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SUNDAY, February 24, 2019

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**OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING**

## 'TRAGIC DAY'

■ Longtime Sullivan County deputy seriously wounded ■ Suspect dead; officers making check welfare call



DEPUTY STEVE HINKLE

**Virginia**

## General Assembly approves casino legislation

BY DAVID MCGEE  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Compromise legislation that could ultimately bring casino gaming to Virginia — and Bristol, if approved by voters — passed the General Assembly Saturday night.

The approval is a win for the \$250 million Bristol Resort and Casino project proposed for the Bristol Mall. It must still be signed by the governor.

Substitute Senate Bill 1126 authorizes casino gaming in Virginia to be regulated by the Virginia Lottery Board. The bill specifies the licensing requirements for casino gaming and imposes criminal and civil penalties for violations of the casino gaming law. Casino gaming would be limited to certain cities that meet the criteria outlined in the bill, and a referendum must be passed in the city on the question of allowing casino gaming in the city. The referendum must be adopted prior to Jan. 1, 2021.

The bill requires the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to report no later than Nov. 1 regarding recommendations for casino gaming in the commonwealth. The bill includes a re-enactment clause for the referendum provisions of the bill.

The legislation, which is largely the same as bills carried by state Sen. Bill Carrico, R-Galax, and Sen. Louise Lucas, D-Portsmouth, would specifically allow the referenda to occur in Bristol, Danville and Portsmouth. It also would allow referenda in Richmond and Norfolk, two cities identified as potential sites for a casino owned and operated by the Pamunkey Indian Tribe.

The state can only issue one casino license per city, if approved by a local voter referendum.

See **CASINO**, Page A5

BY ROBERT SORRELL  
and LURAH SPELL

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**B**LOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — A longtime Sullivan County deputy was shot and in serious condition late Saturday, and a Blountville man was dead after law enforcement responded to a home on a welfare check earlier in the day.

"This is a very tragic day for us," an emotional Sullivan County Sheriff Jeff Cassidy said during a news conference Saturday evening. "It's a very stressful day."

At about 7:25 a.m. Saturday, the department received a request from individuals to check the welfare of 44-year-old Jackie Scott Pendergrass. The man lived in a home in the 3600 block of U.S. Highway 11W, not far from state Route 394 and the Dollar General store.

See **SHOOTING**, Page A6



PHOTOS BY ANDRE TEAGUE/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**ABOVE:** Sullivan County Sheriff Jeff Cassidy (right) is comforted by an unidentified TBI agent Saturday afternoon during an active shooter barricade event on highway 11W. **MIDDLE:** A window damaged on the house where an active shooter wanted for injuring a Sullivan County Sheriff's Office deputy barricaded himself for several hours Saturday. **BOTTOM:** Cars are blocked at a mobile command post set up near the intersection of Highway 11W and state Route 394.

**ONLINE**  
Watch video of Saturday's press conference at **HeraldCourier.com**.

## Fellow Sullivan County officers describe Hinkle as 'very respected'

BY LURAH SPELL AND ROBERT SORRELL  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**B**LOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — Those at the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office were praying late Saturday that one of their own pulls through after he was seriously wounded in an exchange of gunfire.

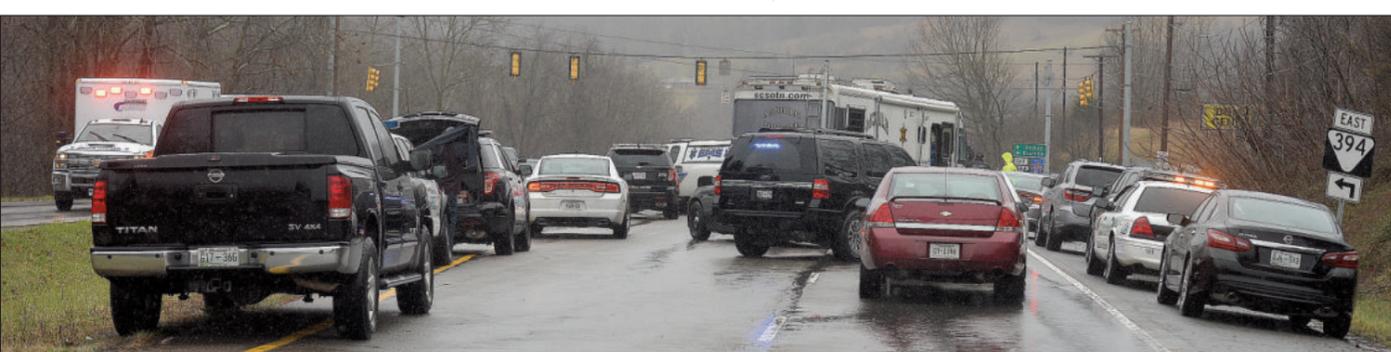
Deputy Steve Hinkle, a 33-year veteran at the Sheriff's Office, was shot while

attempting to conduct a welfare check on Jackie Pendergrass, who was later found dead, at his home in Blountville.

At press time late Saturday, Hinkle was listed in serious condition at a local hospital.

"Deputy Hinkle was a very loved officer here," Sheriff Jeff Cassidy said at

See **HINKLE**, Page A7



Weather » A10

Thank you,  
**Susan Roper**,  
for subscribing  
to the Bristol  
Herald Courier.



**COMMUNITY**

Volunteers work to transport dogs to new shelters to be adopted » D1

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# Shooting

From Page A1

The sheriff did not say why officers were asked to check on Pendergrass. Cassidy said police had been to the residence just three times in the past, only investigating two burglaries in 2011 and a disturbance in 2013.

At some point while officers approached the house, a single-story residence along a creek, Cassidy said Pendergrass fired at least one shot. "The officers then retreated toward cover," Cassidy said.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Public Information Officer Leslie Earhart said Pendergrass retreated and barricaded himself inside the home. A short time later, Pendergrass began firing at officers again, Earhart said. Deputies returned fire.

During the exchange of gunfire, Deputy Steve Hinkle, a 65-year-old veteran at the Sheriff's Office, was struck by gunfire.

Hinkle, who suffered serious injuries, was transported to a local unidentified hospital, where he remained Saturday night. No details about how many times he was shot or the extent of his injuries were released. Multiple officers were on scene when Hinkle was shot.

"They were sort of pinned down at that one point," Cassidy said. "Thankfully, we did get Officer Hinkle out of anymore harm's way, which takes a lot of effort when someone is actively shooting."

After Hinkle was shot, a large number of law enforcement agencies responded, including officers from the Carter County Sheriff's Office, Kingsport Police Department, Bristol Tennessee Police Department, Bluff City Police Department, Hawkins County Sheriff's Office, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Authorities shut down a portion of U.S. Highway 11W and state Route 394 as police attempted to apprehend the individual.

"Numerous attempts were made to negotiate with Mr. Pendergrass, which were unsuccessful," Cassidy said.

Various local tactical team officers, the hazardous device unit from Bristol, K9 officers and other specialized officers were called to the scene in attempts to resolve the standoff.

Loud unspecified banging noises could be heard for several hours, likely the sound of officers attempting to take the man into custody.

"After several hours, entry was made into the residence, and the suspect was found deceased," Cassidy said.

It was not yet known late Saturday how Pendergrass died. No one else was at the home, and there were no other injuries.

With the situation resolved, agents from the TBI took over the investigation to determine what happened. The TBI investigates when there is an officer-involved shooting.

"This remains an active and ongoing investigation, as TBI special agents and forensic scientists continue to work to gather any and all relevant interviews and evidence," Earhart

*"This is a very tragic day for us. It's a very stressful day."*

— Jeff Cassidy, Sullivan County sheriff



Armed police officers maintain a perimeter around a house where a person wanted for shooting and injuring a Sullivan County Sheriff's Office deputy barricaded himself for several hours Saturday. The suspect was later found dead.



The house where a person wanted for shooting a Sullivan County Sheriff's Office deputy barricaded himself on Saturday.



The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office tactical squad is seen briefing Saturday during an active shooter event on U.S. Highway 11W.



An officer maintains watch during Saturday's active shooting event near U.S. Highway 11W.

remained on scene for much of the day and yellow caution tape surrounded the property, damage to the home could be seen from the roadway. Some sort of projectile appears to have been lodged through the front window, where holes could be seen in the glass.

Ruby Barnett, who lives on Hines Road behind Dollar General, said she heard multiple gunshots fired around 9 a.m. as she was making breakfast for her five granddaughters.

She said at first she thought the shots were fireworks, but she quickly determined they weren't when she looked out her window and saw several Sheriff's Office vehicles in the Dollar General parking lot and along U.S. Highway 11W. Barnett said she also had heard sirens before the gunshots but didn't think anything of it since sirens are common in that busy area of 11W. She said she thought the store had been robbed.

"We've been terrified all morning," Barnett said on Saturday afternoon. "I knew something was wrong. I started locking doors and getting the girls in safe places."

Barnett said she told her granddaughters to stay away from the windows and paced her house all day looking outside to make sure no one was on her property. At one point, she said she saw two SWAT team officers on the property next to hers.

Later in the day, a TBI agent came to Barnett's house to ask if she had seen or heard anything, or if she had surveillance cameras outside her home, which is on a hill overlooking 11W.

"He [TBI agent] was very shaken," she said. "I felt sorry for him."

Barnett said she's lived in her home for 10 years, and nothing like Saturday's events had ever happened.

Donald and Vickie Rodefer, who also live on Hines Road, said they didn't know anything had happened until their son called and said he had seen news reports that there had been a shooting nearby, which is when they looked outside and saw police. They didn't know who was currently living in the house, but Donald Rodefer said at one time his great aunt lived there.

A man, who lives next door but didn't want to be named, said he didn't hear any gunshots or see anything prior to seeing police along state Route 394 and Reedy Creek Lane at 10 a.m. He thought there had been a wreck, so he asked officers who told him the area was under active lockdown, and he needed to go inside and lock his doors.

A man who lives on Reedy Creek Lane, who also didn't want to be named, said police parked along his road Saturday morning. Officers didn't tell him why they were there, but told him to stay inside, he said.

Jackie Dunn, who lives nearby on Rodefer Drive, said she didn't know anything had happened until her sister, who lives next door, called at 8:30 Saturday morning about a large police presence in the area. That's when she looked outside and saw several police cars.

"We've lived here 10 years, and that's the first time I've ever seen anything like that," she said.

were on scene Saturday. Pendergrass has no known previous criminal history.

"He wasn't very well known to the criminal justice system," Cassidy said. "He wasn't very well known to the officers. Whatever led up to this, of course, is under further investigation."

An online records check revealed Pendergrass has no criminal history in Sullivan County but had one civil case from the 1990s. Although special agents

said. "As in any case, TBI's investigative findings will be shared with

the district attorney general throughout the process."

Representatives from District Attorney General Barry Staubus' office

# Teens tweet Trump, find Senate ally, score civil rights win

**BY LISA MASCARO**  
AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON — All the bill needed to become law was President Donald Trump's signature. It would create a national archive of documents from civil rights cold cases. Students had been working on the project for years, families waiting on it for decades. But time was running out.

Legislation dies in the transition from one session of Congress to the next, and unless Trump acted, it would be lost.

So the students at New Jersey's Hightstown High School did what teenagers do: They started tweeting at the president.

## Sunday Spotlight

since graduated but still works with the students.

Imagine, the class considered, all the people, African-Americans mostly, who have lived with questions about what happened to their loved ones 50 years or more ago. The killings and injuries have long passed. The perpetrators are gone. But the families, she said, "they're still with us."

The students' interest began in 2015, when teacher Stuart Wexler's Advanced Placement government and policy class at Hightstown High was studying the civil rights movement. They couldn't believe that in America, so many criminal cases involving racial violence and death could remain unsolved.

Srihari Suvramanian, 17, a senior, said in an Associated Press telephone interview with the class: "It's just atrocious that these individuals have gotten away with crimes committed decades ago, for so long, even though the majority of Americans know it's wrong."

He added: "We think it's very important to provide a

sense of closure. Even if we can't get a full sense of closure, maybe provide some answers to the people that were denied justice."

The students crowdsourced a list of cases, filed Freedom of Information Act requests and then waited. Research on old cases often runs into dead ends, and they could imagine the difficulties that families go through trying to get answers.

They turned their attention to Congress.

The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992,

which collects records at the National Archives from the assassination, provided a model for the legislation they wanted. They took bus trips to Washington to find supporters. Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., was among the first to sign on, inspired, his office said, by the work and the possibility it held.

Then Democrat Doug Jones won a Senate seat from Alabama in December 2017. They had already reached out to Jones, the U.S. attorney who won convictions after reopening the 16th Street Baptist

Church bombing case from 1963 in Birmingham.

Six months after he was sworn in as the first Democratic senator from Alabama in a generation, Jones stood on the Senate floor and introduced the bill that would become the Civil Rights Cold Case Collection Act. The students watched from the gallery above.

"Justice can take many forms," Jones said. Reconciliation can be a potent force, he said. "After all this time, we might not solve every one of these cold cases, but my hope is, our efforts

today will, at the very least, help us find some long overdue healing and understanding of the truth."

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, who was presiding in the chamber that day, has said he was so moved that he told Jones he would sign on as a co-sponsor. Cruz helped bring Republicans on board. By December, in the final days of the congressional session, the bill unanimously passed the Senate and was approved in the House, 376-6. From there, it was off to the president's desk.

## Hinkle

From Page A1

a news conference Saturday night. "I've worked with him for many years. ... Deputy Hinkle is very respected. He's a father, grandfather, brother and also a brother of our agency. We love him dearly."

As Cassidy held back tears, he said those who work at the Sheriff's Office will continue praying. He asked for the prayers of those in the community.

"It's just a hard time," he said. "We're just wishing for the best."

Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Michael Cole, who is also a county commissioner, has worked with Hinkle for 14 years.

"He was a fantastic person," he said. "He was fun. He was kind. He would help any officer that needed help. He would take them under his wing and train and help them through it to become better officers. That's just the kind of person he was. He wanted everybody to succeed."

Longtime Sullivan County constable Kent Harris has known Hinkle since the 1980s, when he served as a reserve deputy.

"He was a good man to work with," he said. "He cared for other people."

Harris said Hinkle always has a smile on his face and jokes with people, but is serious when it came to his job, often sharing his law enforcement knowledge with younger officers. He said he and local officers were heartbroken when they heard Hinkle was wounded.

"Everyone said positive things about him," Harris said. "He was always glad to see you when he was out."

Hinkle is a certified firearms instructor who assists constables with their training in Sullivan County, according to Harris.

Sullivan County Jail Health Administrator Christy Frazier said Hinkle is a "great man" who volunteers a lot to help with county school functions.

"He spent his life doing this," Frazier said, referring to his time in law enforcement. "He was always the officer who did the little extra things we all know and love our officers to do."

Over the years, Cassidy said Hinkle has worked in the Sheriff's Office's corrections, patrol, courts, and process divisions and also as a school resource officer at Sullivan East and Sullivan Central high schools.

Sullivan Central High School Principal Mark Foster, who said Hinkle is a good friend, described him as kind, easygoing and gentle.

"That was the way he dealt with everybody in his life, whether it was staff at the school, [or] students, even students who would sometimes become unruly," he said. "He was all about taking care of business, but he was very kind. The students absolutely loved Steve Hinkle. ... He put almost everyone, especially students, ahead of everything."

