The Voice of the City of Galax, Carroll County & Grayson County

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3 file for Carroll supervisors race

Seats on county board are up for election in November







By ETHAN CAMPBELL

HILLSVILLE — Campaigns for 2019 municipal elections are well underway in Carroll County, as several incumbents will be facing opposition on the ballots in

of Supervisors - two for the Pine Creek will secure a thriving economic infrastrucdistrict, the incumbent and a challenger; ture in Carroll County. and the incumbent seeking another seat as the board's at-large member.

After a number of fiercely debated topics have revealed conflicting viewpoints among the supervisors and citizens, it has been difficult at times to reach resolutions So far, three candidates have filed to run for local issues. Both incumbents and chalfor two seats on the Carroll County Board lengers acknowledge the imperatives that

Pine Creek District

Pine Creek District Supervisor Bob Martin, a Republican and who describes himself as an advocate of Christian values in the Carroll community, will be facing

See CARROLL, Page 2A

State health

officials warn

of hepatitis

outbreak

Those at high risk should get vaccine;

hand washing can prevent spread of hepatitis A virus

The Virginia Department

of Health is warning of an increase in hepatitis A virus

(HAV) cases, and health offi-

cials say prevention measures include vaccination

Multiple states across the

country are experiencing

HAV outbreaks, the depart-

ment said in a news release

first identified in 2016, more

than 15,000 cases and 8,500

hospitalizations (57% of

cases) have been reported in

the United States. Virginia

has reported a 132% increase

in cases of HAV between

Since these outbreaks were

and hand washing.

this week.

Staff Report

Refinancing will allow EMS to buy new ambulance

Galax-Grayson EMS wants to replace aging equipment

By SHANNON WATKINS

Galax City Council will allow the regional EMS service to refinance its building so it will have enough money to buy new ambulances. There were no speakers at a public hearing

April 8 regarding a deed of trust on the Galax-Grayson EMS building on Oldtown Street in Galax.

GGEMS requested permission to refinance the building in order to free up capital for the lease or purchase

ambulances. The city is listed as owner of the property, but GGEMS has paid the

city for the building and pays

its own operating and maintenance costs. The hearing was to consider granting a deed of trust to the Mount Rogers Planning District; the EMS service has the repayment of a loan in their budget and is responsible for payments to Mount Rogers.

Council approved the request.

In a directly related matter, council also passed a motion to allow preparation of paperwork so that the EMS service can lease or purchase new ambulances. The ambulance GGEMS is interested in is a model used one or two years for demonstration purposes only.

As City Manager Keith Barker informed council, most of the GGEMS ambulances have well over 100,000 miles of use now, and repair costs will be upwards of \$125,000 this year.

The EMS service plans to obtain two 4-wheel drive ambulances and one 2-wheel drive ambulance at a combined cost of \$129,088.

These vehicles should have less that 20,000 miles on them, and carry extensive service and maintenance warranties.

See GALAX, Page 2A



Drivers had to steer clear as police and helpers handled a cattle call Wednesday

By SHANNON WATKINS Staff

Where's the beef?

Three cows escaped from a Bottomley Evergreens & Farms livestock trailer near Fries Road on Tuesday evening before leading a chase that lasted about two hours, but it proved to be no tale of crying over spilled milk.

"They were just coming up the hill here and the door busted open," said Tim Bolen, a Bottomley employee. "That was all, just one, but then they opened the door to get that one back in, and the other two jumped out."

The cows were on their way to Ennice, N.C

Shaun Wilkins of Alleghany

See COWS, Page 2A



GROUND BEEF: Finally taking one cow down.



Hoofin' IT: Trying to tackle a cow in a field near Mountain View Park in Galax.



Where's the BEEF? Playing hide and seek with pursuers.

