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David Brown, Pharmacist

10249 Hurley Rd, Hurley, VA | 276.566.4488

hurleycommunitypharmacy.com

THE VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEER

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GRUNDY, VA. | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026

TWO SECTIONS PLUS SUPPLEMENTS | \$2

Curt's Ace Hardware coming to Grundy; no job losses expected

By **CHAD COOPER**
coopkam@gmail.com

A familiar Grundy storefront will soon serve a different purpose, giving residents another place to shop for tools, hardware and home improvement supplies.

Food City announced Oct. 5 that it will convert the Super Dollar building at the mouth of Slate Creek into a Curt's Ace Hardware store, with an opening planned for later this winter.

For Steve C. Smith, Food City's president and chief executive officer, the change offers an opportunity to fill a local need while keeping a building with personal significance in use. He also said the company will retain the approximately 19 employees working at Super Dollar.

"I will say this, nobody in the store is going to lose their job," Smith said in an interview. "Everybody's going to have a place."

SEE **CURT'S ACE HARDWARE** | 5A



The Super Dollar store at the mouth of Slate Creek in Grundy will be converted into a Curt's Ace Hardware store, with an opening planned for later this winter. Food City officials say the transition will not result in job losses (Photo by Chad Cooper).

ASL repayment debated; supervisors table action

By **CHAD COOPER**
coopkam@gmail.com

Buchanan County's financial assistance to the Appalachian School of Law drew pointed questions Oct. 5 as supervisors debated recovering the money while a possible partnership with the University of Pikeville remains under discussion.

The Board of Supervisors tabled an agenda item concerning reimbursement of the \$3.4 million provided to ASL earlier this year, taking no action on repayment.

County Attorney Lee Moise requested the delay, explaining that a possible arrangement between Grundy Law School and the University of Pikeville (U-Pike) could include a plan to reimburse the county.

Moise said there were still several moving parts to work through.

The discussion follows months of concern about ASL's financial stability and whether the school would remain in Buchanan County. Possible relocation to Roanoke or Lynchburg had been discussed, while a potential UPike partnership has raised hopes of keeping the school in Grundy.

Moise said the county provided ASL \$100,000 in 2025 and another \$3.4 million through an agreement reached in March, bringing the combined assistance to \$3.5 million.

He said the March agreement includes a repayment provision and remains in place. A plan to return the money could become part of a potential UPike arrangement if an agreement is reached and the school's financial stability is secured.

Knox Supervisor Trey Adkins said he had made the county board's position clear to ASL's board: Supervisors want the money back. He said the



Rocklick District Supervisor Craig Stiltner calls for repayment of county funds provided to the Appalachian School of Law during the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors' Oct. 5 meeting. The board tabled the reimbursement item without taking action on repayment (Photo by Chad Cooper).

coming weeks would help determine where those discussions lead.

South Grundy Supervisor Roger Rife questioned why the board was seeking reimbursement after approving the assistance.

"We voted to give it to them. Now we're voting to take it back. For what reasons?" Rife asked. "That is being an Indian giver."

Moise explained that the goal was to work toward repayment as part of a possible agreement involving ASL and UPike.

Rife objected to giving the school money and then

SEE **ASL REPAYMENT** | 5A



Buchanan County Sheriff Allen W. Boyd, right, presents Ryan Daniels (left) with a certificate Oct. 8, 2026, at Tractor Supply in Vansant, recognizing his quick actions to help a 7-year-old child who suffered a gunshot wound Oct. 1 in Oakwood. Daniels used his belt as a tourniquet until emergency responders arrived (Photo courtesy of BCSO).

Vansant man honored for helping injured child

By **CHAD COOPER**
coopkam@gmail.com

When a 7-year-old child suffered a gunshot wound outside an Oakwood store on Oct. 1, Ryan Daniels stepped in to help, taking off his belt and using it as a tourniquet until emergency responders arrived.

A week later, Buchanan County Sheriff Allen W. Boyd visited Daniels at his workplace, Tractor Supply in Vansant, to present him with a certificate recognizing

SEE **VANSANT MAN** | 2A

Special hunt brings outdoor opportunities, lasting friendships

By **CHAD COOPER**
coopkam@gmail.com

Five hunters came together for a week-end in the outdoors Oct. 2-3, but the success of the Coal Fields Special Sportsmen and Hands of a Sportsman hunt went beyond the six deer taken.

For organizers, the gathering was also about opening opportunities, making friends and sharing an experience that participants could carry home.

Three hunters from Buchanan County

joined one from Pike County and another from North Carolina for the event, according to Buckey Blankenship, who shared a recap of the weekend.

"While six deer were harvested, the true success of this weekend cannot be measured by the number of deer taken," Blankenship wrote. "It is measured in the smiles, friendships, opportunities, and memories made along the way."

Coal Fields Special Sportsmen is a

SEE **SPECIAL HUNT** | 2A



A young hunter smiles while posing with a deer during the Oct. 2-3 Coal Fields Special Sportsmen and Hands of a Sportsman hunt. The event brought participants and volunteers together to enjoy the outdoors and build lasting friendships.

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OBITUARIES

Dewey Leon Stevenson

DEWEY LEON STEVENSON, 81, of Grundy, VA, passed away Sunday, October 4, 2026, at the Buchanan General Hospital in Grundy, VA. Born in Buchanan County, he was the son of the late Roy and Flora (Fields) Stevenson. He was a long-time resident of Buchanan County and was a member of Vansant Church of Christ. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and loyal friend. Leon and his brother, David, followed in their father's footsteps becoming coal miners. Together they founded Viking Mining, beginning a lengthy career in the coal business. After retiring, Leon enjoyed spending time with family and friends and was rarely without a project to keep him busy. He loved staying active, working with his hands, and always seemed to have something he was building, fixing or working on. Leon will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. He leaves behind a lasting legacy of love, family, friendship and a life well lived.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by Nephews:

Brandon Stevenson and Brian Neil Anderson.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of 26 years, Sharon Kay (Deel Duty) Stevenson of Grundy, VA; Daughter: Sandra Carol Stevenson Chester of Abingdon, VA and her mother (his former wife) Mildred Jean Boyd Stevenson of Vansant, VA. Niece: Dana (Cody) Whipple of Las Vegas, NV. Stepson: Duane (Kasey) Duty of Vansant, VA; Grandsons: Cayden Riddle and Kolton Riddle; Brother: David Eugene (Rebecca) Stevenson of Grundy, VA; Sister: Irene Ford of Johnson City, TN; Great-Nieces: Maggie, Kate and Lydia Whipple; Great-Nephews: Jackson and Myles Stevenson.

Visitation was held at the Grundy Funeral Home Chapel Thursday evening at 6:00 P.M.

Funeral Services for DEWEY LEON STEVENSON were conducted Friday, October 9, 2026, at 1:00 P.M. at the Grundy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Mike Rife officiating, burial followed in Mountain Valley Memorial Park, Big Rock, VA.

Active Pallbearers were Duane



Dewey Leon Stevenson

Duty, Cayden Riddle, Kolton Riddle, Charlie Osborne, Chris Osborne and Jeremy Clevinger.

Honorary Pallbearers were David Stevenson, Delmar Osborne, Rick Davis, Arie Thacker, Cecil Stiltner, David Jackson, Mike Boyd, Rick Bartley, William Waddell, J.C. Hale, Pete Carlson, Curtis Deel, Doug Deel, Tony Deel and Thomas Deel.

Grundy Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of DEWEY LEON STEVENSON.



Courthouse News

By **CHAD COOPER**
coopkam@gmail.com

Marriage licenses

John Leeroy Mitcheum, 40, and Krenda Dawn Lauderdaleback, 37, both of Vansant, September 18, 2026.

Kaleb Hunter Horn, 23, of Grundy and Abigail Hope Fuller, 20, of Grundy, September 19, 2026.

Jerry Logan McCoy, 22, of Cedar Bluff, and Julianne Summer Fuller, 21, of Vansant, September 23, 2026.

Elijah Garrett Tiller, 22, and Olivia Grace Street, 20, both of Honaker, September 26, 2026.

Clifton Blake Robinson, 27, and Amelia Rose Matney, 26, both of Raven, September 26, 2026.

Ian Charles Miller, 28, and Alison Kay Bandy, 26, both of Grundy, Sept. 11, 2026

Steve Marlin Dotson, 62, and Michele Renea Baker, 51, both of Grundy, October 5, 2026.

Deeds recorded

Sept. 1 – Fayne Clark Whited to Buchanan County Board of Supervisors, tract Levisa Fork, Big Sandy River, South Grundy District, \$130,000.00.

Sept. 1 – Appalachian Power Company to Virginia Department of Transportation, tracts Buchanan County, \$1,914.00.

Sept. 1 – Harriet Christine Matney, to Department of Transportation, coal and mineral rights, tracts Levisa River, \$1,500.00.

Sept. 1 – Malinda Deel, ETAL, to Paula Scarberry Cantrell, tract Rock Lick Creek, Rocklick District, \$8,000.00.

Sept. 1 – Kenneth O’Quin, ETAL, to Christina Renee Ratl Stiltner, three tracts, Russell Prater Creek, Prater District, Life Estate for Grantors, \$10,000.00.

Sept. 3 – Winford Elmer Baker, to Linda Carol Stidham, ETAL, two tracts, Home Creek, Levisa River, \$30,000.00.

Sept. 4 – Johnny Lee Coleman, to Mary Ann Looney, 30 acres, Six-and-Twenty-Mile Branch, Levisa River, deed of gift.

Sept. 4 – Leo Bailey, ETAL, to Tyan Victoria Hope Turpin, 0.062 acre War Fork, Russell Prater Creek, Prater District, deed of gift.

Sept. 4 – Randolph Yates, to Tessa Deanne Deel, tract Green Briar Creek, Russell Fork, deed of gift.

Sept. 4 – Randolph Yates, to Tessa Deanne Deel, tract Right Hand Fork Greenbriar Creek, Russell Prater Creek, deed of gift.

Sept. 4 – Randolph Yates, to Tessa Deanne Deel, tract Greenbriar Creek, Russell Fork, lifetime interest, deed of gift.

Sept. 8 – James Neal Clevinger, ETAL, to Brian Deel, 0.27 acre Belchers Fork, Bull Creek, Levisa River, Rocklick District, deed of gift.

Sept. 8 – Eddie Ryan Cook, ETAL, to Jeffery W. Harwood, ETAL, two tracts, Hurricane District, \$75,000.00.

Sept. 8 – CNX Gas Company LLC, to FAE Holding Aurora LLC, numerous tracts, Buchanan County, \$8,976,264.18.

Sept. 8 – Bizzack Construction LLC, to Ronnie Keith Cantrell, ETAL, 9.32 acres, Poplar Creek, Rocklick District, \$360,000.00.

Sept. 11 – Clinton Arington, Jr., to Willie Derek Mayhorn, ETAL, 1.5 acres, Little Paw Paw Creek, Russell Fork River, Prater District, deed of gift.

Sept. 11 – Tyler Sargent, to Mark Anthony Cline, 1.31-acre Knox Creek, Tug River, \$1.00, deed of gift.