Foster said Hinkle worked as an SRO at the school from 2012 to May 2018. While he was there, he always made sure students were well taken care of, even positioning himself between the front doors of the school and the students to protect them, especially during lunch because the cafeteria is close to the doors, Foster said.

Director of Schools Evelyn Rafalowski said Hinkle has been an important part of the Sullivan County Schools family for many years.

"He is highly respected and very much a friend in our school district and has been very well loved," she said. "Our prayers are certainly with him and his family."

On Saturday, several people changed their Facebook profile photos to a photo of a Sullivan County Sheriff's Office uniform patch with a photo embossed on top that reads "Pray for our officers," or to a photo of a Sheriff's Office star with a black elastic strap across it.

Local police departments and sheriff's offices asked for prayers for Hinkle on Facebook and Twitter Saturday.

People commented on social media that Hinkle is a "special officer," a "blessing," and a "kind and gracious man."

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REGION » A9

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# BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

MONDAY, February 25, 2019

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## Record rainfall soaks region

BY LEIF GREISS  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Rain over the weekend in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia set records and caused flooding and mudslides that blocked roads.

George Matthews with the National Weather Service office in Morristown said based on readings from Tri-Cities Airport in Blountville, rainfall on Saturday set the rainfall record for that date at 1.83 inches. As of Sunday, Matthews said 10.31 inches of year to date rainfall makes this February the wettest on record in the Tri-Cities.

Though it had stopped raining in much of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia by Sunday, the National Weather Service Morristown's flood warning won't end until 2:45 p.m. Monday.

Dispatch with Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, police departments said they had not received any serious calls related to flooding. Dave Vencill with the

See **RAINFALL**, Page A10

### Rainfall in Tri-Cities

» **Saturday, Feb. 23:** 1.83 inches (new record for Feb. 23). Previous record was 1.47 inches  
 » **Year-to-date February:** 10.31 inches (new record). Previous record was 7.75 inches.

### Forecast

» **Monday:** Sunny but windy with a high of 45 degrees. The weather will remain clear Monday night, and the winds will die down a bit, but temperatures will drop to 29 degrees.  
 » **Tuesday:** Sunny with a high of 56 degrees. It will become partly cloudy Tuesday night, and temperatures will drop to 36 degrees.  
 » **Wednesday:** Slight chance of rain Wednesday into Wednesday night. During the day it will be partly sunny with a high of 57 degrees. In the evening it will be mostly cloudy and 42 degrees.  
 » **Further out:** There is a chance of showers from Thursday through Saturday night.  
 Source: National Weather Service

**DEPUTY STEVE HINKLE**

# HE 'NEEDS US'

Hundreds gather to pray for injured deputy



EARL NEIKIRK/SPECIAL TO THE HERALD COURIER

A prayer vigil was held outside the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office on Sunday to pray for Deputy Steve Hinkle, who was shot Saturday during a call. Greg Burton (center) is with Colonial Heights Baptist Church and also works with the Sullivan County Jail Chapel. Burton began the vigil and encouraged those attending to pray for Hinkle and pray with law enforcement officers.

BY ROBERT SORRELL and LEIF GREISS | BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**B**LOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — Hundreds of people gathered Sunday afternoon to pray for Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Deputy Steve Hinkle, who remained in critical condition Sunday after being shot on Saturday.

Hinkle, 65, responded to a welfare check call Saturday morning when the resident, Jackie Scott Pendergrass, 44, opened fire on officers, according to Sheriff Jeff Cassidy. The responding officers returned fire.

During the exchange, Hinkle was wounded and transported to a local hospital, where he remained Sunday, according to Capt. Andy Seabolt. He added that a Tennessee Highway Patrol tactical officer was able to take the wounded officer from the property in a four-wheel drive vehicle as the situation continued.

See **NEEDS**, Page A3



DEPUTY STEVE HINKLE



"I just feel like it's a time to bring everyone

here together as a community, as a whole, to pray for our officers, to pray for our injured officer."

— Angie Stanley, Sullivan County commissioner who organized the vigil

## Other area agencies faced tragedies this month

BY ROBERT SORRELL  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**B**LOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Deputy Steve Hinkle is the third law enforcement officer in the region to be seriously wounded in the line of duty in the last month.

Before Hinkle was critically wounded in a shooting on Saturday, a Virginia State Police trooper was fatally wounded Feb. 4, and a Bluefield Virginia Police Department officer was seriously wounded Feb. 16.

Hinkle, who remains in critical condition at a local hospital, was responding to a welfare check call Saturday at a residence along U.S. Highway 11W in Blountville.

See **AGENCIES**, Page A3

### INSIDE

» Deputies receive support after shooting. **A6**

### ONLINE

» For more photos and updates, go to **HeraldCourier.com**.



Thank you, **Sherry Bowers**, for subscribing to the Bristol Herald Courier.



### REGION

After 35 years of volunteering, a Blountville woman has been honored for her contributions to the community **» A5**

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# SCENES FROM VIGIL FOR DEPUTY HINKLE



PHOTOS BY EARL NEIKIRK/SPECIAL TO THE HERALD COURIER

## Needs

From Page A1

On Saturday afternoon, officers eventually entered the home and located the body of Pendergrass. The body has been sent to the medical examiner's office in Johnson City for an autopsy.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation continues to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident. The original welfare check call was made "due to a male subject at the residence who was

reportedly threatening to harm himself," according to Public Information Officer Leslie Earhart. She added that the TBI will release additional details about the shooting once they become available.

Sheriff Jeff Cassidy said Saturday was a tragic and stressful day for the department.

Angie Stanley, a Sullivan County commissioner from Kingsport, organized Sunday's gathering in honor of Hinkle and the Sheriff's Office.

"They need us in these times when they go out

here and risk their lives every day for us," Stanley said. "I just feel like it's a time to bring everyone here together as a community, as a whole, to pray for our officers, to pray for our injured officer."

Stanley decided to organize the event late Saturday and posted the information on Facebook. A number of people and organizations shared the post, asking citizens to gather to pray for the officer and the department.

"A lot of them are like family to me," Stanley said. "I've known a lot of

these men and women all my life."

Stanley has known Hinkle, a veteran deputy, for 30 years. Hinkle used to live close to Stanley's parents near state Route 75. She said Hinkle has always loved children.

"He's just a genuine guy," she said. "Every time I would see him out I always said, 'Hey, Mr. Hinkle, how are you?' It's a tragedy."

The officers at the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies deal with serious issues every day,

she said. Deputies don't always know whether they'll go home at night, she added.

"I just feel like it was a time to bring people together and just say a prayer for the men and women that are having a really hard time," Stanley said. "Just to let them know that we're behind them."

Greg Burton, a senior pastor at Colonial Heights Baptist Church, led Sunday's vigil after a request from Stanley.

"This isn't a rally," he said after the vigil. "This is a prayer meeting. I

would encourage people to make sure their prayer becomes a regular part of our church, Christian community lives, not just a one-time thing."

Burton, who also serves as a chaplain at the Sheriff's Office jail, led prayer and a singing of "Amazing Grace." He also asked participants to pray for each of the law enforcement officers present Sunday.

"Don't leave anybody out that has a badge on today," Burton told the participants.

See **VIGIL**, Page A6

## Agencies

From Page A1

During an exchange of gunfire, Hinkle, 65, was wounded. Authorities later entered the home and found the body of Jackie Scott Pendergrass, 44.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation continues to investigate.

On Feb. 4, VSP Trooper Lucas B. Dowell, a Chilhowie, Virginia, native, was assisting in the execution of a search warrant in Cumberland County. He was shot and died at the hospital. The suspect, Corey Johnson, 44, died at the scene, authorities said.

A large funeral was later held in Chilhowie, where about 1,500 law enforcement officers from around the country gathered for services.

On Feb. 16, an unidentified Bluefield officer was shot during a traffic stop. A VSP spokeswoman said Donquale "DJ" Gray, 25, a passenger in the stopped vehicle, shot a 29-year-old officer.

The officer survived and is still recovering, according to VSP spokeswoman Corinne Geller. For the officer's safety, au-



PHOTO COURTESY VIRGINIA STATE POLICE  
**VSP Trooper Lucas B. Dowell**

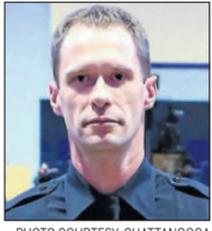


PHOTO COURTESY CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
**Chattanooga Officer Nicholas Galinger**

thorities said they are not yet releasing his name.

A warrant for Gray's arrest has been issued charging him with attempted capital murder of a police officer. Rewards totaling \$20,000 have been offered for information leading to Gray's arrest and conviction.

Outside of the area, a Chattanooga Police Department officer died in a hit-and-run crash. Police said Officer Nicholas Galinger, 38, was inspecting a manhole cover that had water flowing from it when he was struck by a vehicle that then fled the scene.

Galinger was taken to the hospital and died Saturday, Chattanooga police said in a news release.



**Gray**

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**HC BRISTOL HERALD COURIER**

SCENES FROM VIGIL FOR DEPUTY HINKLE



PHOTOS BY EARL NEIKIRK/SPECIAL TO THE HERALD COURIER

A vigil was held outside the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office on Sunday to pray for Deputy Steve Hinkle. People consoled each other during the vigil, including Sheriff Jeff Cassidy (at right).

# Deputies receive variety of support after shooting

BY ROBERT SORRELL  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BLOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — Law enforcement officers affected by Saturday's officer-involved shooting in Sullivan County have received an "overwhelming" amount of support, an official said Sunday.

Early Saturday, while officers were responding to a call along U.S. Highway 11W in Blountville, Deputy Steve Hinkle was critically wounded during an exchange of gunfire. The resident, Jackie Scott Pendergrass, died during the incident, authorities said.

At least five Sullivan County officers were on scene at the time Hinkle was wounded, Capt. Andy Seabolt said Sunday.

Those officers returned fire when police said Pendergrass fired shots from his property.

Immediately following the hours-long standoff and shooting, Seabolt said the Sheriff's Office began offering assistance for the affected deputies.

The department has a number of chaplains who serve various functions, including providing support for deputies following serious incidents, such as Saturday's call. Seabolt said mental health professionals also have been made available to talk to the deputies as they cope with the incident.

Sheriff Jeff Cassidy said Saturday's call was tragic and stressful for all involved.

During any serious incident, such as an officer-involved shooting and other incidents involving serious

Deputies involved in Saturday's call have been placed on administrative leave — not to be confused with disciplinary action — to spend time with their friends and families before returning to regular duty, Capt. Andy Seabolt said.

injury or death in the line of duty, assistance is available for officers at the Sheriff's Office.

The department is affiliated with the Tennessee Public Safety Network, which provides assistance and expertise following critical incidents, Seabolt said. The network describes a critical incident as any event that is outside the typical range of experience for a person and has sufficient impact that overwhelms the person's usual effective coping abilities.

Typical critical incidents would include line of duty deaths; incidents involving the use of deadly force or other life-threatening decisions; serious line of duty injuries to self or co-workers; protracted incidents involving strong emotions over long periods of time, such as natural disasters or hostage situations; incidents where there is a strong connection with the victim[s]; serious injury or death of a civilian, especially involving

children; and involvement in a number of moderately stressful incidents resulting in a cumulative effect.

Seabolt said officers, such as those involved in Saturday's shooting, immediately go through the diffusing process, to ease tension and dangers.

In coming days, the officers will then go through a debriefing process.

Deputies involved in Saturday's call have been placed on administrative leave — not to be confused with disciplinary action — to spend time with their friends and families before returning to regular duty, Seabolt said.

The deputies involved in the call, including Hinkle, as well as the entire Sheriff's Office have received an "overwhelming" amount of support since Saturday morning, Seabolt said.

Several organizations, businesses and citizens have provided food for the department and "words of support" by phone, email, text and social media.

Surrounding agencies also have been supportive, Seabolt said. Several local agencies responded to Saturday's call to assist in the Sheriff's Office's efforts to resolve the situation. Since then, a number of agencies have also offered to provide additional assistance and manpower, he said.

"We're all out here to do the same job and accomplish the same goals," Seabolt said.

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## Vigil

From Page A3

He added that no law enforcement officer should go out into the community without knowing a friend is praying for them.

A number of Sullivan County Sheriff's Office deputies and staff members participated in the vigil, as well as officers from the Kingsport Police Department, Scott County Sheriff's Office, Bristol Tennessee Police Department, Tennessee State Parks, the Transportation Safety Administration and others.

Chad Humphries, an employee of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, said Saturday's shooting has been difficult for the department.

"It's a harsh reality of this line of work," Humphries said. "It's hard on everybody; we're a family here."

Will Federow, who works in the agency's records department, said he participated in Sunday's vigil with his wife because it's what Hinkle would have done if their situations were reversed.

"He's always been a good friend

of mine," Federow said. "It's hard to believe, I had just talked to him Friday."

A number of county officials also joined the prayer service.

Sullivan County Mayor Richard Venable said he was proud of how the department responded to this difficult time.

"The dignity they've shown is a good lesson to all of us," Venable said.

Many friends, family and supporters also participated.

Robin Bowman, of Bristol, Tennessee, said despite the reason for the vigil, she was glad to see the community come together.

"I think it's amazing we are able to get together and support each other; even other police departments are here," Bowman said.



Venable

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EARL NEIKIRK/SPECIAL TO THE HERALD COURIER

Greg Burton (center) with Colonial Heights Baptist Church and the Sullivan County Jail Chapel, led the vigil Sunday.

## Meetings

**ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL:** Abingdon, Va. Meets first Monday, 6:30 p.m., Municipal Building on Main Street; visit www.abingdon-va.gov.

**BRISTOL HOUSING AUTHORITY:** Bristol, Va., 809 Edmond St. Meets third Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.; Board of Commissioners, 276-821-6251.

**BRISTOL TN TREE CITY USA BOARD:** Bristol, Tenn., 325 McDowell St., Slater Center. Meets, third Monday, 5 p.m. Public welcome. 423-654-4023.

**BRISTOL REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB:** Bristol, Va. Food City, Euclid Avenue. Meets last Monday, noon. 423-361-1774.

**CITIZENS CEMETERY ORGANIZATION:** Bristol, Va., Lee Street Baptist Church, Mary Street. Meets third Tuesday, 11 a.m. All members of the community are welcome to attend. Community input for fundraising projects to preserve Bristol history may be sent to CCO, P.O. Box 16322, Bristol, VA 24209.

**LONESOME PINE REGIONAL LIBRARY:** Wise, Va. 124 Library Road SW. 276-328-8325.

**SULLIVAN COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT 911 BOARD:** Blountville, Tenn., 1570 Highway 394, SCECD 911 building. Meets second Monday, every other

month, 10 a.m. Due to conflict in schedules, meetings can change at any time, public welcome. 423-279-7606.

**SULLIVAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:** Blountville, Tenn. Sullivan County Courthouse. 423-323-6417.

**SULLIVAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION:** Blountville, Tenn. 154 Blountville Bypass. 423-354-1000.

**SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRATS:** Blountville, Tenn. Northeast State Community College Library. Meets third Thursday, 7 p.m., 423-989-3953.

**SULLIVAN COUNTY ANTI-**

**DRUG COALITION:** Blountville, Tenn. 154 Blountville Bypass, Regional Health Department. Meets second Thursday, odd number month, 10 a.m. — noon. Speakers on various prevention topics; snacks will be provided, 423-742-2991 or www.scad-coalition.org.