Jan. 1 and April 19, compared to the same time period in 2018. There have been 45 cases reported in Virginia as of April. HAV is an inflammation of the liver caused by the hepatitis A virus. The classic symptom of HAV is jaundice, which is a yellowing of the skin or the eyes. Other symptoms include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nau-

and clay-colored stools. Symptoms develop 15-50 days after exposure to the virus. It is very important for people who have symptoms to stay home from work, especially if they work in food service, health care or child care, the VDH said.

sea, vomiting, abdominal

pain, joint pain, dark urine

"The increase in HAV cases in Virginia indicates that the commonwealth is now experiencing the effects

See HEPATITIS, Page 2A

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WEATHER

Mostly

SUNNY

High 66°F • Low 54°F PRECIP: 0%

SUNDAY

Mostly

CLOUDY High 71°F • Low 49°F

PRECIP: 0%

INSIDE

CLASSIFIED......7B-9B

ABOUT PEOPLE......5A OBITUARIES.....4A ADOPT A PET......3A SOMETHING TO DO.....3B ARTS & MUSIC......3A Sports......6A-7A Сниксн......4В-5В TODD JENNINGS......1B

VOL. 142, NO. 50 -- 20 PAGES A LANDMARK MEDIA ENTERPRISES NEWSPAPER

What's Happening...10A





Continued from Page 1A

off in the May 18 Republican primary against challenger Tracy Moore.

Martin, a graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in education, and master's degree recipient from Radford University, has recently spoken out on several issues, including the passage of a pro-life resolution the supervisors sent to Gov. Ralph Northam on behalf of the county.

Running for his seventh non-consecutive term, Martin remains committed to his viewpoints regarding the importance of providing financial support for Carroll County Public Schools.

"I will continue, along with the rest of the board, to meet obligations in expenses. We keep getting hit with regional jail expenses and child protective services to the tune of about a million dollars a year," he said. "That money we just don't have, but we will continue to work on the budget and try to deal with the added expense. Some things really put us in between a rock and a hard

Martin continued, "I have always supported the school budget; this was the first year that I ever voted to reduce it. However, the required amount that Carroll County has to pay for our part of the school system we are three times above the required amount. I'm very proud of that." Martin said he has long been concerned

that "the relationship that Carroll County had with its neighbors has not been as together in a friendly and cooperative manner as it should have been. I think in the last eight years that Carroll County's relationships to the Town of Hillsville, City of Galax, Grayson County, Wythe County and Pulaski County has never been better. We have several projects that have been very successful with Galax and Grayson County, including the solid waste authority.' He would like this regional cooperation to

continue, "and when these industries go into places around us, they hire people from Carroll, Galax and Grayson. What's good for surrounding localities is good for Carroll in that sense."

Martin, who was one of 200 people recently invited to White House to attend a committee regarding rural prosperity in America, also noted the imperative of improving internet services. "President Trump pushed the need for broadband in rural America. I'm also going to push for broadband, and we have grants approved already and to get broadband in places that have very weak service.'

The Republican challenger for nomination to seek the Pine Creek seat, Tracy Moore, is a lifelong resident of Dugspur. He touched on promoting economic development in the county, and says he feels that promoting natural resources is an important factor in doing so.

Moore, an employee of Appalachian Natural Gas who has served with the Carroll County Public Service Authority, says he recognizes the potential that natu-

business clients to the area.

Moore also agreed that improving internet service in Carroll County is imperative for advancing education and providing enhanced experiences for students at Carroll County Public Schools.

ral gas carries for attracting potential

"I know there are students in some areas of the county who have trouble when it comes to submitting assignments using the internet, and they end up having to compete with students in other areas that have better internet," he said. "Getting better internet in the county gives all students a chance to succeed in school.'

Moore said he knows a lot of people in the community. "That's one of the biggest reasons I decided to run. I want to talk to the people, and be their mouthpiece in government. I'll be there to check into issues and to supply people with the information they are looking for. I also want to be one of the supervisors on the board to

help turn things around. He continued, "I know that it takes more than one person to do it and it cant always be don't overnight. Its important to get a good stable plan and a mission and move forward with it. I just want to thank

the citizens of Pine Creek for allowing me

to be in the running for the primary.'