Sept. 11 – Buchanan County Board of Supervisors, to Stephanie Lea Sutherland, ETAL, 0.54-acre Hobbs Branch, Slate Creek, North Grundy District, \$5,500.00.

Sept. 11 – Buchanan County, Virginia, to Billy Owens, ETAL, R/W Easement, Rocklick District, \$100.00.

Sept. 11 – Industrial Development Authority to Buchanan County, 0.186-acre tract, South Grundy District, deed of gift.

Sept. 14 – Lilian Miller, to Zachary Ryan Barton, 2.52 acres, Little Fox Creek, Russell Fork River, deed of gift.

Sept. 15 – Jame G. Snead, to John Russell Snead, 1/4 interest in 150 acres, Right Fork of Booth Branch, deed of gift.

Sept. 15 – Industrial Development Authority to Cumberland Plateau Company INC., three tracts, Prater District, \$10.00, deed of gift.

Sept. 15 – Michael Lawson, ETAL, to Matthew J. Fearby, ETAL, tract and R/W Lynn Camp Branch, Dismal River, \$72,500.00.

Sept. 16 – Clintwood JOD LLC, to CW Land LLC, tracts and GPINS, Buchanan County, \$260,000.00.

Sept. 17 – Johnny J. Ashby, to Board of Supervisors, 0.164-acre Slate Creek, Levisa Fork River, North Grundy District, \$140,000.00.

Sept. 17 – Gary Wayne Deel, ETAL, to William Walter Owens, ETAL, tract Deel Fork, Bull Creek, Levisa River, \$1.00, deed of gift.

Sept. 17 – James K. Coyle, to Morgan Daniel Pitney, two tracts, Little Fox Creek, Russell Fork, Big Sandy River, Prater District, deed of gift.

Sept. 18 – Johnny Lane, to Johnny Lane, ETAL, tract Poplar Creek, Big Log Hollow, Rocklick District, deed of gift.

Sept. 18 – Yancy Ted Hess, to Yancy Ted Hess, ETAL, tract Looney’s Creek, Levisa River, Big Sandy River, deed of gift.

Sept. 21 – Chasity Jolene Wooten, to Lance Anthony Branham, two tracts Squire Branch, Slate Creek, Levisa River, \$1.00.

Sept. 21 – Judy C. Street to Robert Wayne Simpson, ETAL, lot 43 & 44 of Sheet 2 Block, two map of subdivision of property of John T. Watkins, Watkins Branch, \$50,000.00.

Sept. 22 – Denver Ray Lester, ETAL, to Kayla Stella Marie Prater, ETAL, 0.52-acre Rocklick Creek, Levisa River, Rocklick District, deed of gift.

VANSANT MAN

FROM PAGE 1A

ing his actions.

“Ryan didn’t wait for someone else to step in. He reacted,” Boyd said in a statement thanking Daniels. “He took off his belt and used it as a tourniquet, providing critical aid until first responders arrived. His quick thinking and willingness to help undoubtedly made a difference during a frightening situation.”

The recognition followed a shooting that sent the child by helicopter to the trauma center at Johnson City Medical Center.

According to the sheriff’s office, a preliminary investigation found that a parent had left the 7-year-old and two younger children inside a vehicle while entering the Dollar General store in Oakwood. The child retrieved a handgun, which discharged and struck the child in the leg.

The sheriff’s office received a 911 call at about 9:11 p.m. Deputies were the first emergency responders to arrive, providing medical assistance and applying a tourniquet to control the bleeding. Oakwood Fire and

Rescue also responded, and MedFlight transported the child for treatment.

Boyd’s recognition of Daniels highlighted the help the child received before those responders reached the scene.

The sheriff said Daniels’ willingness to act reflected the character of the community.

“What Ryan did represents something much bigger than that. It represents the mindset and character of the people of Buchanan County,” Boyd said. “When someone is in need, we help.”

Boyd thanked Daniels on his own behalf and on behalf of the sheriff’s office, and encouraged people visiting Tractor Supply to shake his hand and thank him.

“Your actions are a reminder of what it means to look out for your fellow man and why I’m proud to serve the people of Buchanan County,” Boyd said.

The sheriff’s office has not released the names of those involved in the shooting.



Hunters, family members and supporters gather during the Oct. 2-3 Coal Fields Special Sportsmen and Hands of a Sportsman hunt. Five hunters from Buchanan County, Pike County and North Carolina participated in the weekend of hunting and fellowship (Courtesy of CSS).

SPECIAL HUNT

FROM PAGE 1A

501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of people facing challenges through guided outdoor experiences. Its work focuses on providing safe, ethical and educational hunting opportunities for people who may face financial, physical, social or other barriers to participation.

The organization seeks to help participants connect with nature while building a supportive community where they can find enjoyment and a sense of belonging outdoors.

The weekend gathering began with a meet-and-greet and an evening practice shoot on Friday, giving participants time to get acquainted and prepare for the hunt.

Hunters headed to their blinds Saturday morning with snack bags provided by Food City. Two hunters successfully took deer during the morning session before the group gathered for lunch at Breaks Interstate Park.

Blankenship thanked the park for its continued partnership with Coal Fields Special Sportsmen.

Participants returned to the woods for the evening hunt, when two of the remaining three hunters were also successful. Organizers reported that six deer were taken over the weekend.

As daylight faded, the group gathered around a campfire to share stories, laughter and memories from the day.

“Those moments of fellowship are what make weekends like this so special,” Blankenship wrote.

The event drew support from or-

ganizations, businesses and volunteers who contributed time and resources to make the experience possible.

Blankenship thanked Hands of a Sportsman, the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors, SWVA Sportsmen, CNX Resources, Tim Ivy Boutique, Breaks Interstate Park, Food City, RMEF and Whitetail Ridge Outdoors, along with the volunteers and other supporters of the organization.

“Your kindness, generosity, and willingness to give your time and resources make these experiences possible,” he wrote. “We simply

could not do what we do without you.”

Blankenship said the organization’s work extends beyond the hunt itself.

“At Coalfields Special Sportsmen, our mission is about so much more than the hunt,” he noted. “It’s about providing opportunities, removing barriers, building friendships, and ensuring that everyone has the chance to experience the joy and beauty of the great outdoors.”

More information about the organization and its mission is available at www.coalfieldsspecial-sportsmen.org.



A young hunter poses with a deer during the Oct. 2-3 Coal Fields Special Sportsmen and Hands of a Sportsman hunt. Organizers reported six deer were taken during the weekend, which provided guided outdoor opportunities for five hunters (Courtesy of CSS).



LOOKING BACK

From our files

By **CHAD COOPER**
coopkam@gmail.com

50 YEARS AGO

OCTOBER 14, 1976

Buchanan County Public Schools superintendent James W. Moon attended the Virginia School Board Association's annual convention this past weekend, October 7-9, in Roanoke. Featured speaker for the occasion was Senator Hunter H. Andrews, who also serves on the Senate Education Committee.

Whitewood defeated Hurley 56-44 in girls' basketball play Tuesday night at Whitewood. Barbara Rife paced Whitewood with 20 points; Lisa Catron netted 13 points; Shelia Horn had eight; Shelia Tolliver and Pam Burress added six and four each. Herley was led by Anita Adkins and Carolyn Lester with nine points each. Rita Bailey tossed in seven in the loss.

45 YEARS AGO

OCTOBER 15, 1981

David M. Hull, Game Warden for Buchanan County, has announced the names and locations of the bear-deer-turkey checking stations for the 1981-1982 hunting season, the first big game checking stations to be located in this county. The Warden emphasized that State Law requires that each hunter, upon killing a bear, deer or turkey, must detach the appropriate tag from the bear-deer-turkey license and attach it to the kill before moving it from the place of the kill.

Grundy High's Jayvee jumped all over the Lebanon Jayvee Monday night on the Lebanon Field, thrashing their hosts 30-0. Tailback Craig Pymal scored two touchdowns for the winners, and Greg Keen, Denver Stiltner and Johnny Bilitier each scored once.

30 YEARS AGO

David Scammell has raised the standard for defining the term "work-horse." Scammell started at halfback, finished up at quarterback and did a solid defensive job along the way as Grundy held off Hurley 32-12 in non-district action at the "Cliff" Friday night. Luke Owens picked off two passes in the win.

Tonya Melvin hit two free throws with 15 seconds remaining to lift Hurley to a 39-37 Black Diamond District win over Whitewood at Hurley Middle School on Tuesday, October 8. Melvin was the Hurley offense Tuesday, with 30 of the Lady Rebels' 39 points, including the game-winners.

25 YEARS AGO

OCTOBER 18, 2001

Grundy High School seniors Tabitha Baldwin and Sam Baldwin were selected Homecoming Queen and King during halftime festivities of Grundy's homecoming football game Friday night. GHS Principal Carroll Branham, right, made the crown and plaque presentation to Tabitha and Sam. Tabitha is the daughter of Curtis and Vanessa Baldwin and Sam is the son of Jimmy and Rosemary Penley.

Twin Valley got a key run in the third quarter and its most balanced scoring effort all season as the Lady Panthers earned a 56-45 Black Diamond District win over the Hurley Lady Rebels Thursday night at Hurley Middle School. Dominique Traverse (14 rebounds) and Emily Ratliff each scored 11 points and Ashley Street and Jessica Ratliff each scored 10 points for the Lady Panthers. Amelia Thomas paced Hurley (3-11, 0-3) with a game-high 19 points. Kristy Ward scored 13 points and Tammy Justus added 10 points for the Lady Rebels.

Before graduation, ASL student makes his case before West Virginia's highest court

By **CHAD COOPER**
coopkam@gmail.com

The night before his first courtroom argument, Travis Honaker stayed awake in a Charleston hotel room, rehearsing what he would say and wondering what the justices might ask.

He had studied the record, researched the law and practiced his argument. Still, there was no way to anticipate every question awaiting him the next morning.

For the third-year Appalachian School of Law student, his first opportunity to argue an actual case would come before West Virginia's highest court.

Honaker, a Honaker native who now lives in Buchanan County, presented oral argument Sept. 22 before the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia in a first-degree murder appeal. He appeared under the supervision of Dean Will Thompson through ASL's partnership with West Virginia Public Defender Services.

Months before his expected graduation in May 2027, Honaker put his classroom preparation to work on a case involving a man sentenced to life in prison without parole.

"I knew it would be a lot of responsibility. I knew it would be a lot of work," Honaker said. "But, you know, it's a great opportunity, and I was very thankful that he asked me to do it."

The opportunity began in Thompson's appellate advocacy class, where students develop written arguments and practice presenting them orally. After seeing Honaker's work in class, Thompson contacted him during the summer about arguing before the West Virginia court.

Honaker knew accepting would mean balancing appeal preparation with his regular coursework and exams. He also recognized the chance to gain experience that would carry well beyond a classroom assignment.

During the fall semester, he reviewed the trial transcript and case record, researched the issues and developed his argument. The written appellate brief was already complete before he joined the case, and he built his preparation on its arguments.

