

PLAN AHEAD WITH OUR CALENDAR

» INSIDE, B4



BOOR NETS GOAL NO. 100 IN NELSON WIN

» SPORTS, B1

NELSON COUNTY TIMES

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‘MILESTONE’

Nelson County High School graduates celebrate ‘ending and beginning’ with a new tradition



PHOTOS BY LEE LUTHER JR./FOR THE NELSON COUNTY TIMES

The Nelson County High School Class of 2019 graduation festivities on May 24 included fireworks, beach balls and silly string.

BY ERIN CONWAY
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Inside

For a complete list of Nelson County High School graduates from the Class of 2019, see **page A3**.



Nelson County Schools Superintendent Martha Eagle starts a tradition by giving each graduate a presidential dollar coin.

This year, Nelson County Public Schools Superintendent Martha Eagle kicked off the 64th annual Nelson County High School commencement ceremony by starting a new tradition.

“The tradition is a gift. I want to give you a gift,” Eagle told the class of 2019.

As each of the almost 160 graduates walked across the stage on the evening of May 24, they were given a presidential dollar coin. Eagle told the class she was giving them their first dollar earned as Nelson County High School graduates and she wished for it to be the first of many dollars earned and for them to never stop learning.

“Whatever you choose to be in life,

you need to try to be the best possible version of it. Be the best ‘you’ you can be,” Eagle said.

The sky was clear and the day had cooled as parents, friends, family members, school teachers, administrators and the graduates sat in the stands and on the football field to celebrate the end of another school year and the beginning of a new chapter in the graduates’ lives.

“I, we, your teachers, and Nelson County, and parents, believe in you. We wish you success, but most of all happiness. Nothing in life is worthwhile if you aren’t happy,” Nelson

See **GRADUATES**, Page A3

Grant money awarded to Nelson Community Wellness Alliance

Organization looking to bring family drug treatment court to region

BY ERIN CONWAY
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The Nelson Community Wellness Alliance is one step closer to its goal of bringing a family drug treatment court to the county after receiving a competitive grant.

A family drug treatment court has the goal of keeping families

together if possible while also getting the parents the help they need to fight their drug addiction.

The Blue Ridge Medical Center in Arrington, applied for an Opioid Response Planning Grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration in March and was one of the three Virginia agencies — and one of 120 across the country — to receive

money to help fight drug problems in rural areas. The medical center is acting as fiscal agent for the alliance until it receives 501(c)(3) status.

According to the news release from HRSA, the money will help “formalize partnerships with local stakeholders, conduct needs assessments, and develop plans to implement and sustain substance use disorder (SUD), in-

cluding opioid use disorder (OUD), prevention, treatment, and recovery interventions.”

The \$200,000 planning grant will allow the alliance to hire two full-time employees and provide them with the means to assess the needs of the county.

“The first step is for everyone on the network to come together to discuss a family treatment court, the needs, and what it would require. We can hire a coordinator for the alliance to

make sure these things will happen,” Stephanie Martin, a member of the alliance, said.

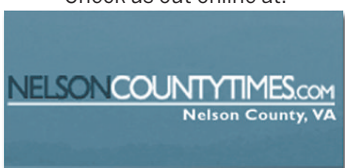
Martin said the alliance members currently work full time and don’t have the time to fully dedicate to studying the needs of the county or what a family drug treatment court would require, but this grant money helps them do just that.

“A number of things could be

See **GRANT**, Page A2

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Index

- Calendar..... B4
- Classifieds..... B5
- Community..... B3
- Crossword..... B3
- Obituaries..... A5
- Opinion..... A4
- Pet of the Week..... B3
- Sports..... B1

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Classifieds

» Get the latest on places to rent, employment, auto sales and other announcements, plus an easy-to-navigate system. **Page B5**