At-Large Supervisor

At-Large Supervisor Robbie McCraw is running unopposed so far for the Republican

The incumbent supervisor is a graduate of Carroll County High School and citizen of the county for over 40 years, has worked in multiple industries throughout Carroll's economic progression; including textile industries such as American Mirror and Southern States.

McCraw also has 17 years of experience in contractor relations at Lowe's Hardware, during which he says provided him the opportunity to build lasting relationships with many who comprise the foundation for development and infrastructure in Carroll. McCraw, who is currently in his fourth

year serving as at-large supervisor, also described the importance of understanding the local agriculture industry, and attributed much of his knowledge to working on his family's farm as a young man in Fancy Gap. His family's roots in the community date back to the Civil War era, he said. "My heart belongs in Carroll County, and

that's because of my family's roots here. I truly love this area, and that's why I decided to run for office, and want to continue running," McCraw said.

"Over the years as I developed relationships with people while I worked at Lowe's, I began to see that the county was struggling for economic development," he continued. "I never expected to see myself in local politics. There have been a lot of great people that have served as supervisors in past years. One person that I can say really helped me understand a lot of things, and ultimately helped me lean toward making a decision to run for office, is Carl Delp. Like Martin and Moore, he agrees that

broadband is key to improving the economy. "Broadband internet is something that we have really tried to focus on in the past several years.

Developing strong infrastructure also will require a focus on population growth,' McCraw said. "Our growth has stagnated here, and the majority of our population here is folks that have second homes as retirees. We cannot continue to go down this road that we have been on financially and expect people living on fixed incomes to continue to give. At the same time, we do have to maintain services for people in the county, and there are many things that way in on finding a balance that's best for both.

As for how taxes would pay for services, "I've made it pretty clear, we cannot even look at things right now that are going to place any more burden on our taxpayers.

He also has concerns about the area's workforce. "We are struggling, and the industry that's already here has a hard time finding people to work. Our school system does a really good job teaching trades. I think it would be beneficial to place an even greater emphasis on the importance of trades. College isn't for everyone, and with fewer people pursing these skills in trades, we end up with a shortage of folks that are here and ready to enter the workforce."

McCraw said agriculture is one of the county's strongest points. "We have a lot of people that grow produce. I would love to see us find a company that would be willing to bring a frozen vegetable plant to this area. That way, things don't have to be transported and that produce is quick and easy to get to. For example, Virginia Produce has grown their business by supplying two grocery chains with locally grown items and are very prominent in Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee.'

"I also feel like our livestock is equally important. We have a perfect place where we can work towards providing a facility for grassfed beef. Promoting the organic structure of livestock is huge. Everyone nowadays wants only grassfed beef."

He continued, "There's a huge opportunity here for that type of industry, and it's going to take a private/public partnership together to make it work. It's a process that's promising that we could try and hopefully do something with it on a large scale.'

Recently, McCraw attended a supervisors networking committee conducted through the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO). "This was an eye-opening experience to get to meet with supervisors from other localities and build this type of network," he said. "I got to see a lot of people facing similar issues that we are now facing right here in Carroll County, and it is a great thing to be able to seek advice from peers that are in the same position, even from those in areas like Powhatan and Richmond that we would normally not consider rural areas.'

Continued from Page 1A

Other Action

In other action at the April 8 meeting,

· heard a request from Logan Nester of Mount Rogers Community Services Board, who asked that council adopt a resolution to change the organization's name to simply

Mount Rogers Community Services. Nester said that the term "board" had been dropped from most community service agencies in Virginia. "They think that it kind of eliminated confusion in the community.

He said that "services" represents what is offered to the community, while "the word 'board' is more just about how we're structured."

Council approved the request.

• heard presentation from Finance Director Judy Taylor-Gallimore and City Engineer Edwin Ward about the nature of their jobs, in order to keep council generally informed of

the city's workings. · approved a budget amendment for the

Department of Social Services under the Child Services Act. DSS Director Tammy Smith made the request for an amendment due to rising costs, as there are more children in foster care than anticipated.