He traveled to Charleston to meet the client and attorneys with West Virginia Public Defender Services. A few weeks later, he returned with Thompson and ASL Dean D.J. Western for the hearing. Sleep proved difficult the night before.

"One of the most nerve-wracking things is, like, what kind of questions they're going to ask," Honaker said.

Alone in his hotel room, he went over his argument repeatedly, trying to prepare himself to respond under pressure.

Arriving early the next morning gave him time to walk through the courthouse and get more comfortable with his surroundings. He also looked for something that might escape the attention of a courtroom visitor: the clock.

Honaker had 10 minutes to present his argument. He planned to use eight minutes initially and reserve two for rebuttal after the opposing side spoke.

That meant keeping track of time while explaining his position and responding to questions from the justices.

"But when you're in the courtroom, and you have these judges, you know, these justices up there, it is intimidating," he said.

Even with his preparation, the nerves followed him to the lectern. His legs shook as he stood before the justices, and he wondered whether the people seated behind him could notice.



Travis Honaker is pictured at Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, where he is completing his third year. Honaker put his classroom training to work Sept. 22, arguing before the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia (Contributed photo).

"I still, like, I couldn't control my legs shaking," Honaker said. "And I'm standing up, and there are some people behind me, so I'm like, can they notice this?"

Despite those nerves, Honaker drew on what he had learned at ASL and did the job he had traveled to Charleston to do: present his client's argument before West Virginia's highest court.

Behind that nervousness was a serious responsibility.

According to Honaker, the appeal involved a fatal shooting at a West Virginia bar. His client had been convicted of first-degree murder, but the defense at trial maintained that another person present at the bar had committed the shooting.

Honaker said his argument focused on comments by the trial court suggesting that the alternative suspect would have immunity under a federal plea agreement if he confessed to the killing. He argued that those comments undermined his client's central defense and prevented a fair trial.

"So that was the argument," he said.

After his initial presentation, Honaker listened to the opposing argument, took notes and then returned for rebuttal. That portion required him to respond to what he had just heard.

"Well, you can't really fully prepare for the rebuttal because you don't know exactly what they're going to say," he said.

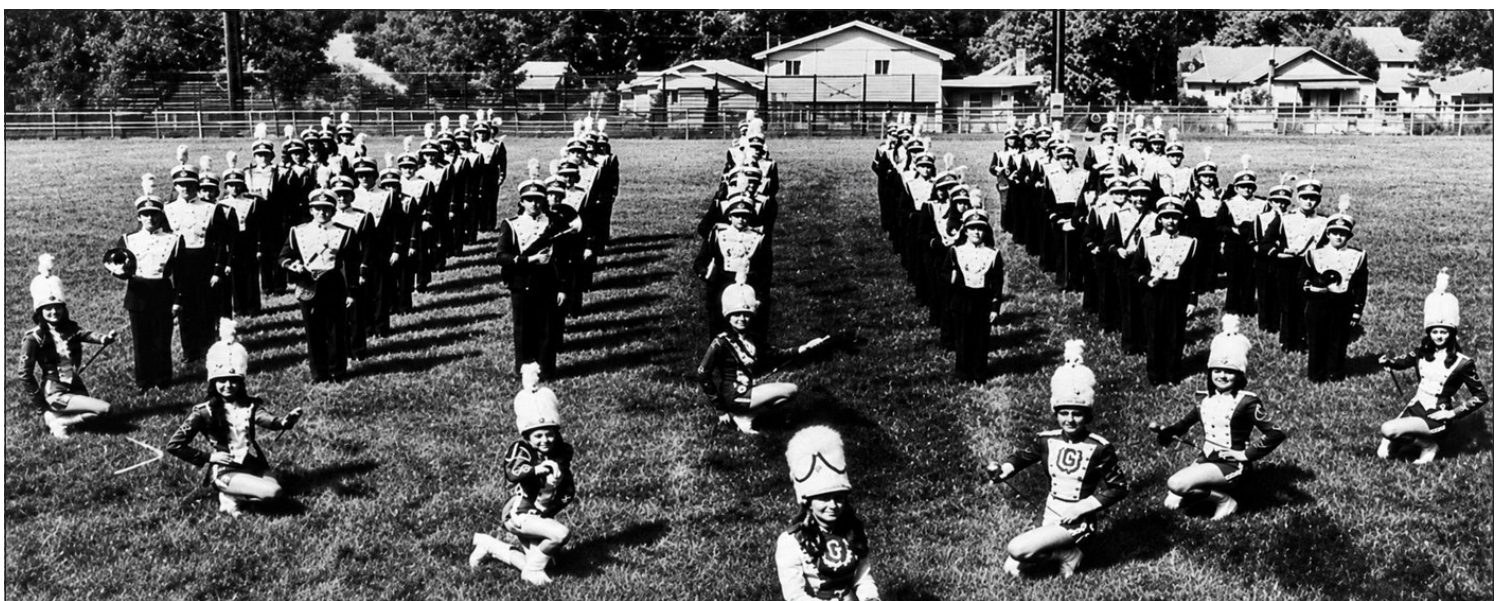
Thompson sat with him at the counsel table. On the trip back to Grundy, Thompson and Western offered feedback and, Honaker

SEE **ASL STUDENT** | 5A



Travis Honaker, a third-year Appalachian School of Law student, stands outside the Buchanan County Courthouse. The Honaker native recently presented oral argument in a murder appeal before West Virginia's highest court (Photo by Chad Cooper).

GOOD OL DAYS



Grundy High School's Golden Wave band poses in formation in this photo published in the Oct. 7, 1971, edition of The Virginia Mountaineer. The accompanying story announced the band's upcoming trip to Williamsburg to join 25 other bands in a pregame show before West Virginia faced William & Mary.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

These issues went on for days.

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

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

Starlink consists of a network of LEO satellites which serves high-speed, reliable broadband internet to com-



MORGAN GRIFFITH

WEEKLY REPORT FROM THE CAPITOL

munities on Earth. This network reduces connectivity dead zones and provides more coverage in regions like Southwest Virginia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. You can call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405 or my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671. To reach my office via email, please visit my website at <https://morgangriffith.house.gov/>.

Savvy Senior: Can my children get Social Security benefits when I retire?

Dear Savvy Senior,

I’m getting ready to start my Social Security retirement benefits and have two children at home, ages 17 and 15. I’ve heard they may also be eligible for benefits on my record while I’m collecting. Is that true, and if so, how does it work? How long would they receive benefits, and is there anything I need to do to apply for them?



JIM MILLER

SAVVY SENIOR

—Retiring Parent

Dear Retiring,

Yes. If you’re 62 or older and raising kids, Social Security can put a little extra cash in your family’s pocket.

Here’s how it works. When you claim your retirement benefits, each of your children may get up to 50 percent of your primary insurance amount (PIA), which is your benefit at full retirement age. Even if you take a reduced benefit by claiming early, your children’s payments are still based on your full retirement amount, which is 67 if you were born in 1960 or later.

You can apply for your children’s benefits at the same time you file your own Social Security retirement claim, or separately afterward if needed, but doing it together is usually the simplest approach.

To qualify, children must be unmarried and under 18. If they are 18 or 19 and still in high school, they can receive benefits until they graduate or reach age 19 years and two months, whichever comes first.

If they work, the usual earnings test may apply. In 2026, Social Security reduces benefits by \$1 for every \$2 earned above \$22,320. Special rules apply to children with disabilities.

Since your youngest is 15, your spouse can also receive benefits on your record – even if she is under full retirement age. This is a “child-in-care” spousal benefit that is available when a spouse is caring for a child under 16.

That benefit can be up to 50 percent of your PIA and ends when your youngest child turns 16. It can be especially helpful in households where one parent has

stepped back from work or is focused on caregiving.

There is also a limit on how much Social Security can pay a family, called the family maximum, usually between 150 and 180 percent of your PIA. If total benefits exceed that amount, payments to family members (except yours) are reduced proportionally.

For example, if your full retirement benefit is \$3,000 per month, the family maximum might be around \$5,289. That leaves \$2,289 to divide among your children – about \$1,144.50 each.

If your spouse also qualifies, her benefit would further reduce the amount available to be shared, though the total family payment remains capped.

Children can also receive benefits if a parent becomes disabled – usually up to 50 percent of the parent’s disability benefit – or if a parent dies, in which case they may receive up to 75 percent of the deceased parent’s basic benefit.

These benefits won’t cover everything, but even modest support can make a meaningful difference for a family.

Keeping benefits on track

Social Security automatically stops children’s benefits when they age out or graduate. Knowing when payments start and stop can help you plan your budget and make the most of this support.

If your children’s circumstances change – such as graduating early, getting married, or starting full-time work – be sure to notify Social Security so payments stay accurate.

For more details, see SSA Publication No. 05-10085, “Benefits for Children” at ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf.

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



DEBBIE FOSTER
ROCKLICK AREA NEWS
276-935-8296

Hello Readers

God woke me up this morning, and I did go to church. Brother Eddie Wilson brought the message, Show Thy Marvelous Works.

He read Psalm 9:1-2, John 10:18, Matthew 21:42, Psalm 95:6 and John 4:24. I’m so glad I’m back in church today.

Amelia came up and spent the night with me again. I love having her here!

One of the kittens I was bottle-feeding died. It was not growing and was half the size of his sister. I buried him next to Minnie.

I went and helped the Humane Society get ready for the yard sale we’re having Saturday. I stopped at Double Kwik and got their lunch special, chicken and dumplings. They were delicious! I stopped on the way home at M&K Market and got straw for the dog houses and hay for Amos.

Saturday morning, I got up early, went to work at the yard sale, and found time to do a little shopping for myself. It was cool and rainy all day, and when I got home, I broke down and turned on the heat. I have to admit it felt better in the house.

Keep praying for me and my family. I’ve spoken to several other women who’ve lost their husbands, and I’ve discovered that everything I’m going through is all part of the grieving process. I’m still waiting for him to walk back in the door. That makes no sense, but that’s how it is.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalm 119:11 KJV

I am OK, I am Blessed...

Adult education connection

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

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

One of the most useful financial skills adults can develop is budgeting. Learning how to track income and

expenses can help individuals understand where their money goes and identify areas where they may be able to save. Students can practice creating realistic budgets based on everyday expenses such as housing, transportation, food, utilities, and other necessities.

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

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



BEVERLY PRATER ASHBY

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

THE VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEER

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OPINIONS

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STAFF

MICHAEL SHOWELL: President, Virginia Media, LLC
AILA BOYD: Executive Editor, Virginia Media, LLC
WENDI CRAIG: Advertising
CHAD COOPER: Editor
ANOTHY STEVENS: Sports Reporter

CONTACT

THE VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEER
Telephone: (540) 389-9355
Member
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It's now or never. It's time to act. It's time for God's people to take a stand. Many have been on the sidelines too long. If the church gets involved and does the right thing, it would be game over for the evils that plague our nation and threaten the future of our children and grandchildren.

Christianity is the predominant religion in the United States. According to a 2024 Gallup survey, approximately 69% of the United States population, about 235 million out of 344 million people, identifies as Christian. Of those, 45% identify as Protestant and 22% as Catholic.

