Justus (10) makes a move for the Tigers in the loas to Patrick Henry on Fuller Field. Deanna Keen | For the Lebanon News

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT
For Former
Copper Creek Voters

Beginning with the November 3, 2026 Election Voters who were previously assigned to Copper Creek will now be voting at ONE of the following precincts.

Moccasin Precinct
Oak Grove Community Center
10244 Moccasin Valley Road
Lebanon, VA 24266

South Castlewood Precinct
Castlewood High School Main Foyer
304 Blue Devil Circle
Castlewood, VA 24224

Please refer to your new voter registration card to determine your new precinct or contact us and we will be happy to help.

General Registrar's Office
96 Russell ST
Lebanon, Virginia
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
(276) 889-8006

NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOV 03, 2026
POLLS OPEN 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
VOTE AT YOUR DESIGNATED POLLING PLACE.

Check Your Polling Place Before Going To The Polls.

★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT of ELECTIONS

REMINDER

CLEVELAND PRECINCT
HAS MOVED TO THE
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
88 4TH ST
CLEVELAND, VA 24225

Contact the Office of the General Registrar
Monday through Friday at 276-889-8006 with any questions.

DIANA R. SHORTER
Director of Elections & General Registrar



★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT of ELECTIONS

REMINDER

SWORDS CREEK PRECINCT
HAS MOVED TO THE
SWORDS CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER
33 PINE CREEK RD
SWORDS CREEK, VA 24649

Contact the Office of the General Registrar
Monday through Friday at 276-889-8006 with any questions.

DIANA R. SHORTER
Director of Elections & General Registrar