The amount, \$101,000, will be transferred over from the city's capital funds account, from money left over after the sale of a parcel of land on Jack Guynn Drive earlier this year. The amount was previously reviewed and approved by the Community Management Policy Team.

 appointed K.J. Holbrook of Mount Rogers Community Services and Beth Roper of Family Preservation to the Community Management Policy Team, as requested by Tammy Smith.

• appointed Dr. Jim Adams as to the Galax Industrial Development Authority. His term will go through June 30, 2021, to fill the remaining term of Mike Larrowe, who stepped down from that post when he joined Galax City Council.





ROUND-UP: A team of helpers and veterinarians were able to tranquilize the three escaped cows and load them back on a trailer.

Gazette photos by Shannon Watkins

Cows

Continued from Page 1A

County, N.C., who helped round them up, said he was just in the area to help his girlfriend, a Galax resident, change a flat tire. "I saw the guy pull over," said Wilkins,

and I looked in my mirror and saw the cattle go by the road." He took care of the tire first, 'and then came back and three of them had got out altogether. So this has been going on for a couple of hours." He pitched in to help. Thanks to the hard work and quick think-

ing of the Bottomley's team, Galax police officers, veterinary medicine experts from Healing Springs Animal Hospital, a conservation officer from the state Department of Game and Inland Fisheries who was in the vicinity, Wilkins and helpful area residents, the cattle were rounded up before they could injure themselves or others, or cause any property damage. After being shot with tranquilizers, the

reticent cows were dragged back to the trailer, one at a time, and loaded back on. The third proved feisty, apparently ready to go down before gaining a second wind and running onto Fries Road from the Highland Road neighborhood. It finally collapsed onto the blacktop and was loaded into the trailer with its companions. During the chase, a beagle puppy strayed

into the scene, but was corralled by Police Officer Eduardo Mata, who located the owner down the street after the chase was over. "The dog was out here and roaming the street, and we kind of tried to save it, just like the calf,"

It wasn't the first time that day that cows were reported loose. Galax police officers were also dispatched to round up a stray bovine on South Main Street earlier in the afternoon, although no official details were available about the incident.

GET ALONG, LITTLE DOGGIE: Cows weren' the only escaped animals on Tuesday Police Officer Eduardo Mata rescued this puppy during the cattle chase and returned it to its owner.

And the trend continued.

On Wednesday, motorists encountered a small herd of cows meandering down Old Baywood Road just outside the city.

And, on Thursday, police received reports of four calves loose somewhere in the city.

Of these incidents, Capt. James Cox of the police department said, "I guess the grass is greener on the other side of the fence.

Hepatitis

Continued from Page 1A

of this nationwide outbreak," said State Health Commissioner M. Norman Oliver. "We want everyone to know how the infection is spread, be able to recognize the symptoms, and take actions to prevent the spread of hepatitis A."

The virus is spread through direct contact with another person who has the infection or by consuming food or drink that has been contaminated with the virus. The following groups are at highest risk for acquiring HAV infection or developing serious complications from HAV infection in these outbreaks: injection and non-injection drug users; anyone experiencing or who has recently experienced homelessness; men who have sex with men; and people who are or were recently incarcerated.

The best way to prevent HAV is by getting

vaccinated, health officials say. Hepatitis A vaccine is available at many doctor's offices, pharmacies and local health departments across the state. Another important method of prevention is frequent handwashing with soap and warm water, especially after using the bathroom, changing a diaper or before preparing food.

In Virginia, local health departments, in conjunction with community partners, are working to increase hepatitis A vaccination rates statewide. The efforts specifically focus on individuals who are members of high risk groups, but any Virginian who desires hepatitis A vaccine should receive it, the VDH

For more information about HAV, visit vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/hav/.

Virginia

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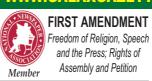
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