Smaller Christian groups include members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (1.5%), Eastern Orthodox Christians (0.5%), and other Christian denominations (0.4%). The United States has the largest Protestant population globally, totaling more than 150 million.

European colonizers introduced Christianity to the Americas beginning in the 16th and 17th centuries. From its founding, the United States has been described as a Protestant nation by a variety of sources.

The Public Religion Research Institute's 2020 census of American religion, conducted between 2014 and 2020, found that 70% of Americans identified as Christians over the seven-year period. In a 2020 survey by the Pew Research Center, 65 percent of adults in the United States identified themselves as Christians.

So, I want to present a question to you. Why have we seen, over the last decade, a greater number of transgender or non-binary minors seeking gender-affirmation surgery? Why are millions of babies aborted every year? The whys go on and on. You may say, why is all this happening if the majority of our population is Christian?

I believe many Christians are asleep at the wheel, and many are believing the lies of the propaganda of the media. People use information, especially biased and misleading information, to promote a particular cause or point of view.

The Apostle Paul said in Romans 13:11, "Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep, for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." The church has become lethargic. The giant is a slave.

In 1941, the Japanese admiral Isoroku said that the sleeping giant had been awakened regarding the attack on Pearl Harbor. What will it take to awaken the sleeping church?

First Timothy 4:1. Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Verse two speaks of lying in hypocrisy, under the

pretense of goodness. They will call good evil and evil good. Read Isaiah chapter 5, verse 20. Read 2 Timothy 3:1: In the last days, perilous times shall come. We are there.

Don't believe the lies. Do your own research. Trust no man. Psalm 118:8-9 says it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. Jesus is better.

The late Charlie Kirk gave his life trying to open the eyes of America's youth by debating political ideas as they relate to God's word, the Bible.

September 2026 marks the anniversary of the assassination. A year after Charlie Kirk's death, Turning Point

USA was growing.

After his death, TPUSA reported receiving more than 120,000 inquiries from people who wanted to start chapters on their campuses, some in high school, some in college. Did this assassination sound the alarm to the sleeping giant, the church, from its lethargic state? I hope so.

Let me share some statistics from one of America's most liberal states. In California, 55% of the population claimed to be Christians, according to the Pew Research Center. California's population is 39,000,355,309 in 2025.

In California, 23 million voters are registered to vote. 55% of voters are Christians, which means 12,000 650,000 voters are in the Christian voter block.

In the last election, Newsom got 11 million votes. He got over 6 million votes for 59.2%. Dohie got over 4 million votes (40.8%). 2 million separated Newsom and Dohie.

Some polls said 35% of eligible California Christians voted, meaning 65% did not. Two out of three Christians did not vote, which means 8,222,500 did not vote if Newsom and Dohie separated the winners by 2 million.

So you see how Christians can make a difference if they get out and vote. Proverbs 14:34 says, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 29:2 says, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."

My prayer for our nation is that the sleeping church will awaken before it is too late. We have so much to lose that, if we lose it, I don't believe we will ever get it back.

Please do your research and get out and vote. In a constitutional Republic, the only way to put the righteous in authority is to vote them in.

Do you see how important your vote is? Please don't lose it. We have too much at stake.

Stay tuned, watchmen.



JERRY
WARD

THE WATCHMAN:

Everything Else is Just Stuff

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

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

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

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

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

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

What we might consider doing is being proactive



DR. GLENN
MOLLETTE

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

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

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

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

ASL STUDENT

FROM PAGE 3A

said, told him he had done a great job.

For Honaker, their encouragement also came with an opportunity to learn.

"If there's something that I messed up on, if there's something that I didn't do so good on, I want to know so that I can correct it and fix it," he said.

His route to that courtroom began with a different career in mind.

Growing up in Honaker, he wanted to become a police officer. He studied criminal justice in high school, graduated from Honaker High School in 2020, and continued his studies at Bluefield University, where he graduated in 2024.

"I always wanted to help people growing up," he said. "That was my main goal. I wanted to make a difference in the community that I was going to be in and help people."

During college, COVID-19 restrictions prevented an internship involving police ride-alongs. Instead, a professor placed him with an at-

torney in Pulaski. Another placement with an attorney during his final semester helped him decide to pursue law school.

When it came time to choose a school, he wanted to remain close to home.

"ASL was really the only school I had in mind," Honaker said.

He initially commuted from Honaker to Grundy, but concerns about winter weather, mountain roads and making it to class led him to move to Buchanan County.

The transition from undergraduate studies to law school took adjustment, particularly during his first semester. He said the professors' willingness to work individually with students helped him find his footing.

"You can go to your professor and ask for help, and they're willing to help you," he said.

He credits that access, along with classroom oral arguments, with helping prepare him for the West Virginia appearance.

"And so I go to their office, and I meet with them. We talk about it, and it's so helpful to have that," Honaker said. "And that's unique, I feel like, about ASL."

His interests have broadened during law school. Criminal law remains a career goal, but a favorite class in torts introduced him to personal injury and other civil matters he may also want to pursue.

He has not decided where he will practice after graduation, though he originally hoped to stay in the area. Discussions at ASL about "legal deserts" — communities with few attorneys — gave him another way to think about the work ahead.

From his early plans to become a police officer to his appearance before West Virginia's highest court, his goal has remained the same, helping people.

"And so I would like to go to one of those areas so that I can help people in that community," Honaker said.

ASL REPAYMENT

FROM PAGE 1A

seeking its return. Rocklick District Supervisor Craig Stiltner responded that he had opposed the assistance from the beginning.

"I did not vote to give it to them," Stiltner said.

Stiltner said reports of improved enrollment reinforced his belief that the county should pursue repayment. He said he understood returning the money to be part of the arrangement when the assistance was approved.

"I'm all about waiting to see how the merger goes. But I'm also about getting the county's money back," Stiltner said.

Stiltner also questioned spending at the school, referring to what he described as money being passed around. No specific expenditures were identified during the discussion.

Moise said the agreement contained a provision addressing repayment as the school's numbers improved. He said that obligation could be incorporated into a possible agreement with UPike.

Stiltner said he supported an arrangement that would stabilize ASL and prevent another request for millions of dollars from the county.

"Anything that this county doesn't have to give them \$3.4 million again. I'm all about that," Stiltner said. "I'm also about getting our money back."

He said seeking repayment was a matter of asking the law school to fulfill its agreement.

"I'm just asking them to uphold their end," Stiltner said.

Adkins said he believed the board had been misled when it approved the assistance, noting that a U-Pike partnership was not part of the situation presented at that time. He said that was another reason he believed the money should be returned.

Moise described a repayment plan as a goal of the discussions, rather than a completed arrangement.

With the reimbursement item tabled, the board left the matter unresolved while discussions about ASL's future and a possible U-Pike partnership continue.

CURT'S ACE HARDWARE

FROM PAGE 1A

Grundy Mayor Chris Mitchell welcomed the announcement.

"We in the town of Grundy are pleased to hear of these changes and that no job losses are expected. We appreciate the longstanding relationship with the Smith family," Mitchell said.

Smith said the company had been looking for a location for an Ace Hardware store in the area for several months. At the same time, declining population and financial difficulties at Super Dollar prompted discussions about the building's future.

"It's gotten to a point where we weren't making any money in the Super Dollar, and we thought we can really fill a need in the county better by putting an Ace Hardware in there," Smith said.

Smith said a friend in the restoration business had repeatedly told him about the difficulty of finding materials needed to work on houses in the area.

The new store will carry hardware, lawn and garden products and other home improvement supplies. According to the company's announcement, Curt's Ace Hardware stores offer brands including Benjamin Moore, Weber, Recteq, Traeger, Big Green Egg, Stihl, EGO, Milwaukee and YETI.

"Sadly, locally owned hardware stores are becoming a thing of the past," Smith said in the release. "Having served in the grocery industry for 40-plus years, I have seen firsthand how important a local well-run supermarket is to the community, and I think the same holds true for local hardware stores."

The Grundy project will renovate the existing building rather than replace it. Smith said the structure was built in the 1950s, and an engineer's assessment found that relatively little work was needed.

The building contains a little more than 20,000 square feet, most of which will be used for the hardware store.

For Smith, keeping the building occupied means more than finding another business use for the property. He recalled riding to school with his father and doing his homework there after school.

"That building has a lot of sentimental value to me," Smith said.

"So, it's not going to sit empty, and I'm glad we can fill a need that the county really needs. And more importantly, I'm also glad we can take care of our people."

Smith said he spent about three hours meeting with Super Dollar employees following the announcement, listening to their concerns and explaining the company's plans.

Employees will be offered positions at other company stores, with their preferences and distance from home considered. Some could also move into jobs at the new hardware store.

Smith estimated Curt's Ace Hardware would employ about 12 to 16 people. The company will evaluate employees' qualifications as it fills those positions.

"I'm excited. I'm really excited for this," Smith said.

The Grundy store will join a growing group of Curt's Ace Hardware locations in Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Nearby locations include Lebanon, Abingdon and Bristol.

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VCEDA Executive Director/General Counsel Jonathan Belcher, right, presents a ceremonial check for \$80,000 to Buchanan County Administrator Craig Horn, center, for the Buchanan County IDA to be used for a small vertical wind turbine energy recovery system study the IDA is undertaking in partnership with Emendare R&D. Also pictured, left, is Emendare R&D Board Member Billie Campbell (Courtesy of VCEDA).

Wind turbine study could bring manufacturing jobs to county

By CHAD COOPER
coopkam@gmail.com

The Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority has secured a matching grant of up to \$80,000 to study wind turbine technology that could lead to a new manufacturing operation and jobs in Southwest Virginia.

The Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority funding will support a feasibility and economic impact study and pilot test of small vertical wind turbine energy recovery systems. The Buchanan County IDA will provide \$20,000 in matching funds toward the \$100,000 project.

The IDA is partnering with Emendare R&D, a nonprofit research organization headquartered in Buchanan County, to examine how the technology can recover energy from exhaust air flowing out of industrial, commercial and institutional ventilation systems.

The study, expected to take about 12 months, will also determine whether manufacturing the systems in the region would be feasible.

“The Buchanan County IDA is interested in determining the feasibility and economic impact of manufacturing an innovative new renewable energy product known as a Small Vertical Wind Turbine Energy Recovery System and approached VCEDA for match funding for the project,” said Jonathan Belcher, VCEDA’s executive director and general counsel.

Researchers are expected to produce a fully tested prototype, validated performance data, feasibility reports and an economic impact analysis to help determine the potential for regional manufacturing.

According to the IDA’s funding application, the project is expected to create one full-time and four part-time jobs during its first year. That number could grow to four to 10 full-time and/or part-time jobs within five years, depending on whether manufacturing begins after the first year.

The study will also examine the potential economic impact of manufacturing over the next decade.

“The project supports VCEDA’s economic diversification mission by enabling new clean-technology manufacturing opportunities, job creation and innovation-driven economic development in Central Appalachia. We look forward to learning the results of that study,” Belcher said.

Buchanan County Economic Development Director Jeremy Ward said the research could open another avenue for economic growth in the county.