**TRI-CITIES AIRPORT AUTHORITY:** Blountville, Tenn. 2525 Hwy 75, Suite 301. 423-325-6000.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:** Abingdon, Va., County Administrative Offices. 1 Government Center Way. Meets second and fourth Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. www.

washcova.com  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY, VA. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:** Abingdon, Va., One Partnership Circle. Meets third Thursday through November. Doors open at 7 a.m., breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Networking and business breakfast. Free to chamber members. 276-628-8141.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, VA DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE:** Abingdon, Va., 300 Senior Drive, NE Community Abingdon Center. Meets second Thursday, 6 p.m., visitors and new members welcome, email karencombs6522@gmail.com  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS:** Abingdon, Va., Washington County Library. Meets second Wednesday on odd months, 4 p.m. washco.va.lww@gmail.com.  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY, VA, REPUBLICAN PARTY:** Abingdon, Va., 1070 W. Main St., above State Farm Exit 14. Meets fourth Thursday, 7 p.m. Visitors and new members welcome. Questions: maryann14146@gmail.com.  
**WYTHEVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE:** Wytheville, Va., Galax Hall Room 202. Signup sheet available 30 minutes prior to meeting for those in addressing the board.



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E&H women rejected for NCAA Division III tourney SPORTS » B1



BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

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Venezuela Crisis



Venezuela's self-proclaimed interim president Juan Guaido (left) shakes hands with Vice President Mike Pence after a meeting of the Lima Group concerning Venezuela at the Foreign Ministry in Bogota, Colombia, on Monday.

Pence in Colombia announces new sanctions on Maduro

BY BEN FOX and JOSHUA GOODMAN The Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — The Trump administration announced new sanctions Monday on allies of Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro as it struggles to find new ways to boost his opponent after an effort to deliver humanitarian aid to the economically devastated nation faltered amid strong resistance from security forces loyal to the socialist leader.

Vice President Mike Pence arrived in the Colombian capital for an emergency summit of regional leaders to discuss the deepening crisis and immediately met with Juan Guaido, the opposition leader the U.S. and 50 other nations recognize as Venezuela's rightful president.

In a speech, Pence urged regional partners to freeze oil assets controlled by Maduro, transfer the proceeds to Guaido and restrict visas for Maduro's

See MADURO, Page A3

DEPUTY STEVE HINKLE SHOOTING

Prior convictions

Pendergrass had previous criminal record including altercations, threats against wife



Brandy L. Pendergrass is escorted into the mobile command post during Saturday's standoff involving her husband, Jackie Pendergrass, at his home on U.S. Highway 11W.

BY DAVID MCGEE BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — The man involved in the Saturday shootout with Sullivan County Deputies had a previous criminal record and served time, authorities said Monday.

Jackie Scott Pendergrass, 44, was found dead inside his U.S. Highway 11W home Saturday afternoon after exchanging gunfire with law enforcement officers, who originally came to check on his welfare. An autopsy is being performed.

Deputy Steve Hinkle, 65, was shot during the incident. He remained in critical condition Monday night at Bristol Regional Medical Center. No one else was injured in the standoff, which lasted most of the day.

In 1993, Pendergrass was convicted in Sullivan County of arson and felony aggravated burglary, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. He was incarcerated for four years.

Authorities are uncertain how long Pendergrass lived at 3606 U.S. Highway 11W, but

he had occupied the one-story home since at least 2012. On Monday, pieces of plywood covered windows damaged Saturday during the standoff.

"Our previous call history at this residence includes a couple of disturbance calls and a theft call," SCSO spokesman Capt. Andy Seabolt said Monday.

On Feb. 10, 2012, authorities responded to a disturbance at the Highway 11W residence. Jackie Pendergrass kicked the door open and had an argument with his wife, according to a report filed with the sheriff's office. No charges were filed.

A subsequent disturbance call on Dec. 24, 2013, also resulted in no charges. Pendergrass' wife, who was at her parents' house at the time, told officers the couple had "verbal disagreements" and that he had been texting her and threatening to "burn the house down" and burn down her parents' house. He was not present when police responded, and officers left a voice-

See PENDERGRASS, Page A3

Charlottesville

Virginia city ahead of the curve on bail reform

BY DANIEL BERTI Capital News Service via AP

RICHMOND, Va. — When someone is charged with a crime, prosecutors and judges want to make sure the defendant shows up for court. So they usually require the person to put up cash bail — money the defendants forfeit if they skip town.

But now, many officials — from local prosecutors to the state attorney general — are rethinking that practice. They say that cash bail penalizes low-income defendants and that GPS monitoring and other technology is just as effective as a monetary incentive to return to court.

"Virginia's current system of cash bail too often determines who has money, not who is dangerous, and we can't have a justice system that determines fairness and freedom based on wealth and means," Attorney General Mark Herring said in calling on state lawmakers to address the issue.

Legislation to reform the bail system failed in this year's General Assembly. But commonwealth's attorneys in a handful of localities are plowing ahead on their own, recommending that nonviolent defendants be released on an unsecured bond or personal recognizance — basically, by giving their word that they will show up for court.

Charlottesville is a textbook example of this new approach. Authorities there say it is working. In most circumstances, Charlottesville officials haven't used cash bonds since 2000. Prosecutors instead prefer to release defendants back into the community without having them pay money.

Commonwealth's Attorney Joe Platania said cash bonds don't enhance public safety and don't treat low-income offenders fairly.

"We haven't seen a negative impact related to community safety by using a system where we don't rely

See BAIL, Page A7

Trump tamps down expectations as he heads to Kim summit

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Redefining success, President Donald Trump headed to his second meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un on Monday, determined to tamp down expectations that he'll achieve big strides toward denuclearization. Yet he was still eager to claim an

attention-grabbing victory to offset the political turmoil he faces at home.

Trump is set to land in Vietnam late Tuesday and will have meetings with the host country's president and prime minister Wednesday before sitting down later with Kim for a private dinner.

Trump will be joined at the dinner by Secretary of State

Mike Pompeo and White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, the White House said Monday. Kim also will have two aides with him, and there will be translators for both sides. Trump and Kim, who is traveling to the summit by train and car, will have a series of official meetings Thursday.

Trump laid out ultimate

goals for both the U.S. and Kim in an appearance before the nation's governors Monday before boarding Air Force One to fly to Vietnam: "We want denuclearization, and I think he'll have a country that will set a lot of records for speed in terms of an economy."

Worries abound across world capitals about what

Trump might be willing to give up in the name of a win, but there seems less mystery about his North Korean counterpart. Survival of the Kim regime is always the primary concern.

Trump was the driving force behind this week's summit, aiming to re-create the global spectacle of his first meeting with Kim last

year. But that initial summit in Singapore yielded few concrete results, and the months that followed have produced little optimism about what will be achieved in the sequel.

Trump is publicly unconcerned.

He once warned that North

See TRUMP, Page A3



Thank you, Shirley J. Willis, for subscribing to the Bristol Herald Courier.



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Advertisement for The Bank of Abingdon home loans, featuring a photo of a house and contact information for Kirk Spoles.

# Obituaries

From Page A2



## Arthur James "Jim" Sisk

BRISTOL, Va.

Arthur James "Jim" Sisk, 78, passed away on Monday, February 25, 2019, at Bristol Regional Medical Center.

Jim was born in Washington County, Va., and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1958. He served for 22 years and retired in 1980. Jim was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, where he met Inge, his wife of 56 years. His Army career took him to Vietnam, Korea, Ft. Lewis, Wash., Ft. Ord, Calif., Ft. Knox, Ky., Ft. Buchanan, Puerto Rico, and Frankfurt and Berlin, Germany.

Following his retirement, Jim worked in fire control services. He was a long-time member of First Christian Church in Bristol, Va. He was an outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur Jasper and Lillian Duncan Sisk Miller; and his brother, Michael Sisk. In addition to his wife, Inge, Jim is survived by his son, Mike Sisk and wife, Gina, of Abingdon; daughter, Margaret Sisk Pennington of Marion, Va.; grandchildren, Kelsey and Tyler Pennington; and great-grandchildren, Jakob and Madeline Barrett.

The family will receive friends from 5 until 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at First Christian Church, 311 Spencer Street, Bristol, Va. A funeral service will follow at 7 p.m. with Pastors Herb Peak and John Thrasher officiating. The interment service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, February 28, 2019, at Knollreg Memorial Park where military honors will be presented by Chapter 40 Disabled American Veterans and the Army National Guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made to First Christian Church Missions.

Due to acute allergies, those attending the visitation and funeral service are asked to refrain from wearing perfumes.

Those wishing to share memories and express sympathy online may do so by visiting [www.farrisfuneralservice.com](http://www.farrisfuneralservice.com). The family of Arthur James "Jim" Sisk is being cared for by Farris Funeral Service and Crematory, 427 E. Main St., Abingdon, VA 24210, (276-623-2700).



## Carrie R. Trent

GLADE SPRING, Va.

Carrie R. Trent, age 71, passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 24, 2019, with her family by her side, at Ballard Health Hospice House in Bristol, Tenn. She was preceded in death by her husband, Clayton Trent; parents, Harley and Mae Stanley; brothers, Gary and Johnny Stanley; and sister, Nellie Price.

She is survived by her son, Harold Trent and wife, Lisa, of Glade Spring, Va.; daughter, Ruth Felty and husband, Tracy, of Chilhowie, Va.; special grandchildren, Travis Trent and Cynthia Campbell, of Glade Spring, Va.; great-granddaughter, Aubrie Campbell of Glade Spring, Va.; sister, Betty Jean Price of Chilhowie, Va.; brothers, Billy, Elmer, Paul, and Larry Stanley, all of Glade Spring, Va., and Charles Stanley of Chilhowie, Va.; special friend, Chuck Hamm; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be conducted at 7 p.m. Wednesday February 27, 2019, at Washington Springs United Methodist Church with the Rev. Larry Lusk officiating. The family will receive friends from 5 until 7 p.m. Wednesday evening prior to the service.

The family would like to thank all of the family and friends who came to visit and sit with her, and special thanks to her special sister-in-law Linda Stanley and the caregivers at Ballard Health Hospice, and Hospice House.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Ballard Health Hospice House in Bristol, Tenn.

Online condolences may be made at [drhendersonfuneralhome.com](http://drhendersonfuneralhome.com) The Henderson Funeral Home in Saltville is honored to be serving the Carrie R. Trent family.



## Ruby C. Stout

Ruby C. Stout, age 81, of Bristol, Tenn., went to be with her Heavenly Father on Saturday, February 23, 2019, at her home.

The funeral service will be held 6 p.m. Wednesday, February 27, 2019, in the Weaver Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Gary Rowlette officiating. The family will receive friends from 5 until 6 p.m. prior to the service. The interment will be private at Mountain Home National Cemetery. Online condolences may be registered at [www.weaverfuneralhome.net](http://www.weaverfuneralhome.net). Arrangements have been made with Weaver Funeral Home and Cremation Services.



ANDRE TEAGUE/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

TBI agents process the house where Jackie Pendergrass barricaded himself for several hours Saturday, exchanging gunfire with police. Deputy Steve Hinckle was shot during the standoff.

## Pendergrass

From Page A1

mail message telling him to stop texting his wife.

Seabolt didn't have ready access to records regarding Pendergrass' convictions in 1993, since the present computer system only contains records back to 1999.

Investigators with the TBI continue their investigation into the incident, which began after a family member placed the call to Sullivan County 911 Saturday morning, asking officers to check on Pendergrass' welfare, TBI spokesperson Leslie Earhart said Monday.

"The welfare check was requested due to a male subject making threats to potentially harm himself," Earhart said.

Pendergrass was home by himself as Saturday's events unfolded.

Authorities said Pendergrass was dead when they entered the residence Saturday afternoon. It is unclear if Pendergrass died by his own hand or was shot by officers. The medical examiner's office offered no estimate when the autopsy would be completed.

The TBI investigation remains active and ongoing, Earhart said.

Sullivan County District Attorney General Barry Staubus, who asked that the TBI investigate, said once their work is complete, he will receive their report and present those findings to a grand jury.

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## Maduro

From Page A1

inner circle. He said the U.S. was imposing more sanctions on four pro-government governors, including a close Maduro ally who negotiated the release of an American jailed for more than two years.

"It's time to do more," Pence said. "The day is coming soon when Venezuela's long nightmare will end, when Venezuela will once more be free, when her people will see a new birth of freedom, in a nation reborn to libertad."

Pence's appearance before the Lima Group comes at an important crossroads for the coalition of mostly conservative Latin American nations and Canada that has joined forces to pressure Maduro. A month after Guaido declared himself interim president at an outdoor rally, hopes that support for Maduro inside the military would quickly crumble have faded.

Over the weekend, security forces on the borders with Colombia and Brazil fired tear gas and buckshot on activists waving Venezuelan flags while escorting trucks with emergency medical and food kits. Four people were killed and at least 300 wounded, although only a few were hospitalized.

While Colombian authorities said more than 160 soldiers deserted their posts and sought refuge across the border over the weekend, the highest-ranking among them was a National Guard major. No battalion or division commanders have come forward to challenge Maduro despite almost-daily calls by Guaido and the U.S. to do so.

That's left many asking what Guaido and the U.S. can do to break the stalemate.

The Lima Group, in an 18-point declaration signed by 10 nations and Guaido, reiterated their call on the Venezuelan military to recognize the opposition leader as their

commander in chief, urged the International Criminal Court to declare Maduro's aid blockade a crime against humanity and pressed the United Nations to play a bigger role in resolving the crisis.

For now, the U.S. is showing no signs it is considering a military intervention to remove Maduro.

During his visit, Pence repeated President Donald Trump's threat that "all options are on the table" but gingerly avoided talking about the potential for military action.

Instead, he stuck to traditional policy tools that so far have only hardened Maduro's resolve. Foremost among them was the addition of four governors to a growing list of more than 50 Venezuelan officials under sanctions and blocked from doing business or having accounts in the U.S.

The most prominent target was Rafael Lacava, the governor of central Carabobo state who played a key role negotiating the release last year of Joshua Holt, a Utah man jailed without a trial for two years on what were seen as trumped-up weapons charges.

Pence also said the U.S. would continue to search for places to pre-position aid for eventual delivery to Venezuela, and announced \$56 million in new assistance to countries in the region helping to absorb an exodus of more than 3 million Venezuelans who have fled hyperinflation and shortages in recent years.

"In the days ahead, the United States will announce even stronger sanctions on the regime's corrupt financial networks. We will find every last dollar they have stolen and return that money to the Venezuelan people," he said.

Guaido, in his visit to the Colombian capital, was afforded all the trappings of a head of state. He posed for selfies with well-wishers upon arriving for the summit and stood before a pile of aid boxes stamped with the U.S. flag as he and Pence greeted a group of Ven-

ezuelan migrants, including an elderly man who wept as he shook hands with the U.S. vice president and pleaded for help.

But Guaido's speech to the diplomats was short on specifics despite speculation he would request a military intervention as close ally Julio Borges, the opposition ambassador to the Lima Group, suggested on Sunday.

"Being permissive with the usurpation of power would be a threat to democracy in all of America," Guaido said.

Meanwhile, the Lima Group, which has been staunchly behind Guaido, rejected the use of force.

"Let's hope that the pressure of the international community, dialogue and prudence will prevail," said Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela, who likened the crisis in Venezuela to the one his country faced in the run-up to the 1989 U.S. invasion to remove dictator Manuel Noriega. "Although the circumstances are similar, we must have the capacity to find a solution different than the one used back then."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in interviews on "Fox News Sunday" and CNN's "State of the Union," did not rule out U.S. military force but said "there are more sanctions to be had."