“The wind turbine study and pilot test is a great opportunity for our county to enhance our economic possibilities with a new technology that can create new jobs and deliver an environmental benefit as well,” Ward said. “We look forward to the study and results with great optimism for future manufacturing.”

Whitewood Fire Department hosts vehicle rescue training

By CHAD COOPER
coopkam@gmail.com

Emergency responders gathered Oct. 3-4 for two days of training hosted by the Whitewood Volunteer Fire Department, practicing the skills needed to reach people trapped inside wrecked vehicles.

The vehicle extrication course combined classroom instruction with hands-on exercises. Instructors from Oakwood Fire and Rescue led the training, with members of Cleveland Rescue, Whitewood Fire and Blacksburg Rescue attending.

Participants practiced stabilizing vehicles, removing doors and roofs, and performing dash rolls—techniques used to create space and access occupants after a crash.

LJ Recycling provided vehicles and made its lot available for the exercises, allowing responders to practice on damaged vehicles in a controlled setting. Organizers thanked the business for helping make the training possible.

Among those participating was Whitewood member Bryce Hurley, whose dedication to the department reflects his commitment to giving back to the community. Hurley was paralyzed at age 19 and uses a wheelchair. He remains active with the department, contributing wherever he can and working alongside his fellow members.

During the training weekend, Hurley joined other responders at the site as they practiced the skills needed to help others in an emergency.

For the departments involved, the course offered time to learn together, practice rescue techniques and prepare for the calls their communities depend on them to answer.



Participants and instructors gather at LJ Recycling during the Oct. 3-4 vehicle extrication course hosted by the Whitewood Volunteer Fire Department. Members of Cleveland Rescue, Whitewood Fire and Blacksburg Rescue attended the training (Contributed photo).



Participants work to remove a minivan’s roof during vehicle extrication training Oct. 3-4 at LJ Recycling. Instructors from Oakwood led the course, which included vehicle stabilization, door and roof removal, and dash rolls (Contributed photo).



Adopt a Pet

Virginia Mountaineer

I’m feline good

This feline fine fellow is an eight-week-old male kitten. His fluffy coat is colored grey/brown and white with black stripes. He has dazzling green eyes and long white ear tufts. His personality is friendly, gentle and affectionate. He shares his kennel at the shelter with two handsome brothers.

These purrs with personality will be available for adoption at the Buchanan County Animal Shelter until Monday, October 19, 2026.

Also available for adoption is this seven-week-old male kitten. His soft coat is colored cafe latte. He has light green eyes and a longing expression. His temperament is calm and pleasant. He shares his kennel at the shelter with his sweet momma, two brothers and one sister. The Buchanan County Animal Shelter is located at 1191 Dogpound Road. For more information about these animals, please call the shelter at 276-935-4067.

Supervisors approve coyote claims, recognize Hurley’s first



Hurricane District Supervisor and board chairman Tim Hess, left, recognizes Davis Hurley, center, for his first coyote claim during the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors’ first regularly scheduled October meeting at the Government Center on Slate Creek. Joining them is Hurley’s father, Travis Hurley, the board’s new attorney.

By CHAD COOPER
coopkam@gmail.com

Davis Hurley’s first coyote claim earned more than a payment during the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors’ first regularly scheduled October meeting. It also brought a round of applause from the crowd.

Supervisors recognized Hurley during the meeting at the county Government Center on Slate Creek as the board approved 24 coyote claims totaling \$2,400. The county pays \$100 per coyote.

Anthony Viers submitted the most claims, seven, totaling \$700.

Randy Wimmer, Tim Sisk, Charles Justice and Anthony Scarberry each submitted two claims, totaling \$200 apiece.

Jason Stacey, Charles Byers, Jimmy Clevinger, Jeffrey Blankenship, James Cantrell, Hunter Hale, Mark Stacy, Russell Kelly and Davis Hurley each submitted one claim for \$100.

Hurley’s recognition created a personal moment during the board’s business, as attendees joined supervisors in applauding his first claim.

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Porter, Rasnake help UVa-Wise finish seventh in Charlotte

By CHAD COOPER
coopkam@gmail.com

Former Grundy High School cross country standout Alexis Porter raced to a fourth-place finish, and Ella Rasnake of Council added a scoring performance as the two local runners helped the University of Virginia's College at Wise women's cross country team finish seventh Friday, Oct. 9, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Competing in the women's 5-kilometer Blue race at McAlpine Greenway Park, the Cavaliers totaled 211 points to place seventh among 17 teams at the meet hosted

by Queens University of Charlotte.

Porter, a senior, led UVa-Wise across the finish line in 18 minutes, 57.7 seconds. She placed fourth among 144 finishers, averaging 6:06.1 per mile, and was one of five runners to finish in under 19 minutes.

Her near-front finish gave the Cavaliers a strong start in team scoring.

Rasnake, a freshman, was UVa-Wise's third runner across the line, finishing 60th overall in 20:54.1. She averaged 6:43.6 per mile and contributed 53 points toward the Cavaliers' total.

SEE PORTER, RASNAKE | 2B



UVa-Wise runners Alexis Porter, left, and Ella Rasnake are pictured at McAlpine Greenway Park in Charlotte, N.C., on Oct. 9. Porter finished fourth and Rasnake placed 60th in the women's 5-kilometer Blue race, helping the Cavaliers finish seventh in the team standings.



Southern Gap's Lucy Savage goes up for a block during Tuesday's Southwest District match at Lebanon. The Eagles fell to the Pioneers in straight sets, 28-26, 25-17, 25-17 (Photo by Preston Ball Photography).

Lebanon grounds Eagles in SWD Sweep

By ANTHONY STEVENS
anthony@virginiamediainc.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jaidyn Fields (10 kills), Kaytie Lampkin (eight kills) and Carlee Ingram (six kills)

SEE LEBANON GROUNDS | 2B

War Pigs pave way as Eagles hang 71 on Tazewell

By CHAD COOPER
coopkam@gmail.com

TAZEWELL — Fifty points before halftime. Seventy-one by the final whistle.

Southern Gap's offense just keeps finding another gear.

With the War Pigs clearing the way and three running backs making the most of those openings, the Ea-

gles piled up 538 rushing yards Friday, Oct. 9, in a 71-34 Southwest District road victory over Tazewell.

Freshman Carson Blankenship supplied the early fireworks. Junior Aidan Baker delivered his breakout performance of the season. Freshman Gunner Baker added another hard-nosed runner to a backfield the Bulldogs struggled to contain.

And it all started with the big boys up front.

SEE WAR PIGS | 2B



Southern Gap's Ayden Whited makes an over-the-shoulder interception during the Eagles' 71-34 victory at Tazewell. Whited picked off two passes on the night.

In the Locker Room

By CHAD COOPER
coopkam@gmail.com

Eagles gaining ground as playoff race heats up

October football has a way of making us look beyond the scoreboard.

A win still feels good, and a loss still stings, but now another question waits when the stadium lights go out: What does it mean for November?

Following this past weekend's games, Southern Gap has given Buchanan County plenty to feel good about. The Eagles' 71-34 victory at Tazewell improved their record to 5-2 overall and 2-0 in the Southwest District, keeping them fifth in the Region 2D playoff standings.

For a program playing its first season, that is an encouraging place to be.

According to the Oct. 10 Harpcrate standings, Southern Gap carries a power-point average of 18.57. The top eight teams qualify for the regional playoffs, with positioning determined by power points per game. There is still football to play before the bracket becomes final, but the Eagles have put themselves firmly in the conversation.

Southern Gap has won four straight, scoring 63 points at Giles, 46 against Honaker, 61 against Richlands and 71 against Tazewell. That is 241 points over the past four games, and it tells us this offense is finding its stride at a good time.



CHAD COOPER
IN THE LOCKER ROOM

What catches my attention now is the opportunity ahead. Getting into the playoffs would be another milestone for Southern Gap, but moving into the top four would put the Eagles in position to bring a first-round playoff game to Buchanan County.

Fifth place leaves them just outside that group. Gate City, at 5-2, sits fourth with a 19.86 average. The Blue Devils have games against Lee and Wise Central before closing the regular season at Ridgeview.

The Ridgeview Wolfpack, at 4-2, is third with a 20.00 average and has John Battle, Abingdon and Gate City left to play, with the finale at Rose Ridge. Union is second at 5-2 with a 21.00 average, while Graham leads the Oct. 10 rankings at 22.80. Union lost to the G-Men 14-12 on Sept. 11 at Bullitt Park.

There is ground to make up, but the Eagles have given themselves something worth chasing.

Southern Gap now heads into its second bye week of the season, a benefit of opening play in Week 0. The Eagles return Oct. 23 for homecoming, welcoming border rival River View, West Virginia, to town. The Raiders are 2-4.

Then comes a trip to Coeburn to face an Eastside team that has battled injuries throughout the season. The Spartans are 3-3, but they just handed Rye Cove its first loss of the year.

Southern Gap closes the regular season Nov. 6 at

SEE IN THE LOCKER ROOM | 2B

New People's Bank

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

SOUTHERN GAP EAGLES

AIDAN BAKER

Southern Gap High School
Aidan Baker is the New People's Bank Player of the Week.

The junior rushed for 185 yards on 12 carries and scored five touchdowns in a 71-34 rout of Tazewell on Oct. 9, 2026, at Tazewell.

New Peoples Bank
www.NewPeoples.Bank

CONGRATULATIONS!

Member FDIC



Southern Gap freshman Carson Blankenship breaks free for an 82-yard touchdown on the Eagles' first offensive play at Tazewell. Blankenship rushed for 226 yards and two touchdowns in the 71-34 victory.

WAR PIGS

FROM PAGE 1B

Southern Gap improved to 5-2 overall and 2-0 in district play with its fourth consecutive victory. The Eagles have scored 241 points during that stretch, reaching 60 or more in three of those games.

"We come out of the gate firing," Southern Gap coach Greg Tester said. "They just did a phenomenal job up front."

On a pleasant night for football, Tazewell welcomed its Little League players, with the familiar Shake Rag community sign part of the Friday night setting. Southern Gap quickly commanded attention on the field.

Blankenship needed just one offensive play to get the Eagles rolling, breaking loose for an 82-yard touchdown with 10:17 remaining in the first quarter.

It was an early glimpse of what Tazewell would spend the rest of the night trying to stop.

Aidan Baker followed with a 14-yard touchdown run, and Blankenship added the two-point conversion for a 14-0 lead. Quarterback Brayden White then scored on a 34-yard run before finding the end zone again on defense.

White intercepted a pass and returned it 45 yards for a touchdown with 49 seconds left in the opening quarter. His conversion pass to Kanan Justice pushed Southern Gap's advantage to 28-0.

When Aidan Baker scored from 29 yards out early in the second quarter, the Eagles had built a 34-0 cushion.

The running backs finished the plays, but Southern Gap's offensive line made them possible.

Chase Baker and Henry Brown spearheaded the War Pigs, with contributions from Colin Wolfrum, Trevor Blankenship, Matthew Thompson, and the big tight end Kanan Justice, all of whom played crucial roles in an impressive performance in the trenches. They created openings at the line of scrimmage and continued to push forward downfield, enabling the backs to turn solid gains into long runs.