Any additional sanctions will increase the suffering of the Venezuelan people and may lead to more political violence, said Mark Weisbrot, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, who advocates a negotiated end to the political crisis.

"The 'humanitarian aid' this weekend was a public relations stunt, since the aid was just a tiny fraction of the food and medicine that they are depriving Venezuelans of with the sanctions," Weisbrot said. "As the Trump administration admitted, it was an attempt to get the Venezuelan military to disobey Maduro. It was a farce, and it failed."

## Trump

From Page A1

Korea's arsenal posed such a threat to humanity that he might have no choice but to rain "fire and fury" on the nation. However, in the lead-up to the new summit, he's proclaimed himself in no hurry for Pyongyang to prove it is abandoning its weapons.

"I'm not in a rush. I don't want to rush anybody, I just don't want testing. As long as there's no testing, we're happy," Trump told the governors on Sunday.

In fact, he is ready to write himself into the history books before he and Kim even shake hands in Hanoi.

"If I were not elected president, you would have been in a war with

North Korea," Trump said last week. "We now have a situation where the relationships are good — where there has been no nuclear testing, no missiles, no rockets."

While Trump was airborne, Kim's armored train was on the move in China, bound toward Vietnam's capital. Vietnamese officials promised security at "the maximum level." Reporters from 40 nations were expected to transmit the story to the world.

Kim inherited a nascent nuclear program from his father, and after years of accelerated effort and fighting through crippling sanctions, he built an arsenal that demonstrated the potential to rocket a thermonuclear weapon to the mainland United States. That is the fundamental reason Washington now sits at the

negotiating table.

Kim, his world standing elevated after receiving an audience with a U.S. president, has yet to show a convincing sign that he is willing to deal away an arsenal that might provide a stronger guarantee of survival than whatever security assurance the United States could provide. The North Koreans have largely eschewed staff-level talks, pushing for discussions between Trump and Kim.

Though details of the summit remain closely held, the two leaders are expected to meet at some point one-on-one, joined only by translators.

The easing of tension between the two nations, Trump and his allies contend, stems from the U.S. president's own unorthodox and unpredictable style of diplomacy.

Often prizing personal rapport over long-held strategic interests, Trump has pointed to his budding relationship with the young and reclusive leader, frequently showing visitors to the Oval Office his flattering letters from Kim.

Trump, who has long declared that North Korea represented the gravest foreign threat of his presidency, told reporters recently that his efforts to defang Pyongyang had moved Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to nominate him for a Nobel Peace Prize, something Abe would not confirm or deny.

Four main goals emerged from the first Trump-Kim summit: establishing new relations between the nations, building a new peace on the entire Korean Peninsula, com-

pleting denuclearization of the peninsula and recovering U.S. POW/MIA remains from the Korean War.

While some remains have been returned to the United States, little has been achieved on the other points. Korean and American negotiators have not settled on either the parameters of denuclearization or a timetable for the removal of both Korean weapons and American sanctions.

"The key lessons of Singapore are that President Trump sees tremendous value in the imagery of diplomacy and wants to be seen as a bold leader, even if the substance of the diplomacy is far behind the pageantry," said Abraham Denmark, director of the Asia Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

TRUMP, KIM SET FOR ROUND 2

COHEN READY TO TESTIFY

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# BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

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## 'LOST A HERO'



ANDRE TEAGUE/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Sullivan County volunteer firefighters stand on the Airport Parkway bridge and salute as the hearse transporting fallen Officer Steve Hinkle is escorted by law enforcement Tuesday on Interstate 81.

### Veteran officer dies from injuries in weekend shooting

BY ROBERT SORRELL  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BRISTOL, Tenn. — A stream of red and blue lights led a hearse carrying the body of Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Steve Hinkle to the medical examiner's office in Johnson City on Tuesday.

Hinkle, a 65-year-old veteran officer, died at Bristol Regional Medical Center on Tuesday afternoon from injuries sustained in a Saturday shooting.

"This afternoon, Sullivan County lost a hero," the Sheriff's Office said in a written statement announcing the officer's death. "Sgt. Steve Hinkle passed away from an injury that he received in the line of duty."

Hinkle responded to a home on U.S. Highway 11W near state Route 394 on Saturday morning after a family member

See OFFICER, Page A8



ANDRE TEAGUE/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

A hearse transporting Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Steve Hinkle is escorted to the medical examiner by regional law enforcement officers Tuesday afternoon on Interstate 81-S.

### Retired SRO: Hinkle 'was a gentle giant'

BY LURAH SPELL and ROBERT SORRELL  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

"Be still and know."

That's what Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Deputy Steve Hinkle, who died Tuesday after being shot on Saturday, said to retired School Resource Officer Carolyn Gudger when she was upset. He was referring to Psalm 46:10 — "He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.'"

Gudger said she was touched when Hinkle gave her a pink rock on which he had written "Psalm 46:10. Be still." He told her to keep it on her desk.

The two worked together at the Sheriff's Office for 22 years.

"I had to look at [the rock] because I'd get all tore up with issues that would happen, and he would say, 'Now, be still. Be still, Gudge,'" Gudger said. "He was a gentle giant. He was just so loved by everybody."

See HINKLE, Page A8

## Deputy becomes 11th Sullivan officer to die in line of duty

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

It has been two years since the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office lost a deputy in the line of duty and

29 years since one was fatally shot.

With the death on Tuesday of Deputy Steve Hinkle — who was shot on

Saturday — a total of 11 county officers are known to have died in the line of duty — which means Sullivan County has lost more

than any other local department.

It was Oct. 31, 2016, when the county had its last fallen officer, though Deputy

Robert Bowlin Sr. died from injuries he sustained in 2007. He was struck while conducting a traffic stop on Interstate 81.

On Sept. 30, 2001, Deputies Stephen Dwight Riner, 45, and Barry Shelton, 40,

See DEPUTY, Page A8



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Thank you, Stacey Rogers, for subscribing to the Bristol Herald Courier.



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Michael R. Valenza, Au.D., CCC-A  
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#1 Best of Bristol - 2018

# Officer

From Page A1

reported that a man was threatening to harm himself. At some point while officers approached the house, Sheriff Jeff Cassidy said the resident, 44-year-old Jackie Scott Pendergrass, fired at least one shot.

The officers then retreated for cover.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Public Information Officer Leslie Earhart said Pendergrass barricaded himself inside the home. A short time later, he began firing at officers again, and deputies returned fire, she said.

During the exchange of gunfire, Hinkle was struck and sustained wounds that resulted in his death Tuesday. Pendergrass died at the scene, but an autopsy is being conducted to determine the cause of death.

Two days before Hinkle's death, hundreds gathered at the Sheriff's Office to pray for the long-time deputy.

"Sgt. Hinkle proudly served Sullivan County with honor and distinction for over twenty-seven years as a full-time employee," the Sheriff's Office statement reads. "He also served as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff for five years prior to his full-time employment."

At around 3 p.m. on Tuesday, dozens of law enforcement officers began converging on BRMC, where Hinkle was being treated. At about 4 p.m., officers exited the building, entered their vehicles and began escorting the fallen officer's body to the Wil-



A hearse transporting fallen Sullivan County Officer Steve Hinkle to Johnson City is escorted by law enforcement Tuesday.

DAVID CRIGGER/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

liam L. Jenkins Forensic Center at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City for an autopsy.

More than 50 cruisers from several agencies, including the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, Kingsport Police Department, Tennessee Highway Patrol and Tri-Cities Airport Police, joined the procession along interstates 81 and 26.

Local volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel were on standby on several bridges over the interstates, saluting as the procession passed under. A number of Sullivan County Volunteer

Fire Department members were spotted saluting the procession alongside their trucks on the Airport Parkway bridge.

The procession also brought out many citizen observers along the route.

Heavy traffic that accompanied the procession appears to have caused a crash involving three vehicles from the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office on I-26 near Johnson City, according to the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

"While in a procession and transporting fallen Deputy Steve Hinkle on Interstate 26, three Sheriff's Department cruisers

were damaged in a collision," the THP said in a report. "The crash occurred due to vehicles suddenly slowing and one of the sheriff's cruisers not being able to stop in time which resulted in a rear end collision."

No injuries were reported. A number of area law enforcement agencies and officials shared their thoughts and prayers on Hinkle's death on social media.

"Our sincerest condolences to Deputy Hinkle's family, friends, and colleagues at the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office," said the Carter County Sheriff's Office,

which provided assistance during the call on Saturday. "We have lost a hero today."

Hawkins County Sheriff Ronnie Lawson called Hinkle "our dear brother."

"Thoughts and prayers for the family and fellow officers of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office of Deputy Sheriff Steve Hinkle, may GOD bless and strengthen each of you," Lawson wrote on Twitter.

Earhart, a TBI public information officer who previously worked as a spokeswoman at the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, thanked Hinkle for his service.

"It was an honor to have known you," Earhart wrote on Twitter. "Your sacrifice will not be forgotten."

The Knoxville Police Department noted that Hinkle's death follows that of a Chattanooga Police Department officer, Nicholas Galingier, on Sunday.

"We mourn the loss of two great East Tennessee Police Officers killed in the line of duty this past weekend," Knoxville Police said on Twitter.

Details of Hinkle's funeral arrangements are expected in coming days. SCSO Capt. Andy Seabolt said the family is making the arrangements, but the department will help with anything necessary.

A Sheriff's Office cruiser has been placed at the flagpole in front of the department's headquarters in Blountville, where people can leave flowers or other items, Seabolt said.

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# Hinkle

From Page A1

Hinkle began at the Sheriff's Office as a reserve deputy in 1981 and became a full-time corrections officer in 1986. He went to the police academy in 1987 and, after leaving the department in 1993, returned in 1998. Hinkle was an SRO from 2009 to May 2018, first at Sullivan East High School and then at Sullivan Central High.

Hinkle was also a firearms instructor and a member of the Sheriff's Office's honor guard.

Gudger, who called the veteran deputy "Hink," said he was a "jewel" because of his caring and helpful nature and a "true John Wayne individual" because of his love of the Old West, cowboys, guns and teaching officers how to shoot. At times, Gudger said Hinkle was funny, but there was one thing about him that was constant — his concern for everyone at the Sheriff's Office, who he called his partners, she said.

"He would help anybody that asked and some that didn't," Gudger said. "If he saw a need, he'd talk to you about it, try to fix it and help you get through it."

One time that stands out in Gudger's memory was when Hinkle helped her cope on Aug. 30, 2010, when Thomas Richard Cowan entered Central High, where she was an SRO, with a gun and pointed it at the principal. Gudger stepped in between them to shield the principal as she drew her own weapon, holding Cowan off for about an hour before other deputies came in and shot and killed him after he refused to surrender. No one else was injured.

Gudger remembers Hinkle telling her, "You're alright." "He'd just stand there with you, as long as it took," she said. "If you



Former SCSO Deputy Carolyn Gudger takes a photo with Deputy Steve Hinkle late last year when Gudger announced her retirement.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

had to talk, he'd let you. He was just so patient. You couldn't help but love him."

Hinkle also provided words of comfort to Gudger when her mother died. He told her to think of her mother as just being away temporarily — that they'd see each other again.

"Some people just don't make you feel good at all," Gudger said. "Hinkle always made somebody feel good. ... When you have people that are so good around you, you just want them forever. We were supposed to have retired about the same time, but he told me, 'Gudge, I've got to do one more year. Just one more.'"

Gudger retired on Jan. 1.

Among the long list of words others who worked with Hinkle used to describe him were kind, professional, helpful, fun, loyal,

easygoing, reliable, kindhearted, dedicated, selfless and heroic. And he always had a cup of coffee, which his shift mates often joked about.

Sheriff's Office Lt. Gary Medlin worked with Hinkle for 25 years. He said his death is difficult for all employees and Hinkle's family, but the loss is trying in a more specific way for Medlin because he was shot in the line of duty in 1999.

"It makes it difficult for everybody across the board, especially when you're trying to help someone or think you're helping someone else, and the tables turn, and instead they're trying to hurt you," Medlin said. "It's just hard to understand why somebody would hurt you for trying to help them."

Medlin was shot when he responded to a domestic incident. A man resisted arrest and was

able to grab another deputy's gun during a foot chase. Medlin was shot in the lower torso near his pelvis, and the bullet barely missed his femoral artery, exiting from his hip. Due to the injury only being muscular, Medlin said he was able to go back to work in three weeks.

"You always expect the worst and hope for the best, and then you're required to make a tenth-of-a-second decision that maybe a judge or jury would look at for months," Medlin said. "You don't want anybody to get shot, even the people we're out here trying to apprehend; you don't want to have to shoot them."

Medlin was also employed at the Sheriff's Office when Deputy Glayton Parker was fatally shot on May 31, 1990.

Judy Jenkins, a former Sheriff's Office accreditation manager and records supervisor, worked with Hinkle for 25 years before she retired. She said Hinkle never complained and dressed up as Santa Claus at Sheriff's Office employee Christmas parties.

William Ken Harr, a former lieutenant with the Sheriff's Office, who is now Ballard Health's chief security officer, worked with Hinkle at the Sheriff's Office for 20 years.

"He was always positive and tried to see the good in everyone," he said. "He was always willing to help out. May God be with him, his family and the law enforcement community."

Former Deputy April Castle worked with Hinkle for 10 years. She said he was "one of the most genuine souls" she's ever known.

"He was always there to give the 'rookies' advice and pointers on some of the things he learned," she said. "He always had a smile for you when you saw him. [He was] absolutely one of the finest men, friends and officers anyone could

"We have all been blessed by his presence, and our community has truly lost one of its finest. I pray for his family, his loved ones and his family in blue and ask that none of us, for a single moment, forget the sacrifice Deputy Hinkle made for us all."

— Pam Murray, former Sheriff's Office records clerk

have to look up to. He is cherished and will be missed terribly."

Bluff City Police Department Assistant Chief Jamey Dunbar, who worked with Hinkle at the Sheriff's Office for seven years, said since the shooting on Saturday he has reminisced with current and former Sullivan County deputies about their time working with Hinkle — a reliable and good guy, he said. No one, he added, has said anything bad about him.

Pam Murray, a former Sheriff's Office records clerk, worked with Hinkle for six years. She called Hinkle the "epitome of what a public servant should be" and a "model officer" who his family, friends and the community should be proud of.

"We have all been blessed by his presence, and our community has truly lost one of its finest," she said. "I pray for his family, his loved ones and his family in blue and ask that none of us, for a single moment, forget the sacrifice Deputy Hinkle made for us all."

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# Deputy

From Page A1

died in a single-vehicle accident near Kingsport while responding to a domestic violence call. Their vehicle, which had its lights and siren activated, apparently lost control in a curve and struck a tree.

Two officers died in 1995. Sgt. Roscoe Teague, 56, suffered a heart attack after arresting a man and died May 30. On Nov. 22, Deputy Steve N. Mullins, 41, died when he was struck by a stolen vehicle occupied by teenagers.

## Sullivan County Officers Who Died in the Line of Duty:

Officer	Age	Date of death	Cause
» Deputy Steve Hinkle	65	Feb. 26, 2019	Gunfire
» Deputy Robert Bowlin Sr.	N/A	Oct. 31, 2016	Struck by vehicle
» Deputy Stephen Dwight Riner	45	Sept. 30, 2001	Automobile crash
» Deputy Barry Shelton	40	Sept. 30, 2001	Automobile crash
» Deputy Steve N. Mullins	41	Nov. 22, 1995	Struck by vehicle
» Sgt. Roscoe Teague	56	May 30, 1995	Heart attack
» Patrolman Glayton Mitchell Parker	N/A	May 31, 1990	Gunfire
» Sgt. Arthur Carroll Lane	31	March 30, 1981	Struck by vehicle
» 12th District Constable Bruce Barker	41	May 30, 1938	Gunfire
» Deputy Hubert Webb	25	April 13, 1925	Gunfire
» Special Deputy Lee Eldreth	N/A	Dec. 25, 1907	Gunfire

He had set up a roadblock with his car when he was hit.

The last Sullivan County deputy who was fatally

shot was Patrolman Glayton Mitchell Parker, who died in 1990. On May 31, Parker was on a porch attempting to serve an

arrest warrant in Lynn Garden when he was shot with a high-powered rifle.

Another officer, Sgt. Ar-

thur Carroll Lane, 31, died after being struck by a vehicle. It was March 30, 1981, when he was hit by a vehicle while conducting a roadblock to stop a stolen vehicle on Wadlow Gap Road.

Forty-three years earlier, on May 30, 1938, 12th District Constable Bruce Barker, 41, was shot and killed as he and other officers attempted to apprehend a fugitive near Kingsport. The suspect opened fire on the officers.

SCSO Deputy Hubert Webb was shot and killed in 1925 as officers attempted to arrest a fugi-

tive who was wanted in the shooting death of a sheriff's deputy in Mississippi, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Also killed was Patrolman John Smith of the Kingsport Police Department.

The first known fallen officer in Sullivan County was Deputy Lee "Eldridge" Eldreth, who died in 1907 while attempting to arrest a man who broke into a post office.

The names of the fallen officers are listed on the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Fallen Officer Memorial, which was dedicated in 2009.



**ICICLES SPROUT INTO WINTER WONDERLAND**

WEATHER » A12



**WITTEN FEELS 'FIRE' TO PLAY AGAIN**

SPORTS » B1

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**TBI: Man died from self-inflicted gunshot**

**Preliminary autopsy results indicate man who killed Sullivan County officer committed suicide**

BY ROBERT SORRELL  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

As the community mourns the loss of Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Steve Hinkle, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has concluded that the man who shot him, Jackie Scott Pendergrass, committed suicide last Saturday.

On Thursday, the TBI said preliminary autopsy results indicate Pendergrass, the 44-year-old subject of a welfare check, died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. "The investigation remains ac-

tive and ongoing," the TBI said in a statement.

Last Saturday morning, the Sheriff's Office responded to a home along U.S. Highway 11W in Blountville after a family member requested that authorities check on Pendergrass.

As officers approached the home, police said Pendergrass fired at least one shot.

The officers retreated, but some time later, Pendergrass fired his weapon again and officers returned fire. During the exchange of gunfire, Hinkle, one of the responding officers, was wounded. He died three days later.

Hours after the standoff began, officers entered the home and found the body of Pendergrass.

See **SUICIDE**, Page A7

**CANDLELIGHT VIGIL**

» A candlelight vigil will be held at 7 tonight at the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office in Blountville for fallen Sgt. Steve Hinkle. The public is invited to attend.



Hinkle

**Trump, Kim offer dueling accounts of talks' collapse**

BY DEB RIECHMANN, HYUNG-JIN KIM and CATHERINE LUCEY

The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — In open dispute, the U.S. and North Korea offered contradictory accounts Thursday of why the summit between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un broke down, though both pointed to punishing American sanctions as a sticking point in the high-stakes nuclear negotiation.

President Trump, who returned to the White House on Thursday night, said before leaving Hanoi that the talks collapsed because North Korea's leader insisted that all the sanctions the U.S. has imposed on Pyongyang be lifted without the North firmly committing to eliminate its nuclear arsenal.

But North Korea challenged that account, insisting it had asked only partial sanctions relief in exchange for shutting down its main nuclear complex. Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho commented on the talks during an abruptly scheduled middle-of-the-night news conference after Trump was in the air.

Ri said the North was also ready to offer in writing a permanent halt of the country's nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests and Washington had wasted an opportunity that "may not come again." He said the North's position won't change even if the United States offers to resume another round of dialogue.

See **SUMMIT**, Page A7

**FAGANS ARRAIGNED**



ANDRE TEAGUE/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

James Fagans, who is charged with first-degree murder, second-degree murder, especially aggravated robbery and aggravated assault resulting in death, is escorted into Circuit Court for his arraignment Thursday morning in Sullivan County. The Bluff City man pleaded not guilty.

**Murder case** Bluff City man pleads not guilty in August 2018 beating death

BY LURAH SPELL  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BLOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — A Bluff City man pleaded not guilty on Thursday to first-degree murder and several other charges in the August beating death of a Bluff City man.

Last week, James Fagans, 59, was in-

dicted on charges of first-degree murder, second-degree murder, especially aggravated robbery and aggravated assault resulting in death. He was arraigned in Sullivan County Criminal Court on Thursday.

Fagans was originally charged with second-degree murder in the death of Her-

man Rumley, but a Sullivan County grand jury filed additional charges against him, according to an indictment.

Rumley was found dead inside his home on Woods Road on Aug. 10. He died as a result of blunt force trauma to the

See **MURDER**, Page A7

**Revenues rising as city begins budget talks**

BY DAVID MCGEE  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BRISTOL, Va. — Revenues are arriving above projected levels, and the city's financial position is much more stable than just a couple of years ago, when Bristol was deemed the most fiscally distressed city in Virginia.

That was the overarching message Thurs-

day as the Bristol Virginia City Council held its first workshop toward developing a fiscal 2019-20 operating budget. Tax revenues — from real estate to sales and use, from personal property to dining and lodging — are trending upward, City Manager Randy Eads told the council Thursday.

Currently the city has about \$14.5 million in the bank, \$1 million set aside to help deal with increasing debt payments and a plan to address making those debt payments, which will increase steadily in the years ahead. The city still carries more than \$100 million in bond debt, but city leaders

See **BUDGET**, Page A7



Thank you, Steve Heath, for subscribing to the Bristol Herald Courier.



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# Suicide

From Page A1

His body was taken to the medical examiner's office in Johnson City, and a funeral was held Wednesday in Kingsport.

Funeral services for Hinkle are scheduled to take place Saturday at 11 a.m. at Sullivan Central High School in Blountville followed by burial services at Oak Hill Cemetery in Kingsport.

At 7 tonight, the Sheriff's Office will host a candlelight vigil at its headquarters in Blountville in honor of Hinkle. Capt. Andy Seabolt said the public is invited to attend the vigil, which will feature Pastor Jim Hagy, a former deputy.

Seabolt said the department has received an outpouring of support from the community and across the country since last Saturday. He noted that even the New York Yankees baseball team sent the department a wreath in Hinkle's memory.

The department also hopes to reach out and officially thank Zechariah Cartledge, a 10-year-old Florida boy who has been running in honor of fallen law enforcement officers. He ran his 50th mile on Wednesday in honor of Hinkle and shared the news in a video that has since gone viral. It had been shared more than 170,000 times by Thursday evening.

"Sgt. Hinkle was a hero, and our prayer is that our son's tribute run not only brings even the slightest smile to the faces of your community, but also helps show an entire nation just how great of a man Sgt. Hinkle was," his family said on Running for Heroes, a Facebook page about the boy's efforts.

Since Jan. 12, Zechariah has been running in honor of every officer lost in 2018 and 2019.

Local residents interested in memorializing Hinkle can place flowers or other items at a Sullivan County cruiser parked temporarily outside the department at the flagpole. The memorial has grown since Hinkle died Tuesday afternoon.

Flags in Sullivan County have been placed at half-staff at the directive of County Mayor Richard Venable.

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# Summit

From Page A1

On Friday, North Korea's official news agency put a more positive spin on the summit, saying Trump and Kim "had a constructive and candid exchange of their opinions over the practical issues arising in opening up a new era of the improvement" of relations between the two nations.

Trump made no mention of the disagreement as he addressed U.S. troops during a stopover at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska, though White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said he was aware of Ri's comments.

Instead, Trump focused on U.S. military might and offered a broad warning to U.S. enemies.

# Murder

From Page A1

head. Fagans was charged on Sept. 10 after investigators said Rumley's blood was found on his clothing.

During a preliminary hearing, testimony revealed that Fagans claimed his brother beat Rumley to death with a 2-foot piece of wood. Investigators said there's no evidence to tie Fagans' brother to the crime.

Fagans is being held in the Sullivan County jail on



Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., listens as he questions Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former lawyer, as Cohen testifies before the House Oversight and Reform Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington. Lynne Patton, who works in the Trump administration at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, stands behind Meadows, as Meadows said to Cohen, "I asked Lynne to come today in her personal capacity to actually shed some light."

# 'It was insulting'

## Many view 'black friend defense' as a tired, hollow argument

BY TERRY TANG and DEEPTI HAJELA  
The Associated Press

Kelly Darden Jr. still remembers one of the first times he experienced the "black friend defense."

Back in high school, a group of white classmates dressed in Confederate-inspired clothing as part of a social club called the "Rebel Rousers" and insisted they weren't racist when confronted because some of them knew Darden, who is black.

"It was insulting," the 64-year-old Greenville, North Carolina, man recalled Thursday. "I was insulted by it even when it was occurring."

Darden and countless other African-Americans have experienced variations of the "black friend defense" — saying that a person can't be racist because of the color of the company he keeps — for generations. And the trope played out in front of a national TV audience this week as Republican Rep. Mark Meadows defended President Donald Trump against testimony by Trump's former lawyer, Michael Cohen, who claimed the president is racist. Meadows, of North Carolina, quickly sent social media into a frenzy when he pointed to Lynne Patton, a black Trump administration staffer, and said Patton never would tolerate working for a racist.

Many consider the "black friend defense" a tired and hollow argument.

"The fact someone would actually use a prop, a black woman in this chamber, in this committee, is alone racist in itself," Democratic Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan said in response to Meadows' interaction with Patton, who works at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

An outraged Meadows, who is white, hit back, saying he can't be racist because he has nieces and nephews of color and he is friends with Rep. Elijah Cummings, who is black and was chairing the hearing.

The "defense" has a history of being part of a politician's playbook.

Trump himself has trotted it out more than once. While giving remarks during a 2016 presidential campaign stop, Trump pointed to someone in the crowd and yelled "Look at my African-American over there."

A few black celebrities have been called props or "Uncle Toms" for throwing support Trump's way or simply just meeting with him. Kanye West, Steve

Harvey and Jim Brown have all been criticized.

Harvey, who voted for Hillary Clinton, told media outlets in 2017 that he regretted meeting with the president at Trump Tower because of the backlash. He only did so in the hopes of helping with Trump's transition to the White House.

In "4 Little Girls," Spike Lee's 1997 documentary revisiting the deadly 1963 Birmingham church bombing, former Alabama governor and onetime staunch segregationist George Wallace talks about how he has helped black people. At one point, he is seen sitting behind the governor's desk and summons a black man.

"Here's one of my best friends right here ... my best friend right here. I wouldn't go anywhere without him," Wallace says while holding the man's hand. The man stands quietly but doesn't say anything.

The phenomenon was the subject of a 2014 study done by University of London Business School professor Daniel A. Effron.

In his research, Effron noted that former Bosnian leader Radovan Karadzic said he held no anti-Muslim prejudice because his former barber was Muslim. In 2016, Karadzic was convicted of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity for wartime atrocities including the 1995 massacre of 8,000 Muslim men.

Tyler Parry, an associate professor of African American Studies at California State University in Fullerton, said using black people as political props is something that occurred as far back as the 19th century in debates about slavery. In Antebellum-era writings by former slave owners, they would often describe their relationship with slaves as a friendship. It was a way for them to justify their stance on slavery.

Parry said he finds it remarkable that people in the public eye keep using "the black friend" excuse over and over in almost verbatim language rather than issue a mea culpa. It comes off shallow and brings the authenticity of the friendship into question, he said.

"There's a few studies that say it's a way to over-compensate — particularly a white person or a person of privilege feels the need to accumulate friends of color in case they are ever accused of racism," Parry said. "If they can deflect the criticism and place it upon their friend as a way to explain it, they can get off the hook."

# Budget

From Page A1

said Thursday they have plans and the ability to address it.

"It really is not as scary of a picture as it was three years ago, or even two years ago. It's not even close," Mayor Kevin Mumpower said. "There are still some rocky roads ahead, obviously. How do you develop The Falls? How do we get some out-of-the-box thinking to incentivize what we're looking for on the top [revenue] line to make it more attractive?"

The mayor said the city's solid waste operation, which also has substantial associated debt, remains the city's greatest "albatross," but city officials are focused on finding a solution.

"The solid waste fund, if we can figure out how to get that down and manageable, we'll be in a position to where we know exactly what to do for the next 10 years," the mayor said after the meeting. "We can see out five or six years right now. That's good. If we can push that out to 2030, then this city is going to be able to put more pressure on moving the debt downward to where we cannot just pay the obligated debt service but maybe start paying some of [the overall debt] off."

Among the key funding streams, real estate tax revenues are forecast to rise from \$12.32 million to \$12.75 million in the upcoming fiscal year while personal property taxes are expected to rise from \$2.95 million to \$2.98 million.

Sales and use taxes are forecast to climb from \$3.31 million to \$3.65 million, lodging taxes are expected to rise from \$1.25 million to \$1.3 million, and restaurant and meals taxes are expected to increase slightly from \$5.33 million to \$5.37 million.

"Things are continuing to progress. We were very conservative last year," Mumpower said. "We didn't want to count any revenue dollar before it happened, which was a good move because some good things did happen. Real estate is up. Meals taxes are up. A lot of categories are up. And that's good. And we've held tight on cost."

Thursday's other major discussion was the city's debt service. Last year the council refinanced about \$50 million of bond debt associated with The Falls because a major payment was coming due in the next fiscal year. By spreading that debt out, the payment is now scheduled to rise from \$5.38 million to \$5.97 million — a manageable amount, Eads said, because the city put money in the bank specifically to help pay down debt.

"Before I came, the city put \$1 million in the bank for debt. It is still in the budget, and I don't see any point in removing it," Eads said, meaning the city would continue to replenish that reserve each year.

The debt payment is to increase to \$6.22 million in fiscal 2020-21 up to \$7.72 million in fiscal 2023-24, but Eads said they have a plan to pay it.

"We have a plan to deal with the upcoming debt," Eads told the council. "It's not terribly concerning. It can be done."

Mumpower praised the work of Eads and CFO Tamrya Spradlin.

"I'm very pleased. When you look at this team coming together under Randy's leadership and Tamrya as CFO, this team is gelling. They have taken this city's position seriously. We've [council] been pushing them, and they've been doing a lot of hard work, and they're figuring it out," Mumpower said.

As an example, he cited the city's current position with money in the bank versus having to borrow short-term loans just to pay bills or make payroll. The \$14.5 million balance is about \$6 million more than last year and about \$8 million more than just two years ago.

"I really think the different tone you see is we're starting to understand the problems better, as a whole unit, and everyone is getting on the same page on how we attack the problem," Eads said. "We understand it's doable; it's not insurmountable. If we just keep our eye on the ball, we can reach every one of these goals we have."

The council's next budget workshop is March 7.