Blankenship said Chase Baker was sometimes still blocking alongside him 30 yards downfield.

"They played great," Blankenship said. "It was amazing."

Blankenship finished with 226 yards and two touchdowns on just eight carries. His ability to burst through an opening and get into the secondary put pressure on Tazewell from the opening possession.

Aidan Baker was equally difficult to bring down.

The junior combined power with sharp cuts, breaking tackles and changing direction to keep runs alive. He finished with 185 yards and five touchdowns, scoring on runs of 14, 29, 52, 8 and 53 yards.

"I just think we played together as a team, did what we wanted to do and executed," Aidan Baker said. "O-line did great."

Gunner Baker added 62 rushing yards and a touchdown, giving the Eagles another physical runner capable of working through contact. White managed the offense and contributed a rushing touchdown as Southern Gap gained its 538 yards on 35 carries.

Tester credited his coaching staff for the preparation behind the production.

"If you noticed, I got four or five offensive line guys on this staff for a reason, and tonight was that reason," Tester said. "You seen that show up tonight?"

Asked whether he anticipated the numbers his backs would produce, particularly with Blankenship still a freshman, Tester said they exceeded his expectations.

"Honestly, I did not expect it, but, you know, I'll take it any day of the week," he said. "That's just the credit to our guys on the offensive line, man. It really is, and those guys too."

Tazewell coach J'me Harris saw the same thing from the opposite sideline.

"They kind of dominated the line of scrimmage on us tonight," Harris said. "We're a little young up front, but

we're getting better."

The Bulldogs, however, kept competing.

With starting quarterback Ty Whittaker sidelined by a broken wrist, Robbie Galloway gave Tazewell a passing attack that repeatedly challenged Southern Gap downfield.

Galloway finished 17-for-42 passing for 364 yards and five touchdowns, with three interceptions. Despite the turnovers and Southern Gap's early lead, he continued attacking through the air.

Chase McDonald and Ellis Day provided difficult matchups for the Eagles' secondary, helping Tazewell produce several long gains and get back on the scoreboard.

The Bulldogs scored three second-quarter touchdowns, but Southern Gap answered with more production from Aidan Baker. His 52-yard touchdown run and an 8-yard score helped send the Eagles into halftime ahead 50-21.

Tazewell recovered an onside kick to open the second half, creating an opportunity to cut further into the lead. Southern Gap's defense held on downs, and Blankenship soon added a 33-yard touchdown run.

White's conversion pass to Ayden Whited made it 58-21.

The scoring continued as Tazewell found more opportunities through the air and Aidan Baker broke loose for a 53-yard touchdown in the third quarter.

Gunner Baker finished Southern Gap's scoring with a 2-yard touchdown run in the fourth, and Thompson added the extra point.

For all the Eagles accomplished offensively, the long passing plays gave them something to address during their upcoming open week.

"They got some great skill guys, and they was hard to cover," Tester said. "While it's a high-scoring game, it was an exciting game."

Harris praised McDonald's ability to create problems for a defense.

"Chase is a really good football player," Harris said. "We got to get him a little bit better staying focused early on, but once he's focused, he's one of the best receivers in the district."

While Tazewell found success throwing the football, Southern Gap shut down the ground game. The Bulldogs finished with minus-7 rushing yards on 10 attempts.

Chase Baker helped set the tone up front, and Branton Stacy recorded two sacks. Josh Keller and Gunner Baker contributed at linebacker, while freshman defensive back Mason Rife broke up several passes.

Whited intercepted two passes, joining White in accounting for the Eagles' three interceptions.

Harris credited his team for continuing to battle and said Galloway's snaps would provide valuable film as Tazewell moves forward in district play.

"First of all, I mean, that's a really good football team we played against tonight," Harris said. "They're really well coached, and, you know, we wish them the best of luck moving forward."

"Our kids persevered, and they battled," he added.

Tazewell fell to 3-3, while Southern Gap heads into an open week before its final three regular-season games. The Eagles return to action Oct. 23 against River View, West Virginia.

Blankenship said the Eagles would use the break to keep improving.

"We'll get back to practice next week, on our bye week, you know, and get back after it," he said.

Tester left Tazewell pleased with the effort behind another big offensive night.

"I'm so proud of these kids and the effort of the offensive line and what they're doing on offense," he said.



Southern Gap's Luke Stiltner sacks Tazewell quarterback Robbie Galloway during the Eagles' 71-34 Southwest District road win.

PORTER, RASNAKE

FROM PAGE 1B

Together, Porter and Rasnake accounted for two of the team's five scoring performances, helping UVa-Wise finish ahead of Reinhardt, Emory & Henry and King.

Freshman Amelia Lewis was the Cavaliers' second finisher, placing 28th in 19:53.4. Freshman Sadie Brewer followed Rasnake with a 66th-place finish in 21:05.8, while junior Shaylen Cannon rounded out the scoring lineup, finishing 80th in 21:39.4.

UVa-Wise's five scoring runners combined for 1 hour, 42 minutes, 30 seconds, averaging 20:30.

Freshman Kiley Adair also competed for the Cavaliers, finishing 140th in 31:08.3.

Local sophomore runner Jayda Hilton was listed as a nonstarter. The results did not indicate why she did not compete.

Charleston, West Virginia, claimed the team championship with 37 points. Malone finished second with 89, edging third-place Campbell by one point.

Charleston freshman Joyleen Korir won the individ-

ual race in 18:05.9. Meredith's Delaney Bundy finished second in 18:10.4, followed by Charleston's Sara Odier-na-Fernandez in 18:53.1 and Porter in fourth.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

At McAlpine Greenway Park, Charlotte, N.C.

Oct. 9 — Women's Blue race, 5 kilometers

Team scores: 1. Charleston (W.V.) 37; 2. Malone 89; 3. Campbell 90; 4. Augusta 121; 5. Washington and Lee 126; 6. Pfeiffer 200; 7. UVa-Wise 211; 8. Reinhardt 258; 9. Emory & Henry 266; 10. Meredith 276; 11. Clayton State 301; 12. King 335; 13. Lander 363; 14. Coker 385; 15. Belmont Abbey 406; 16. Erskine 411; 17. Johnson & Wales (N.C.) 431.

UVa-Wise results — overall place, runner, time: 4. Alexsis Porter, 18:57.7; 28. Amelia Lewis, 19:53.4; 60. Ella Rasnake, 20:54.1; 66. Sadie Brewer, 21:05.8; 80. Shaylen Cannon, 21:39.4; 140. Kiley Adair, 31:08.3.

Did not start: Jayda Hilton, Jayden Sisk, Kaylen Fields.

LEBANON GROUNDS

FROM PAGE 1B

played well on the frontline. Ingram (18 assists) and Jaidyn Fields (13 assists) directed the offense. Kenlie Fields (20 digs) and Brooklyn Sutherland (15 digs) paced the defense in the win.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IN THE LOCKER ROOM

FROM PAGE 1B

Wise Central. The Warriors have Lee, Gate City and Southern Gap remaining, making that finale another game worth watching as the playoff picture takes shape.

This past weekend also featured two games that carried the feel of November: Union against Ridgeview in Region 2D and Eastside against Rye Cove in Region 1D.

Both were rematches of last season's regional championship games. Union defeated Ridgeview for the 2025 Region 2D title, while Rye Cove beat Eastside for the Region 1D crown. It is easy to see why those meetings drew so much attention Friday night.

Union edged Ridgeview 23-20 this time, improving to 5-2 and taking the No. 2 position in the current rankings. Ridgeview slipped to 4-2, but the Wolfpack remains third.

For our readers in Ridgeview country, that distinction matters. A three-point loss to Union hurts, particularly with district and regional positioning involved, but it leaves Ridgeview very much in contention.

Southern Gap fans already know what the Wolfpack can do. Ridgeview handed the Eagles a 48-8 loss earlier this season. Friday's close finish against Union gives us another reason to expect the Wolfpack to remain a serious factor when the postseason arrives.

Could Union and Ridgeview meet again for the regional championship? Certainly. But Graham, Gate City, Southern Gap and the rest of the playoff hopefuls will have something to say about that.

Behind Southern Gap, 4-3 Virginia High is sixth at 17.00, Wise Central seventh at 16.50 and Tazewell eighth at 16.00. Lebanon is just outside the field at 15.67, followed by Lee at 14.83.

That small gap between Tazewell and Lebanon is a reminder that the final playoff spots remain unsettled.

Over in Region 1D, Eastside's 14-12 victory at Rye Cove shook up the top of the standings.

Rye Cove suffered its first loss, falling to 6-1 and moving into second at 19.57. Unbeaten Chilhowie leads the region at 6-0 with a 20.67 average.

Eastside, meanwhile, improved to 3-3 and sits fifth at 16.17. The Spartans' record may not look as imposing as some others, but beating Rye Cove should get everybody's attention. That is a team capable of making a November bracket uncomfortable for somebody.

This week also brought a tough result for my nephew, Austin Cooper, and his Patrick Henry Rebels.

Holston defeated Patrick Henry 28-14, leaving the Rebels at 5-2 overall and 1-1 in the Hogohegee District. As an uncle, I always want to see Austin and his team walk away with a win. This one was a tough loss with potential playoff implications.

But Patrick Henry remains third in Region 1D at 17.86. The Rebels still have a strong position to build on, even as Holston, now fourth at 16.43, draws closer.

One loss can change the outlook without defining the season. The important thing for Patrick Henry now is how it responds.

For our Honaker readers, the Tigers' situation deserves attention, too.

Honaker is eighth at 12.67 despite a 1-5 record, holding the final qualifying position in the current standings. Rural Retreat and Thomas Walker follow at 11.33.

That is why looking only at wins and losses does not tell the whole playoff story. The power-point system accounts for more than a team's own record, and Honaker remains in the hunt.

The Tigers have an opportunity, but they also have teams chasing them. Every remaining game matters as Honaker tries to hold that spot and give itself a chance to extend the season.

Northwood is sixth at 15.67, with J.I. Burton seventh at 13.33, rounding out the teams currently ahead of Honaker in the qualifying field.

For Southern Gap, the focus should remain on the next game and the next opportunity to improve. The Eagles have built momentum, earned two district victories and put themselves in position to make more history.

Now comes the work of finishing strong.

Thanks for joining me In the Locker Room. Until next week, let's keep celebrating the victories, learning from the defeats, and always standing behind Buchanan County's athletes.

VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEER PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATORS							
THIS WEEK'S GAMES		CHAD COOPER	SAM BARTLEY	RYAN KEENE	TERESA MATNEY	MARK COOPER	BRIAN MOORE
							
1	Narrows at Honaker	Narrows	Narrows	Narrows	Narrows	Narrows	Honaker
2	Holston at Northwood	Holston	Northwood	Northwood	Holston	Northwood	Holston
3	Marion at Tazewell	Tazewell	Tazewell	Tazewell	Tazewell	Tazewell	Tazewell
4	Graham at Virginia High	Graham	Graham	Graham	Graham	Graham	Graham
5	Union at Lebanon	Union	Union	Union	Union	Union	Union
6	UVA-Wise at Tusculum	Tusculum	Tusculum	Tusculum	Tusculum	Tusculum	Tusculum
7	Emory & Henry at Carson-Newman	Carson-Newman	Carson-Newman	Carson-Newman	Carson-Newman	Carson-Newman	Carson-Newman
8	Florida at Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas
9	Notre Dame at BYU	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
10	Alabama at Tennessee	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
11	Ohio State at Indiana	Ohio State	Ohio State	Indiana	Ohio State	Ohio State	Indiana
12	Seahawks at Broncos	Seahawks	Seahawks	Seahawks	Seahawks	Broncos	Seahawks
OVERALL RECORDS		62-22	58-26	57-27	61-23	59-25	53-31



Members of the Southern Gap High School Recycling Club gather in a school hallway with bags of collected cans, putting small actions to work for a cleaner community (Contributed photo).

SGHS Recycling Club turns small actions into big change

Students take the lead in building a more sustainable school and community
By GRACE VANDYKE
Have you ever wondered how high school students can make a difference in the world? At Southern Gap High School, students are proving that positive change can start with something as simple as a recycling bin.
The SGHS Recycling Club is working to create a cleaner, more sustainable school by educating students, collecting recyclable materials, and giving students the opportunity to take ownership of environmental projects.
Led by Rochelle Deel, the Recycling Club works with nearly 50 students and is part of a larger sustainability initiative made possible through Walking Softer Education. The program provides students with lessons about sustainability, conservation, and responsible environmental practices. Students then use what they have learned to develop their own ideas for making a difference.
Rather than simply being handed a plan, students are encouraged to develop and lead their own projects. Once a project is approved, funding is provided to help students turn their ideas into action.

“This program is about more than simply recycling—it is about educating and empowering our students to become responsible for their school, community, and environment,” Deel said.
As part of the initiative, recycling containers have been placed throughout Southern Gap High School and in classrooms to collect plastic bottles. The containers are emptied regularly, and the collected bottles are transported to a recycling center in Blountville, Tennessee, with assistance from Austin Looney of the Sanitation Department.
Students are also collecting plastic bags as part of the NexTrex Recycling Challenge. The goal is to collect 1,000 pounds of eligible plastic film in an effort to earn a recycled-plastic bench for the school.
The challenge accepts clean, dry plastic film such as grocery bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, dry-cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, plastic shipping envelopes, resealable food-storage bags, cereal bags, case overwrap, pallet wrap and stretch film, wood pellet bags, produce bags, and salt bags.
The boxes located in the school lobby are specifically being used to collect these plastic bags and other qualifying materials. The SGHS Re-

cycling Club is currently assisting the Big Sandy Soil and Water Conservation District with this collection effort.
Students and staff are encouraged to make sure all materials are clean, dry, and free of food residue before placing them in the collection boxes.
According to Deel, the response from students has already been encouraging.
Students are becoming more interested in recycling and are actively looking for ways to improve their school and community. The sustainability project has given them an opportunity to see firsthand how their ideas and actions can create change.
“This project gives students a hands-on way to take ownership of caring for our school while developing a greater understanding of sustainability and conservation,” Deel said.
The work isn’t stopping with recycling. Another group of students is currently developing an additional sustainability project, with plans to continue expanding the school’s environmental efforts.
The message behind the Recycling Club is simple: positive change starts with people willing to take action.

UPike bringing Orange and Black scrimmage to Southern Gap

By CHAD COOPER
coopkam@gmail.com

Southern Gap High School’s new athletic facility is drawing college basketball to Buchanan County, with the University of Pikeville men’s team scheduled to hold its Orange and Black scrimmage at the school Thursday, Oct. 22.
The visit also brings UPike head coach Tigh Compton back to his home county. Compton was born and raised in Buchanan County and graduated from Grundy High School.
For local fans, the evening offers an opportunity to watch the Bears close to home while supporting Southern Gap’s young athletes.
Activities begin at 6 p.m. with a girls middle school basketball game between Southern Gap and Tazewell. UPike’s Orange and Black scrimmage follows at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5.
Billed as an “On the Road” event, the intrasquad scrimmage will feature UPike players competing against one another as they prepare for the upcoming season.
The Bears’ visit offers an early example of how Southern Gap’s state-of-the-art facility can serve the wider community, bringing college basketball to the new campus alongside the school’s own athletic programs.

Virginia Mountaineer Week 8 Football Scoreboard

Auburn 28, Northwood 26
Central (Wise) 49, Richlands 9
Eastside 14, Rye Cove 12
Gate City 42, John Battle 0
Grayson County 33, George Wythe 20
Harlan, KY 28, Thomas Walker 20
Holston 28, Patrick Henry 14
Lee High 34, Marion 6
Southern Gap 71, Tazewell 34
Twin Springs 69, Castlewood 6
Union 23, Ridgeview 20

Southern Gap Amphitheater takes shape as crews complete earthwork, lay sod

By CHAD COOPER
coopkam@gmail.com

The Southern Gap Amphitheater is taking shape, with earthwork complete, sod laid throughout the seating bowl and crews nearing completion of the stage roof as the venue prepares to welcome its first audiences in 2027.
The latest milestones mark another step forward for the Buchanan County project after years of planning, according to Asher McGlothlin, president and director of Sunset Holler Inc.
“It’s incredibly exciting to see the Southern Gap Amphitheater become a reality after years of planning and hard work,” McGlothlin said. “We’re incredibly grateful to all of our partners and donors who have helped bring this vision to life, and we never could have gotten here without the leadership and support of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors and the Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority.”
The outdoor venue is being constructed on the Breaks Interstate Park-owned Southern Gap Outdoor Adventure property. Once complete, it is expected to accommodate up to 2,500 guests for live music, entertainment and other events.
With grass now covering the seating bowl and the stage roof nearing completion, the work is giving residents a clearer picture of the gathering place Sunset Holler has worked to develop.
“We’re looking forward to welcoming our first audiences in 2027 and seeing the positive impact this venue can have on Buchanan County and the broader region for years to come,” McGlothlin said.
Plans call for an 84-foot-by-57-foot performance stage, including a 55-foot-by-42-foot clear area in the



Photo courtesy of Terra Tech Engineering

center large enough to accommodate a wrestling mat. That space would allow the amphitheater to host athletic competitions alongside concerts, festivals and community celebrations.
VMDO Architects and Terra Tech Engineering are designing the venue, with J.A. Street & Associates serving as general contractor.
Sunset Holler, a Virginia nonstock corporation formed in December 2018, initially planned a larger venue on property deeded to the organization by the Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority. The project was later scaled to a 2,500-guest venue, with plans involving a land swap among Sunset Holler, the IDA and Southern Gap Outdoor Adventure.
The Southern Gap Outdoor Adventure property be-

came part of the Breaks Interstate Park system after documents finalizing its sale were signed Dec. 1, 2025. The acquisition included the campground, associated operations and assets, and approximately 35 acres.
An agreement reached as part of the sale allowed Sunset Holler’s amphitheater project to move forward under the new ownership.
Construction has been expected to finish by the end of 2026, ahead of an inaugural season in 2027. The venue is intended to give residents a new place to gather while drawing visitors from Southwest Virginia and neighboring states.
For McGlothlin and the project’s supporters, the completed earthwork, newly laid sod and progress on the roof bring that opening season closer to reality.

AT THE CHIROPRACTOR

WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

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

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Small Eurasian deer

4. Province in Northern Ireland

10. A major division of geological time

11. Broadway actor Lane

12. Canadian province (abbr.)

14. Human gene

15. Two

16. A notable one was “blue”

18. Utter repeatedly

22. Ring-shaped objects

23. Sullies

24. Occurs

26. Commercial

27. Near

28. Tools you may need

30. A pledge

31. They start the alphabet

34. Silk garments

36. Soviet Socialist Republic

37. Longtime mayor of Rio

39. Hot meal

40. A type of gin

41. Atomic #84

42. \$10 bill

48. About ground

50. Medicine man

51. Seedless raisin

52. National capital of Albania

53. Appendage

54. OJ trial judge

55. European government entity (abbr.)

56. Bike parts

58. Friend to “Barbie”

59. Stretched to see or hear

60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Make up for

2. Baltimore ballplayer

3. Wages

4. International organization of countries

5. Engravers of gems

6. Declared as fact

7. One who steals

8. Jewelry

9. Hospital worker

12. Nonsense (slang)

13. Town in Galilee

17. Value

19. Alternative identity

20. Sheep in their second year

21. Town in Surrey, England

25. Appropriate to a time of year

29. Creative work

31. Recesses

32. Largely forested municipality in Germany

33. Rider of Rohan

35. Ancient symbol co-opted by Nazis

38. Pioneer

41. Scribe

43. Painted a bright color

44. Member of British nobility

45. “Pulp Fiction” actress Thurman

46. Helps people walk

47. Crest of a hill

49. People of southeastern Alaska

56. One’s own device

57. The Mount Rushmore State

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

SUDOKU

Level: Intermediate

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to chiropractic care.

N I O J T

Answer: Joint

GUESS WHO ?

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

Answer: Hugh Jackman

CRYPTO FUN

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

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

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

C. 16 7 9 24
Clue: Discomfort

D. 24 21 20 19
Clue: Supports the head

AMNVJVGISUBACUTEITAE
ILCWBDNOITATIVACTOTE
SOFHUXXOVERTEBRAEFUN
MURCASOJROTCODJOWGSC
XXSUBLUXATIIONOADI SCN
MEDECOMPRESSEIONIEOW
XTOFDDSPINEJNWSNIIGX
WSAFAJSDJVSOCCLNTLNE
HPDPTCHURIIMILFAMANJ
HTJCXVCESTTNELEORCS
OCUOBINOARAWAUWFUFJ
TWSUDINI AHVMPEIRNTBB
XOTATATENCCEMI FDGUPS
XSMPPTRTENANPBHGBEONH
GWESEIMFTAVTECGLJP
LFNHOOEIMNOITAPLAPB
PETNIIICRSCIAATICAAV
BVDBLNCRTBFRD VHWAL
BOS EVIDIVWCVHDSHCH
NJRNICTBERGONOMICS DW

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

Horoscopes

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

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

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

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

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Sports and competitive physical activities might appeal to you this week, Gemini. Teams, friends and group activities will be priorities, as will sharing ideas.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

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

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

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

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

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

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

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

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

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

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Be patient with spouses, partners and close friends, Sagittarius. Your patience will pay off and others will appreciate your calm demeanor.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

You might be tempted to make some improvements around home this week, Capricorn. Start with the spaces you use the most and then build from there.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

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

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Restrict your spending to the essentials this week, Pisces; otherwise, you might be tempted to spend money quickly and rashly.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 11

Cardi B, Singer (34)

OCTOBER 12

Josh Hutcherson, Actor (34)

OCTOBER 13

Caleb McLaughlin, Actor (25)

OCTOBER 14

Usher, Singer (48)

OCTOBER 15

Paul Walter Hauser, Actor (40)

OCTOBER 16

John Mayer, Singer (49)

OCTOBER 17

Charles Oliveira, MMA Fighter (37)

Supervisors approve additional funding for Southern Gap furniture

By CHAD COOPER
coopkam@gmail.com

The need for additional furniture at Southern Gap High School brought Buchanan County school Superintendent Sherry Fletcher before the Board of Supervisors on Oct. 5, with the board approving nearly \$100,000 despite the county administrator's recommendation against additional appropriations.

Meeting at the Government Center on Slate Creek, supervisors voted 6-1 to approve an additional appropriation of \$99,058.51 for Buchanan County Public Schools. Board Chairman Tim Hess cast the lone opposing vote.

Fletcher explained that the original furniture funding did not account for bringing eighth graders and students from Council High School into Southern Gap. Those additions created a need for more furniture than originally planned.

During the discussion, Fletcher was asked whether the school system had anticipated moving eighth graders to the high school when the original funding was established. She said it had not.

Asked whether those changes were the reason for the

additional request, Fletcher said they were and explained that the school system's current budget could not cover the expense.

"I do not currently have it in our budget to cover," Fletcher said.

County Administrator Craig Horn urged supervisors to hold off on additional appropriations, pointing to the county's spending on projects during the previous year.

"I recommend strongly that there be no additional appropriations from this board during this budget review," Horn said.

Knox supervisor Trey Adkins said the public needed to understand that the county's additional project spending did not mean it had overspent its budget. He pointed to special projects undertaken with the Industrial Development Authority.

"It wasn't that we overspent our budget," Adkins said. "It's important for the public to know that."

Horn agreed that the county had not overspent its budget but said it had spent at least \$2.5 million more on various projects.

Adkins made the motion to approve the furniture appropriation, with Rocklick supervisor Craig Stiltner seconding.

The discussion also turned to the former Grundy

High School building and the removal of window air conditioners during surplus sales.

Stiltner said he had visited the property and noticed windows had been boarded up after the units were removed. He questioned whether replacing the air conditioners and repairing the windows to prepare the property for a possible sale would cost more than the school system received from selling the units.

Fletcher said the principal had been responsible for overseeing the sale of surplus items from the school.

Supervisors also unanimously approved two transfers between school funds to address year-end balances and invoice coding.

The first moved \$400,000 from School Operating Fund 20 to Food Service Fund 24, effective June 30, 2026. The food service fund had a negative balance at the close of the fiscal year.

Adkins made the motion to approve that transfer, with Stiltner seconding.

The second moved \$50,000 from School Operating Fund 20 to School Construction Fund 25, also effective June 30, 2026. The transfer corrected invoices that had been coded to the school construction fund.

Adkins made the motion, with North Grundy supervisor Lee Dotson seconding.

CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTIONS

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

EMPLOYMENT

Teacher - teaching basic and focused science to K thru 12, building teamwork activities around curriculum. Reqs deg/exp. \$63,550/yr + stndrd benfts. Resume to A. Deel, Mountain Mission School Inc, Grundy, VA or HR@mmskids.org Ref: Sctf.

HOME IMP

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

Kitchen Staff Wanted
Mountain Mission School (MMS) is seeking a cook/kitchen staff. Position is part-time but may develop into full-time. Please apply online at www.mmskids.org or at the Administration Office 1760 Edgewater Dr. Grundy, VA

warranty and offer details.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

Trustee's Sale
721 Route 721, Keen Mountain, VA 24624
(Parcel ID: 2HH055054)
(Parcel ID: 2HH055033)
(Parcel ID: 2HH055055)
Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated June 29, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$87,000.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Buchanan, Virginia on July 13, 2006, as Instrument Number 060002378, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on November 09, 2026 at 1:00 PM, in front of the building housing the County of Buchanan Circuit Court, 1012 Walnut Street, Grundy, VA 24614, the property designated as SEVEN (7) LOTS AND ADJOINING 1/4TH ACRE TRACT, SITUATE ON LEVISA RIVER, AT KEEN MOUNTAIN, IN BUCHANAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND SHOWN ON PLAT ENTITLED "MAP: SUBDIVISION OF PROPERTY OF EDGAR M. CALL**", WHICH PLAT IS OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE, IN PLAT BOOK NO. 2, PAGE 26. There is Excepted and Reserved from this conveyance such of the Coal, Oil, Gas and Other Minerals, Rights, Rights of Way, Privileges and Easements, if any, as may have been heretofore Excepted, or conveyed from said Land by Proper Owners thereof. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$9,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certi-

fied funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Tromberg, Miller, Morris & Partners, PLLC on behalf of Southeast Equity Trustees, LLC and/or NFPDS-VA LLC, Substitute Trustee(s), 5310 Markel Road, Suite 201, Richmond, VA 23230, File No. 26-002346-VA, Tel: 804-525-1570. VAM 10-1,8,15;2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
APPLICATION FOR REISSUANCE OF NPDES PERMIT NO. 0082067
UNDER CHAPTER 19, TITLE 45.2 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA
Publication Number: 26NXA02
Application Number: 1011942

The Black Diamond Company of 1073 Riverview Street, Grundy, VA 24614 is applying to the Virginia Mined Land Repurposing Program for reissuance of NPDES Permit No. 0082067. The operation is located in Buchanan County along Bee Tree Branch of Cow Fork and along Middle Fork of Hunts Creek, directly off Route 610. The permit is situated on the Elkhorn City USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle Map. The acreage for this operation is 53.06 acres. Surface runoff from the permit will be discharged into Middle Fork of Russell Fork of the Big Sandy River. The existing discharge locations may be viewed on the Renewal Map which is attached in Section 5.15 of the application.

LEGAL NOTICES

Any person with a valid legal interest which might be adversely affected by this proposal, or an officer or head of any federal, state or local government agency or authority, may within 30 days of (October 22, 2026) submit written comments or objections concerning this application and may also request, in writing, that the Mined Land Repurposing Program hold an Informal Conference concerning this application. A copy of the application materials is available electronically for public inspection at <https://www.energy.virginia.gov/epinquiry/frmMain.aspx> All correspondence concerning this application should be submitted to the Mined Land Repurposing Program (Attention: Permit Section), 3405 Mountain Empire Road, Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219. Telephone (276) 523-8160. Written comments and a request for informal conference may be e-mailed to the Division at repurposingpublicnotice@energy.virginia.gov. VAM-10-1,8,15,22;2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
APPLICATION FOR RE-NEWAL/REISSUANCE OF COAL SURFACE MINING/ NPDES PERMIT NO. 1202170/0082170
UNDER CHAPTER 19, TITLE 45.2 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA
Publication Number: 26NXA03
Application Number: 1011935

The Black Diamond Company of 1073 Riverview Street,

LEGAL NOTICES

Grundy, VA 24614 is applying to the Virginia Mined Land Repurposing Program for renewal of Permit No. 1202170, to continue the operations at the following location:
The operation is located in Buchanan County along Cow Fork of Grassy Creek and is approximately 2.3 miles NE of Breaks, VA. The permit is situated on the Elkhorn City USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle Map. The acreage for this operation is 56.67 acres. Drainage will pass through sediment control structures and will be discharged into Tilley Fork and Abes Fork of Russell Fork of the Big Sandy River. The existing discharge locations may be viewed on the Renewal Map which is attached in Section 21.2 of the application. Additional discharge details are available in the NPDES Application attached in Section 5.15 of the application.
Any person with a valid legal interest which might be adversely affected by this proposal, or an officer or head of any federal, state or local government agency or authority, may within 30 days of October 15, 2026, submit written comments or objections concerning this application and may also request, in writing, that the Mined Land Repurposing Program hold an Informal Conference concerning this application. A copy of the application materials is available electronically for public inspection at <https://www.energy.virginia.gov/epinquiry/frmMain.aspx>

All correspondence concerning this application should be submitted to the Mined Land Repurposing Program (Attention: Permit Section), 3405 Mountain Empire Road, Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219. Telephone (276) 523-8160. Written comments and a request for informal conference may be e-mailed to the Division at repurposingpublicnotice@energy.virginia.gov. VAM-9-24,10-1,8,15;2026

SERVICES

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

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

Two Cemetery Plots together in Richlands Va.

Call 276-791-0650

The Buchanan County Public Library Library Director

The Buchanan County Public Library is accepting resumes for the position of **Library Director**.

The basic requirements are listed as follows:

Candidates must demonstrate expertise in public library operations including, administration, personnel, and fiscal and facility management. Critical skills needed include: community services, budgeting, financial planning, grant writing, and outreach services. The library director will report to a governing board of trustees.

Candidates must have the ability to effectively and positively represent the library before community groups and the public, consistent with the library's vision, mission, and strategic plan. They must have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with staff, library board of trustees, the Friends of the Buchanan County Public Library, community leaders, public officials, leaders of educational and civic organizations, and the general public.

Candidates must be reliable with satisfactory attendance and be able to communicate by phone, email, text, and instant message. They must be able to sit at a desk or stand for prolonged periods of time. They must be able to use a computer which requires repetitive wrist, hand and finger motion and extensive screen time. They must be able to lift 35lbs and push up to 150 lbs. on wheels. They must be able to travel independently to off-site meetings, workshops and community events.

Educational Requirements: Master of Library Science degree from an American Library Association accredited program and be eligible for a Librarian's Professional Certificate issued by the Library of Virginia. The duties, responsibilities and requirements listed above should not be interpreted as a comprehensive list. Additional duties and responsibilities may be assigned as deemed appropriate and may change at any time with or without notice.□

Successful candidates will be required to reside in Buchanan County within 6 months of employment.

Salary: To be based upon experience, anticipated to be between \$50,000-\$60,000. Health, dental, vacation, and retirement benefits will be provided by the county.

To Apply: Submit a cover letter, resume, and three work related references by Nov. 1, 2026.

Submit applications to: Chairperson Board of Trustees, Buchanan County Public Library, 1185 Poe Town ST, Grundy, VA 24614.

Inquiries may be addressed to Teresa Matney, acting Director at 276-935-5721.

Buchanan County Public Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Buchanan County Board of Supervisors invites Proposals for Pre-Audit Consulting Services by a qualified independent certified public accountant firm for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2027, June 30, 2028 and June 30, 2029, which shall be subject to competitive negotiations pursuant to Va. Code section 2.2-4302.2.

Requests for Proposals (RFP) may be obtained after Thursday,

October 8th, 2026. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30 o'clock a.m. until 5:00 o'clock p.m. at the County Administrator's Office, located on the third floor of the Buchanan County Government Center, 4447 Slate Creek Road, Grundy, Virginia. Further information may be obtained by contacting Ms. Sandy Stiltner, at 276-935-6508.

All proposals must be submitted to the County Administrator's office no later than **4:00 o'clock p.m., Wednesday, October 28th, 2026**. All proposals received after this time will be returned unopened; any incomplete or deviated proposals will not be accepted. Interview will be established at a later date with selected offerors.

Buchanan County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if it appears in the best interest of the County.

BUCHANAN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Robert Craig Horn, County Administrator