"America does not seek conflict, but if we are forced to defend ourselves we will fight and we will win in an overwhelming fashion," he declared.

Earlier on Thursday in Hanoi, Trump had told reporters the North had demanded a full removal of sanctions in exchange for shutting the Yongbyon nuclear facility. Trump said that there had been a proposed agreement "ready to be signed." However, he said after the summit was cut short, "Sometimes you have to walk."

The demise of the talks came after Trump and Kim had appeared ready to inch toward normalizing relations between their still technically warring nations.

The American leader had dampened expectations that the negotiations would yield an agreement by North Korea to take concrete steps toward ending a nuclear program that Pyongyang likely sees as its strongest security guarantee. However, Kim, when asked whether he was ready to denuclearize, had said, "If I'm not willing to do that I won't be here right now."

But hours after both nations had seemed hopeful of a deal of some kind, the two leaders' motorcades roared away from the downtown Hanoi summit site within minutes of each other, lunch canceled and signing ceremony scuttled. The president's closing news conference was hurriedly moved up, and he departed for Washington more than two hours ahead of schedule.

The breakdown denied Trump a much-needed triumph amid growing political turmoil back home and the path forward now appears uncertain. Trump insisted his relations with Kim remain warm, but he did not commit to having a third summit with the North Korean leader, saying a possible next meeting "may not be for a long time."

Ri's comments reflected the North Koreans' disappointment, though there was a notable absence of bluster or threats by either side.

Both Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said significant progress had been made in Hanoi, but the two sides appeared to be galaxies apart on an agreement that would live up to stated American goals.

"Basically, they wanted the sanctions lifted in their entirety, and we couldn't do that," Trump told reporters.

\$100,000 bail. He will be back in court on May 30 for an announcement hearing.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation at the request of District Attorney General Barry Staibus and the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office because Rumley filed a \$4.8 million lawsuit against the Sheriff's Office in May. The suit, which also was against the county, was settled with Rumley's family for \$1,750 in November. None of the Sheriff's Office deputies or former Sheriff Wayne Anderson, who were named in the suit, were criminally charged as a result of the claims made in the suit.

The TBI said Rumley and Fagans were acquaintances. Fagans' name appears on the police report detailing Rumley's arrest on May 8, 2017. That arrest led to the lawsuit Rumley filed a year later against the Sheriff's Office accusing a deputy of assaulting him during the arrest.

In the police report, Fagans is listed as a victim who called police about a possible stolen vehicle. Fagans told police he feared for his safety when Rumley came out of his house with a rifle. The report states that Rumley was ordered to drop the gun several times before he did.

Rumley was charged with aggravated assault and unlawful carrying or possession of a weapon. The assault charges were dismissed, and he pleaded guilty to the weapon charge.

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## SGT. STEVE HINKLE

# 'He'll never be forgotten'



PHOTOS BY DAVID CRIGGER/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

ABOVE: A vigil was held Friday at the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office for Sgt. Steve Hinkle. BELOW: Sheriff Jeff Cassidy bows his head during the ceremony.



## Community gathers for candlelight vigil to honor fallen Sullivan officer

BY ROBERT SORRELL  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**B**LOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — Dozens of candles lit up a dreary sky Friday night in Blountville for fallen Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Steve Hinkle.

The community gathered next to the flagpole outside the Sheriff's Office headquarters to honor Hinkle, who died Tuesday from injuries suffered in



Hinkle

the line of duty last Saturday.

"It's been overwhelming," Sheriff Jeff Cassidy said. "Our community

has stepped up."

Cassidy said the department has received numerous letters of strength,

See **VIGIL**, Page A11

### HINKLE SERVICES

» Funeral services will be held at Sullivan Central High School at 11 a.m. today. Burial services will follow at 1 p.m. at Oak Hill Cemetery in Kingsport.

### ONLINE

Find a map of the funeral procession route at [HeraldCourier.com](http://HeraldCourier.com).

## Virginia

# Budget restores some funding for rural schools

BY DAVID MCGEE  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

A compromise state budget agreement restored some, but not all, At-Risk Add-On school funding, generating a combined \$1.94 million for Southwest Virginia school districts.

Last weekend, budget conferees rejected a House of Delegates plan to increase funding through the Virginia Lottery and freeze funding through At-Risk Add-On — which would have directed more money into larger, more populated school divisions and generally reduced funding for most small and rural districts.

In its place, budget conferees — and ultimately, the General Assembly — approved a compromise plan to increase the At-Risk Add-On funding stream — designed to support school divisions in communities struggling with high poverty rates.

With the approved version, area divisions will receive \$1.94 million over the biennium or about \$700,000 more than the House version of the plan.

"It wasn't everything we wanted, but we appreciate every penny we get," Bristol Virginia Superintendent Keith Perrigan said. "We're indebted to the Southwest delegation for stepping up to the plate, as they always do, for our kids. ...They always advocate that we get an equitable amount of funding."

See **RURAL**, Page A11

# How a black man 'outsmarted' a neo-Nazi group — and became their new leader

BY KATIE METTLER  
The Washington Post

Without notifying his followers or even his inner circle, the longtime president of a legacy neo-Nazi group has signed over

its control to a black civil rights activist from California.

James Hart Stern is the new leader of the National Socialist Movement, and his first move as president was to ask a Virginia

judge to find the group guilty of conspiring to commit violence at the deadly Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017, allegations made in a lawsuit filed that year by a counter-

protester against NSM and other white-nationalist groups.

Stern's control over the neo-Nazi group and his swift actions to self-incriminate it have confounded the NSM's mem-

bers and perplexed those who study hate groups, largely because he and the group's former president, Jeff Schoep, have not

See **NEO-NAZIS**, Page A11



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# Vigil

encouragement and prayers. “We’re going to need them in upcoming days,” Cassidy said. “As difficult this last week has been, the next few days are going to be worse.”

Hinkle, a 65-year-old veteran officer, responded last Saturday to a welfare check at a home on U.S. Highway 11W in Blountville. The resident, Jackie Scott Pendergrass, 44, opened fire on officers. Hinkle was wounded during the exchange of gunfire, and Pendergrass died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, said the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, which continues to probe the shooting.



DAVID CRIGGER/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER  
A sign with the date of the End of Watch for Sgt. Steve Hinkle sits in front of his cruiser during a candlelight vigil Friday night at the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office.

said heroes aren't athletes or celebrities, but those that put on a uniform to protect their communities.

“One of my heroes is Sgt. Steve Hinkle, a man that loved his community, he loved his family and he loved his job,” Hagy said. “I’m here to tell you that he will be missed, but he’ll never be forgotten.”

Hinkle, who served numerous posts at the Sheriff’s Office, including school resource officer and patrol officer, was a good man, Hagy said.

“But most of all, he was a born-again Christian, and he was ready to meet his God,” Hagy said. “It wouldn’t surprise me that on Saturday morning — that when the bullet was fired and when he fell — that the angels of the Lord

come and got up under his arms and picked him up.”

Following Hagy’s comments and prayer, participants lit candles and sang “Amazing Grace.”

The event was held adjacent to a Sullivan County cruiser, which has been displayed so the community can place flowers and other items in Hinkle’s honor. The vehicle was covered with items by Friday night’s vigil.

A celebration of life funeral service for Hinkle will be held today at 11 a.m. at Sullivan Central High School in Blountville, where Hinkle previously served as a school resource officer. The electronic sign in front of the school this week has featured uplifting messages for Hinkle.

The services at the high school, which is being organized by Carter-Trent Funeral Home, will be followed by a procession to Oak Hill Cemetery in Kingsport.

From the high school, the procession will exit onto the southbound lanes of Interstate 81. The procession will then exit onto westbound Interstate 26 and then onto Lynn Garden Drive. Vehicles will head east on Lynn Garden Drive to Truxton Drive, where they will turn left toward the cemetery. A full police rite graveside service is planned at 1 p.m.

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# Neo-Nazis

filed incorporation paperwork with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to formally transfer the National Socialist Movement to Stern, according to documents filed with the state. By Feb. 15, Stern was listed in court documents for the lawsuit as NSM’s representative. Stern is not listed as an individual defendant in the suit.

“I did the hard and dangerous part,” Stern said. “As a black man, I took over a neo-Nazi group and outsmarted them.”

Now, he’s preparing for what comes next — and seeking guidance from Jewish leaders. Stern said he does not plan to dissolve the corporation because he doesn’t want Schoep’s followers, or others in the white-nationalist movement, to reincorporate it. His plans for the website are still evolving, but his primary goal is to offer it as a reclaimed space to Jewish organizations that could help him educate NSM’s followers on the history of the Holocaust.

“Everything is out in the open,” Stern said. “My plans and intentions are not to let this group prosper. It’s my goal to set some hard records right.”

This isn’t the first time Stern has befriended a white supremacist so he could infiltrate a hate group. While serving prison time in Mississippi for mail fraud, Stern was cellmates with onetime Ku Klux Klan leader Edgar Ray

Killen, who was convicted in the “Mississippi Burning” killings of three civil rights workers. Stern said Killen regularly called him a racial slur in the year and a half they shared a jail cell, but the two nevertheless formed a relationship.

In 2012, after Stern was out of prison, Killen granted him power of attorney and ownership of 40 acres of land, Stern said. In 2016, Stern used his legal discretion to dissolve the Klan organization Killen once led and garnered media attention. Two years later, Killen died at age 92.

It was that case that piqued Schoep’s interest in Stern, according to the activist. Stern said that in 2014 Schoep called him without notice and asked several questions about his relationship with Killen. The two later met in Beverly Hills for a small race summit and have maintained phone contact ever since.

They talked about the facts of the Holocaust, the ugliness of the Nazi swastika and the fallibility of Schoep’s white-nationalist ideals, Stern said. “From day one, I always told him: ‘I don’t agree with you; I don’t like you,’” Stern said. “I talked to him because I wanted to hope to change him.”

Stern said he was “blunt” with Schoep but that the man still “confided” in him about personal and professional strife.

“He knew that he had the most vulnerable, the most loose-cannon members that they had even had in

the organization,” Stern said. “He realized somebody was going to commit a crime, and he was going to be held responsible for it.”

Schoep took control of NSM in 1994 and was responsible for growing its membership and brand as an organization of Holocaust deniers and Adolf Hitler acolytes. The group maintains a website that draws in millions of visitors from around the world, Stern said, and has organized public rallies where violence has broken out.

The group, whose members wear SS-like uniforms that mirror those worn in Nazi Germany, was founded under a different name in 1974 by two former officials of the American Nazi Party, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. “Signing over leadership of an organization this old is the equivalent of a death sentence in the white-nationalist movement,” said Keegan Hanks, an SPLC research analyst. “It’s one of the strangest things I’ve

seen since I started tracking these things five years ago.”

Schoep did not respond to a request for comment from The Post on Friday, nor did several of the people listed on the NSM website as leaders within the organization. One man who identifies himself as SS Capt. Harry Hughes III and is listed as the public relations director for NSM, said in an email that he is “not involved in the NSM’s legal affairs and am not at liberty to discuss anything, until Commander Schoep personally makes a statement.”

“Just like you and the rest of the media, I’m waiting in suspense, too,” Hughes added.

Matthew Heimbach, a leading white-nationalist figure who briefly served as community outreach director of the organization last year, told the Associated Press that there has been conflict between NSM’s leaders, including Schoep, and its membership. Heimbach estimated the group had 40 dues-

paying members last year.

The biggest challenge the group has faced, the SPLC’s Hanks said, was being outshone by the more refined efforts of new alt-right leaders such as Richard Spencer. There was tension within the organization about the need for a shift to a less violent, less explicit brand of neo-Nazism, he said.

“A lot of these groups see [NSM] as extremely detrimental to anything regarding identity politics,” Hanks said.

Stern told The Post that he and Schoep discussed this infighting and that Schoep expressed a desire to leave NSM behind and start a new organization with less baggage. Though Schoep is no longer legally affiliated with NSM, he still faces the lawsuit because he is listed as a defendant in an individual capacity.

“It’s definitely not good for him, and it shouldn’t be good for him,” Stern said. “You spend 25 years terrorizing people, you can’t rebrand overnight. It doesn’t work like that.”

# Rural

Perrigan also serves as president of the Virginia Coalition of Small and Rural Schools, which represents about 70 divisions statewide, and lobbied lawmakers for the compromise. Statewide, the compromise recovered about \$2.2 billion in education funding.

“The At-Risk Add-On will be increased. The governor’s original proposal was to move the cap from 14 [percent] to 16 [percent] this year and 16 [percent] next year, and the House wanted the increase to all come from lottery, which doesn’t really benefit the high poverty and small divisions,” Perrigan said. “With the compromise, the cap will move to 14.5 percent for the present year and 16 percent next year.”

A 2018 report by the Education Law Center gave Virginia a failing grade in equitable school funding, stating that the state fails to adequately fund schools based on poverty and student need.

Divisions can expect a small check at the end of the fiscal year on June 30, with the majority of the funding coming during fiscal 2019-20.

The At-Risk Add-On specifically targets divisions with high numbers of students who receive free and

### At-Risk Add-On School Funding

Division	ARAO Amt.	Compared to House version
Bristol	\$120,917	\$61,222
Buchanan	\$167,638	\$98,037
Dickenson	\$98,099	\$42,517
Lee	\$221,894	\$124,966
Norton	\$38,327	\$16,319
Russell	\$155,950	\$51,327
Scott	\$188,571	\$81,648
Smyth	\$185,895	\$60,666
Tazewell	\$224,061	\$69,596
Washington	\$176,326	\$1,467
Wise	\$268,188	\$108,722
Wythe	\$95,058	-\$9,311
Total	\$1,940,924	\$707,176

Source: Virginia Coalition of Small and Rural Schools

reduced price lunch and localities with a lower composite index, or less ability to fund education.

“Virginia’s budget funding formula is very complex, and we recognize it takes a lot of consideration to reach these decisions,” Perrigan said.

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## SGT. STEVE HINKLE



DAVID CRIGGER/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Police officers salute as the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard carries Sgt. Steve Hinkle's casket to the graveside service Saturday afternoon in Kingsport.

# 'We have it from here'

### About 2,000 people attend funeral for fallen Sullivan County officer

BY ROBERT SORRELL and LURAH SPELL  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BLOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — One week after a Sullivan County Sheriff's Office sergeant was shot in the line of duty while responding to a welfare check, his family, friends and brothers and sisters in blue laid him to rest. ♦ About 2,000 people gathered Saturday morning at Sullivan Central High School for a celebration of life service for Sgt. Steve Hinkle, who previously served as the school resource officer. The veteran 65-year-old officer — who has held many positions at the Sheriff's Office since he first began in 1981, including patrol officer, honor guard, mounted patrol and dignitary protection officer — was then buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Kingsport.

See **HINKLE**, Page A5



Sgt. Steve Hinkle

“Radio number Kilo 4, Sgt. Steve Hinkle, 10-7, after 27 years of dedicated service. Although you are gone, you will never be forgotten. Rest in peace, our friend and brother, we have it from here.”

— Sara Phillips, Sullivan County dispatcher

## Sheriff: Hinkle had 'heart of gold'

BY LURAH SPELL  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BLOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — Sullivan County Sheriff Jeff Cassidy said Saturday after Sgt. Steve Hinkle's graveside service that when he found out one of his deputies had been shot on Feb. 23, he felt scared and helpless.

During an interview with the Bristol Herald Courier at Oak Hill Cemetery in Kingsport, Cassidy mourned Hinkle's death with hundreds of law enforcement officers, the officer's family and citizens.

Cassidy said that he and his department are heartbroken by their loss but have also been touched by the outpouring of support from the community and



DAVID CRIGGER/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

People pay their respects to Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Steve Hinkle as his funeral procession travels down Interstate 81 on Saturday afternoon.

law enforcement agencies from across the country.

“Everybody loved Sgt. Hinkle,” Cassidy said. “It was an event where we had an officer going to help somebody, and then this happens. ... We're going to greatly miss Steve and his sacrifices. He's a hero.”

He added that Hinkle was patient, loving, caring, had a “heart of gold,” and had a great sense of humor.

Hinkle's death is the

first time Cassidy has experienced a fatal officer-involved shooting. He worked at the Sheriff's Office from 1996-2017 and has been sheriff since September. The last time a Sheriff's Office deputy was killed by gunfire was in 1990.

Cassidy was a member of the Sheriff's Office's honor guard when Deputies Stephen Dwight Riner and Barry Shelton died in

See **SHERIFF**, Page A7

### INSIDE

- » See more photos from Saturday's funeral services. **A6**
- » It was a day of somber salutes as Hinkle was laid to rest. **A7**
- » OUR VIEW: As we grieve and contemplate the life of Steve Hinkle — the man, the lifelong public servant, and the hero — we can recall his words. Be still. And remember. **A8**

### ONLINE

- » Listen to our On the Record podcast “Remembering Hinkle” as we interview his co-workers about their memories of the officer at [HeraldCourier.com](http://HeraldCourier.com).
- » Also, watch video from the funeral service and listen to audio of the last call that was broadcast at the gravesite at [HeraldCourier.com](http://HeraldCourier.com).



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Thank you, Terry Sykes, for subscribing to the Bristol Herald Courier.



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# Hinkle

From Page A1

A white hearse brought Hinkle's casket to the high school around 11 a.m. and was ushered into the near-capacity gymnasium by dozens of uniformed police officers from around the country. The Sullivan County honor guard slowly carried the casket to a stage area where a large screen displayed Hinkle's official portrait.

Four members of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department's Lt. Oscar Stone Memorial Drill and Ceremony Team helped with Hinkle's services. They manned three flags at the high school, which were signed by attending officers.

Members of the Nashville group, who attend and assist with services across the country for officers killed in the line of duty and those that die off duty, provided assistance with the honor guard. Hinkle's service was the sixth of the group has attended so far this year.

"Police and public safety — it's all a big family," said Lt. Matt Sears.

Dozens of Sheriff's Office employees were able to attend the services for their beloved co-worker. Capt. Andy Seabolt said police from Bristol, Tennessee, and Kingsport answered calls so Sullivan County deputies could attend the services.

"He was a kind man, gentle, loving," said Mike Malone, a retired Sullivan County deputy who spoke during the service. "I saw him come to work under stress, under great pressure. I knew his heart was broken, and I knew he was bleeding inside, but he still smiled and done his job."



DAVID CRIGGER/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**Hundreds of police officers gather for the funeral of Sgt. Steve Hinkle at Sullivan Central High School on Saturday.**

Malone led prayer and shared stories about his time working with Hinkle. "Steve was a friend to so many, and especially, he was a friend to me and a co-worker, a brother in Christ," Malone said. "When I started in '91, Steve was there. When I retired in 2014, he was still there."

Last year, Malone remembered asking Hinkle when he planned to retire. "Ahh, I believe I'll work one more year," Malone recalled Hinkle saying.

Malone shared a story about Hinkle, a certified firearms instructor, showing him two .45 revolvers on one occasion. "From then, I called him 'Two Gun Pete,'" Malone said.

The retired officer said he was thankful for the support shown since Hinkle was shot while responding to a welfare

check call on Feb. 23 at a home on U.S. Highway 11W. Hinkle was shot during an exchange of gunfire as officers tried to negotiate with 44-year-old Jackie Scott Pendergrass, who resided at the home.

"It's almost a weekly thing anymore to lose an officer in the line of duty," Malone said. "This family, they have some hard days ahead of them — this department, too."

Not all of the ceremony was sad and somber. At times, the attendees had a chance to laugh at the more lighthearted memories.

"I said, 'Steve, you're the only man I know that can drive a cruiser at a high rate of speed, drink a cup of coffee, smoke a cigarette and talk to dispatch on the radio at the same time,'" Malone recalled. "He said, 'Son, that takes years of experience.'"

Malone ended his remarks and said, "Brother Steve Hinkle. 10-7. He is home ... and I'll salute him."

Malone then approached the casket and saluted his friend.

Another former officer, Rodney Dillard, said he remembered visiting the gun range with Hinkle.

"We were out on the range one day, and I couldn't hit anything," said Dillard, who is also a musician and sang "There is a Time" during the service.

To help the officer relax while firing his weapon, Hinkle told Dillard: "Let it surprise you."

"Boy, I was center-massing like crazy after that," Dillard said.

Dillard said he often shared Hinkle's advice with others.

While visiting the hospital last week, Pastor Tim Price, who serves at

Hinkle's church in Kingsport, said he spoke with Sheriff Jeff Cassidy. During the discussion, Price said he told Cassidy that "being a police officer is a calling" rather than just an ordinary job. As a pastor, Price said he understood the importance of a calling. He said it can also be a sacrifice.

"To be a police officer means that sacrifice is a reality," Price said.

Hinkle was a police officer because he loved his community, the people and the other officers, Price said. He also spoke about God's love for people.

Audie Hinkle, the officer's son, had asked Price to "preach the truth," the pastor said.

"Brother Steve accepted Christ as his savior many years ago, and when he slipped from this Earth earlier this week, he

stepped into the arms of Jesus," said Price, who asked those in attendance if they were interested in accepting Christ and being saved.

Five people, including at least two officers, raised their hands when asked if they wanted to be saved.

Price said Audie Hinkle told him it would "make all the difference in the world for me" if just one person was saved during his father's service.

Pastor Jerry Musick shared memories of residing next to Hinkle in the Sullivan Gardens section of the county.

After the celebration of life service at Central High School, a law enforcement and first-responder procession stretching five miles traveled down interstates 81 and 26 to Oak Hill Cemetery, where a full police rite graveside service was held.

The service, held at Hinkle's law enforcement-inspired vault, included prayer, bagpipes, a 21-gun salute, taps, a three-helicopter flyover and flag presentations to the family.

With gatherers in attention, at 3:21 p.m., Sullivan County dispatcher Sara Phillips spoke on the radio for Hinkle's last call, which was broadcast at the graveside. Many cried and hugged those close as the powerful last call was played.

"Kilo 4, Kilo 4, calling Kilo 4," she said. "This is the last call for radio number Kilo 4. No response for Sgt. Steve Hinkle. Radio number Kilo 4, Sgt. Steve Hinkle, 10-7, after 27 years of dedicated service. Although you are gone, you will never be forgotten. Rest in peace, our friend and brother, we have it from here. March 2, 2019, at 15:21."

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# A day of somber salutes as Hinkle laid to rest

# Sheriff

BY LURAH SPELL and ROBERT SORRELL  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BLOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — A large photo of Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Steve Hinkle overlooked a sea of hundreds dressed in black, blue or law enforcement agency uniforms from across the region and country at Sullivan Central High School on Saturday, which was a somber day for many as Hinkle was laid to rest.

Hinkle was shot during an exchange of gunfire in Blountville on Feb. 23 and died three days later.

The majority of those that attended Hinkle's services Saturday remained stoic, not shedding tears, until his last call was played at the graveside service. At that point, many could be seen crying and hugging each other.

As Hinkle's body was brought into and out of Central High and the cemetery, officers saluted him, and others held their hands over their hearts.

As attendees arrived at Central High, they signed three police flags and a guest book. The flags were given to Hinkle's three children along with the American flag that was draped over his casket.

The Sheriff's Office's honor guard deputies carried Hinkle's body into Central High and to the graveside. Around 100 law enforcement officers and rescue squad personnel looked on and saluted Hinkle at the school, and hundreds more saluted as his casket was taken out of the school.

An American flag was draped from the ladders of Avoca and Bloomingdale volunteer fire department trucks across Central High's exit that the procession drove under.

Several local fire departments and a couple rescue squads were parked on bridges overlooking interstates 81 and 26 to pay their respects as the procession drove through.

On I-81's Exit 66 entrance ramp, a few people stood waiting for the procession holding an American flag and signs that read "Thank you Sgt. Hinkle" and "God bless our first responders."

Suffolk County, New York, officers that are part of the county's chapter of the nonprofit organization Brotherhood for the Fallen attended Hinkle's services to support fallen officers' families and to let them know they have law enforcement family all over the country that grieves with them. The organization's chapters attend fallen officer services across the country and present families of the officers with money they've raised and law enforcement mementos.

Retired Officer Richard Bishop said representatives from the group have attended 16 fallen officer funerals since mid-2017, including Virginia State Police Trooper Lucas B. Dowell's services on Feb. 9 in Chilhowie, Virginia, and Chattanooga Police Department Officer Nicholas Galinger's on Friday in Cincinnati, Ohio.

"It's the same job no matter where you are," he said. Suffolk County Police Department Officer Lisa Prudenti, who is also part of the county chapter of the organization, said she considers it an honor to pay her respects to the fallen officers, their agen-



Police officers sign flags for the family of Sgt. Steve Hinkle before the funeral services on Saturday.



Scott County Sheriff's Office's Chris Holder performs a song during the funeral service for Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Steve Hinkle on Saturday at Sullivan Central High School.

cies, and their families. "We know it could be us at any time," she said. "We know that they would do the same for us because it is one big family."

Members of Brotherhood for the Fallen chapters from police departments in Chicago, Illinois; Fort Worth, Texas; Aurora, Colorado; and New York City, New York, were also at Hinkle's services. Each chapter gave money to the Hinkle family on Saturday.

Sullivan County Commissioner Hunter Locke, who is also the county's deputy coroner and works at Carter-Trent Funeral Home, which handled Hinkle's services, said he knew Hinkle well from working with him over the years. He said he

believes Hinkle made a difference in the community by touching many people's lives, especially the lives of students when he was a school resource officer.

"He gave them guidance and knowledge within their life for the future, not just kids, but our society in general," Locke said.

The mother of one of those students, Wendy Bowers, stood with her mother and niece in a fast food restaurant parking lot in Kingsport near Oak Hill Cemetery on Saturday to pay their respects to Hinkle as the procession drove past. She said she believes Hinkle, who she described as amazing and kind, played a part in inspiring her son's career as a firefighter.

"I feel like he had a good influence [on him]," Bowers said through tears. "He was always smiling. He was always friendly. [He was] just all around, a genuine person. ... God took a good one."

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From Page A1  
a single-vehicle accident near Kingsport on Sept. 30, 2001, so he took part in their funerals. He said he was astounded and grateful for the number of people that came to Hinkle's services.

Joshua Chastain, Hinkle's nephew, said Saturday experiencing the law enforcement "brotherhood" of support at the services was a "very humbling experience."

He said he and his Uncle Steve were close. Hinkle treated Chastain like he was one of his kids. When he was 16 years old, he was part of the Sheriff's Office Explorer Scouts program, which is a law enforcement training program for teenagers, so he got to ride with his uncle on a couple calls. After that, he was known at the Sheriff's Office as "Little Hinkle" — a name he said he's proud to have had.

Chastain and Hinkle often hunted deer together and spent time on the lake. He said Hinkle was a "good Christian man that loved everyone."

"If you didn't know him, you'd want to be a friend to him. If you knew him, you loved him. He was that type of person. ... You could always count on him."

— Wayne Anderson, former Sullivan County sheriff

"Policemen never die. They just live in the hearts of those that they've helped and loved," he said.

Former Sullivan County Sheriff Wayne Anderson, who attended the services Saturday at Sullivan Central High School, said Hinkle was a "model employee" and was "very humble."

"If you didn't know him, you'd want to be a friend to him," he said. "If you knew him, you loved him. He was that type of person. ... You could always count on him."

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## Highlands Announces Chief Banking Officer, Mike Hill And TriCities Market Executive, Jeff Fritts



Mike Hill



Jeff Fritts

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- Jeff Fritts**
- Leadership Washington County Graduate
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**NATION » A4**



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## Trump puts new sanctions on Iran leader

BY DEB RIECHMANN and KEVIN FREKING  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Monday targeting Iran's supreme leader and his associates with financial sanctions, the latest action the U.S. has taken to discourage Tehran from developing nuclear weapons and supporting militant groups. The sanctions follow Iran's downing of a more than \$100

million U.S. surveillance drone over the Strait of Hormuz. Trump pulled back from the brink of retaliatory military strikes on Iran last week but is continuing his pressure campaign against the nation.

"These measures represent a strong and proportionate response to Iran's increasingly provocative actions," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

"We will continue to increase

pressure on Tehran until the regime abandons its dangerous activities and its aspirations, including the pursuit of nuclear weapons, increased enrichment of uranium, development of ballistic missiles, engagement and support for terrorism, fueling of foreign conflicts and belligerent acts directed against the United States and its allies."

Trump pulled the U.S. out of the nuclear pact that world pow-

ers made with Tehran in 2015. Other nations stayed in the deal, which eased sanctions on Iran in exchange for curbing its nuclear program. Trump called it a one-sided deal in Iran's favor and reimposed sanctions but says he wants to negotiate a different deal. Iran, which calls the sanctions "economic terrorism," has shown no interest in negotiating.

Iran's U.N. ambassador Majid Takht Ravanchi said U.S.-Iran

talks are impossible under current conditions, adding, "You cannot start a dialogue with someone who is threatening, who is intimidating you."

Ravanchi, who spoke with reporters while the U.N. Security Council held closed consultations on the rising tensions between the U.S. and Iran, said Washington should stop its

See **IRAN**, Page A3

**SGT. STEVE HINKLE MEMORIAL HIGHWAY**

## 'He was Superman'

Highway named for fallen Sullivan County officer in dedication ceremony



ANDRE TEAGUE/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Sullivan County officers unveil the sign during the dedication ceremony of the Sgt. Steve Hinkle Memorial Highway on Monday afternoon.

BY LURAH SPELL  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BRISTOL, Tenn. — The portion of U.S. Highway 11W that weaves through Sullivan County was dedicated to a fallen Sheriff's Office sergeant on Monday — a man known by many as humble and kind.

The stretch of highway beginning in Bristol to its end at the Hawkins County line is now named the Sgt. Steve Hinkle Memorial Highway.

Hinkle was shot Feb. 23 when responding to a welfare check call in Blountville off of Highway 11W. He died three days later. He was a 33-year Sheriff's Office veteran who worked in many positions during his time there, including as a corrections officer in the jail, a patrol officer and a school resource officer in the county's east and central zones.

Two of Hinkle's six sisters, Margaret Neal and Lisa Clark, told the Bristol Her-



**ONLINE**

Watch video of Monday's dedication ceremony at [HeraldCourier.com](http://HeraldCourier.com)

ald Courier before the dedication ceremony that their brother was humble and he would have been overwhelmed by the honor. Hinkle was the oldest of

See **HIGHWAY**, Page A3

## Migrant kids will be moved to new facility

BY MARTHA MENDOZA and GARANCE BURKE  
The Associated Press

The U.S. government has removed most of the children from a remote Border Patrol station in Texas following reports that more than 300 children were detained there, caring for each other with inadequate food, water and sanitation.

Just 30 children remained at the facility near El Paso on Monday, said Rep. Veronica Escobar after her office was briefed on the situation by an official with Customs and Border Protection.

Attorneys who visited the Border Patrol station in Clint, Texas, last week said older children were trying to take care of infants and toddlers, The Associated Press first reported Thursday. They described a 4-year-old with matted hair who had gone without a shower for days, and hungry, inconsolable children struggling to soothe one another. Some had been locked for three weeks inside the facility, where 15 children were sick with the flu and another 10 were in medical quarantine.

"How is it possible that you both were unaware of the inhumane conditions for children, especially tender-age children at the Clint Station?" asked Escobar in a letter sent Friday to U.S. Customs and Border Protection acting commissioner John Sanders and U.S. Border Patrol chief Carla Provost.

See **CHILDREN**, Page A7



AP PHOTO/CEDAR ATTANASIO, FILE

In this May 22 file photo, migrants mainly from Central America guide their children through the entrance of a World War II-era bomber hanger in Deming, New Mexico.



Thank you, **Ruby Bartley**, for subscribing to the Bristol Herald Courier.



**8**  
26,727.54  
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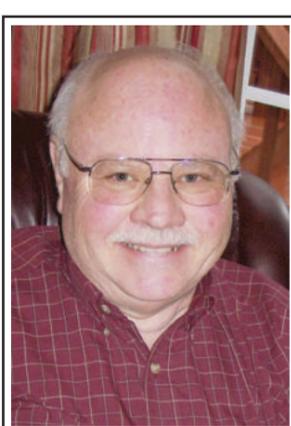
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THE HOME LOAN LEADER!

# Obituaries

From Page A2



## Venice Eugene Skeens

Venice Eugene Skeens, age 70, of Venice, Florida, formerly of Castlewood, Virginia, went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, June 22, 2019, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in Dante, Virginia, on August 9, 1948, son of the late Dennie and Mildred Dean Skeens. He was also preceded in death by an infant brother, Dennie Skeens Jr.

Those left to cherish his memory are his childhood sweetheart and loving wife of nearly 50 years, Fredia Salyer Skeens; daughter, Heather White and husband, Michael, of Tampa, Florida; son, Eric Skeens of Venice, Florida; beloved granddaughter, Hayden White; sister, Alice Horne and husband, Ray, of Gray, Tennessee; and granddog, Cruz who was always by his side.

He graduated from Castlewood High School and Whitney Business College. He began his career at Pittston Coal and spent the majority of his career as manager of Lebanon Block and Supply until his retirement. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps and was a member of the Masonic Lodge of St. Paul, Virginia. Eugene lived most of his life in Castlewood, Virginia until relocating to Venice, Florida in 2014. He spent 5 wonderful years enjoying everything the Florida lifestyle has to offer.

Eugene was a devout Christian and enjoyed serving the Lord. He was an active member and served as a deacon at St. Paul Baptist Church while living in Virginia and was currently a member and actively involved at South Venice Baptist Church. His passion was outreach and he devotedly served in a men's outreach program. He enjoyed attending breakfast every Thursday morning with the Breakfast Bunch. He loved to travel with his wife. Together they created many wonderful memories as they visited 45 states and several countries in Europe and the Caribbean. Most of all, Eugene loved spending time with his wife, children, and precious granddaughter.

A celebration of life service for Venice Eugene Skeens will be conducted at 1 p.m., Thursday, June 27, 2019, at Castlewood Funeral Home Chapel in Castlewood, Virginia, with the Rev. Mike Moore officiating. Committal services will immediately follow at Temple Hill Memorial Park. Pallbearers will be Michael White, Ray Horne, James Purcell, Randy Caplinger, Lloyd Johnson, Charlie Willis, and Ronald David. Honorary pallbearers will be Keith Fugate, Dennis Agazzi, and David Mayne.

The family will receive friends from 12 until 1 p.m. on Thursday, June 27, 2019, at Castlewood Funeral Home in Castlewood, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Brain Tumor Association, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Ste 550, Chicago, IL 60631 or online at abta.org.

A special thank you to his sister-in-law and brother-in-law Rita and James Purcell for their kindness and support before and during his recent illness.

Online condolences may be sent to the Skeens family through our website and a video tribute may be viewed at [www.castlewoodfuneralhome.com](http://www.castlewoodfuneralhome.com). Castlewood Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

# Highway

From Page A1

eight children.

But both of them, as well as Sheriff Jeff Cassidy and other elected officials, said he deserves the honor.

"He deserves every bit of the attention that he's getting right now," Clark said. "He was a good brother. I lived with him for a while. He was the same as a dad and a brother — a good man [that] took me in and took care of me, just like I was one of his kids."

Cassidy promoted Hinkle from deputy to sergeant before his death and presented his family with a medal, Neal said. She said she told Cassidy that Hinkle would've loved the honor because their father, Billie, was a retired Army sergeant.

"That was a big deal — for him to die a sergeant," Neal said.

The family found out after his death how thoughtful and well-respected Hinkle was from his colleagues and people in the community, including former county jail inmates. Neal and Clark said they and the rest of his family didn't know that when he was alive because he never talked about his job.

"I woke up in the hospital the morning that he died, and I was thinking about how mild-mannered he was and how proud he was," Clark said. "I was thinking how he was Clark Kent — we didn't know that he was Superman."

Neal, holding back tears, said she's thankful she was able to hug her brother one last time the day before he died.

While the family was in the hospital, a woman who dropped off food said she didn't know them or Hinkle, but she spoke to him a few days before his death, Neal said. She said she felt that she needed to tell him to be careful and that she was praying for them.

"My brother turned around and said, 'We appreciate it, we really do,'" Neal said. "That was the peace of God — that was a God wink telling me that even when he was out



Members of the Hinkle family bow their heads in prayer during the dedication ceremony of the Sgt. Steve Hinkle Memorial Highway on Monday afternoon.



Sullivan County Sheriff Jeff Cassidy speaks during the ceremony: "This day is very gratifying for [Hinkle's] family, friends and members of all the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office."



Sullivan County Mayor Richard Venable said during the ceremony, "We learned lessons from him in the way he lived his life."

there, people were praying for him. I believe in God winks. I believe if you look, you'll see where he's at, working."

During the ceremony, Cassidy said naming the highway is a "humbling tribute."

"This day is very gratifying for his family, friends and members of all of the

Sullivan County Sheriff's Office," Cassidy said. "Everyone traveling this highway will be reminded of the sacrifice our brother, our hero, Sgt. Steve Hinkle, made while protecting others."

State Rep. John Crawford, R-Kingsport, said it was his "privilege and honor" to work with Sen.

Jon Lundberg, R-Bristol, Reps. Timothy Hill, R-Blountville, and Bud Hulse, R-Kingsport, and Gov. Bill Lee to name the highway after Hinkle.

"We think about what this day represents and what it means, and, to a lot of us, we didn't just lose a community servant leader, we lost a good friend," Crawford said.

County Mayor Richard Venable called Monday "a special day for Sullivan County."

"We learned lessons from him [Hinkle] in the way he lived his life," he said. "He proved that you can be a nice guy and do an important job and have people think highly of you."

Surrounded by state representatives and Sheriff's Office administration personnel, Venable said Hinkle's death should also be a lesson of remembrance for law enforcement agencies and public officials.

"We will not forget them as they serve the people of Sullivan County and Northeast Tennessee," he said.

A candlelight vigil was also held for Hinkle three days after his death. In May, the Sheriff's Office held a blood drive in his honor, and he was remembered during the annual Sheriff's Office fallen officers memorial service.

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## Raymond Rutherford



Raymond "Jeff" Rutherford, age 70, of Bristol, Tenn., went to be with the Lord on Friday, June 21, 2019, suddenly from his home.

The funeral service for Mr. Rutherford will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, in Weaver Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Andy Wood and Pastor John Beeler officiating. The family will receive friends from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. prior to the service. The committal service and interment will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 26, 2019, at Glenwood Cemetery. Military Honors will be conducted by the Bristol VFW Honor Guard.

Online condolences may be registered at [www.weaverfuneralhome.net](http://www.weaverfuneralhome.net). Arrangements have been made with Weaver Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Weaver Funeral Home & Cremation Services logo and floral arrangement image.



## Herbert H. Lewis

Herbert H. Lewis, 90, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, June 22, 2019, in Kingsport, Tenn., after an extended illness.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, from 5 until 7 p.m. at First Assembly of God Church, 2213 Brandon Ln., Kingsport, Tenn. Services will follow at 7 p.m. with the Rev. Paul Wright and the Rev. Timothy Gann officiating.

Graveside committal services and burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 26, 2019, at East Lawn Memorial Park in the Garden of Gethsemane. The American Legion Post 3/265 will conduct military rites.

His grandsons will be serving as pallbearers.

Online condolences may be made to the Lewis family at [www.eastlawnkingsport.com](http://www.eastlawnkingsport.com). East Lawn Funeral Home and Memorial Park has the honor of serving the Lewis family.

# Iran

From Page A1

military activity in the region, withdraw its naval forces and end what he called "economic warfare" against the Iranian people.

The latest round of sanctions denies Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and senior military figures access to financial resources and blocks their access to any financial assets they have under U.S. jurisdiction.

"For people who say these are just symbolic, that's not the case at all," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said. "We've literally locked up tens and tens of billions of dollars."

Trump said the new sanctions are not only in response to the downing of the drone. The U.S. has blamed Iran for attacks on two oil tankers this month near the Strait of Hormuz. Citing those episodes and intelligence about other Iranian threats, the U.S. has sent an aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf region and deployed additional troops alongside the tens of thousands already there.

All this has raised fears that a miscalculation or further rise in tensions could push the U.S. and Iran into an open conflict 40 years after Tehran's Islamic Revolution.

"The supreme leader of Iran is the one who is ultimately responsible for the hostile conduct of the regime," Trump said. "He is respected within his country. He also oversees the regime's most brutal instrument including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard."

Iran's naval commander has warned that Iranian forces would not hesitate to act again and shoot down more U.S. surveillance drones that violate Iranian airspace. The U.S. said the drone was flying over international waters.

"We confidently say that the crushing response can always be repeated, and the enemy knows it," Rear Adm. Hossein Khanzadi Khanzadi was quoted as saying by the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

The sanctions came as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is holding talks in the Middle East with officials in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia about countering the military threat from Iran by building a broad, global coalition that includes Asian and European countries. Pompeo is likely to face a tough sell in Europe and Asia, particularly from those nations still committed to the 2015 nuclear deal.

Germany, France and Britain, as well as Russia and China, remain part of the nuclear accord that



President Donald Trump listens to a reporter's question after signing an executive order to increase sanctions on Iran in the Oval Office of the White House on Monday in Washington. Trump is accompanied by Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, (left) and Vice President Mike Pence.

lifted sanctions on Iran in exchange for set limits on its uranium enrichment levels. The three European countries have sent envoys to Tehran recently, signaling they remain committed to diplomacy and dialogue. They cautioned against moves that can lead to conflict between the U.S. and Iran.

Easterly Coleman Furniture advertisement with image of a living room and contact information.

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**REGION » A3**



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**SPORTS » B1**

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## Sullivan students to receive bulletproof inserts for backpacks

Donation made in honor of slain SCSO Sgt. Hinkle

BY LURAH SPELL  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**BLOUNTVILLE, Tenn.** — One hundred “higher needs” Sullivan County students will receive donated bulletproof backpack inserts, and Sheriff Jeff Cassidy said it couldn't have come at a better time, following three recent mass shootings in the U.S.

“If people want to get in a shootout, they'd come to a police station, but they don't,” Cassidy said. “They want to go to soft targets — nursing homes, assisted living facilities, day cares, schools, churches — where they can do the most harm in the least amount of time. ... It's just the

See **SULLIVAN**, Page A9

### BY THE NUMBERS

**23**

Total of mass killings so far this year in the U.S.:

**131**

The number of people who died:

**25**

The number of mass killings in 2018, which claimed 140 lives.

SOURCE: Database compiled by The Associated Press, Northeastern University and USA Today

### INSIDE

All Uva-Wise's Class of 2019 nursing graduates pass national licensure exam » **A3**



Thank you, **Andrew Leonard**, for subscribing to the Bristol Herald Courier.



Weather » **A10**

## DOWNTOWN BRISTOL, TENNESSEE

# Sixth Street woes



DAVID CRIGGER/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

With cars driving by, Keith Yonker, owner of The Angry Italian restaurant on Sixth Street in Bristol, Tennessee, talks about the new sidewalk installed by the city and the effects that it has had on the businesses on the one-way street. Parking, dangerous driving and flooding issues have been cited.

### Dining strip project causing indigestion for some business owners

BY LEIF GREISS  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**BRISTOL, Tenn.** — A project by the city of Bristol, Tennessee, meant to encourage outdoor dining downtown has some business owners on Sixth Street relocating or on the verge of doing so because they say it created problems with parking, dangerous driving and flooding.

But they said one thing the new outdoor dining strip the city installed hasn't drawn is outdoor dining.

In July, city staff widened a section of sidewalk on Sixth Street between Shelby and State streets so it could be used for outdoor dining and cafe seating. But business owners, some who appeared before City Council at its Tuesday night meeting, said since the project's completion there have been nothing but problems.

To create space for the dining strip, the city eliminated nine of 15 parking spaces on Sixth Street and though there is a parking lot on the eastern side of the street, it is privately owned, and towing is enforced.

Lewis Foreman, who owns Foreman and Associates in the Central Building on Sixth Street, said people still park where spaces used to be, blocking the entire street, and others have started to park on the sidewalk.

Dave Vaught, who has owned Top Hat Magic Supply on Sixth Street for 15 years, said he was already considering moving before the dining strip was built, but the conditions created by the change convinced him to relocate.

Valentina Rose, who owns Valentina's

See **SIXTH**, Page A9



DAVID CRIGGER/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Mountain Empire Comics owner Robert Pilk points to the parking that he lost when the new sidewalk was put in on Sixth Street.

## Shootings prompt other countries to warn about travel to US

BY SCOTT SMITH  
The Associated Press

**CARACAS, Venezuela** — The United States often takes a leading role in calling out the world's most dangerous places, warning its people about the risks of traveling to countries that are at war, under terrorist threats, experiencing civil unrest or displaying

significant anti-American sentiment.

The latest mass shootings have triggered a sharp role reversal, with three countries warning their citizens about the risks of traveling to the U.S. Venezuela, Uruguay and Japan issued warnings to varying degrees following the deaths of 31 people over the weekend in Day-

ton, Ohio, and El Paso, Texas. Each warning noted U.S. gun violence, and at least one was laced with a dose of political payback.

Without directly naming President Donald Trump, the government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro blamed the surge in violence on speeches emanating from Washington that are

“impregnated with racial discrimination and hatred against immigrants.” It urges Venezuelans to postpone U.S. trips.

Countries such as Australia, New Zealand and the Netherlands have not issued new warnings in recent days, but they have longstanding advisories for travelers of mass shootings and gun violence.

**INSIDE: CLASSIFIED B8-10 | COMICS B6 | DEATHS A4 | OPINION A8 | SCOREBOARD B2 | TELEVISION B7**

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# Sixth

From Page A1  
 Designs & Alterations, said since construction began on the dining strip, she's lost business, and she's tired of explaining to her frustrated customers why there are no places to park. If the city doesn't fix the problem by replacing the spaces that were eliminated, she said she will close.

Lisa Sherfey is director of the Center of Hope and a clinical social worker at Alternatives Psychotherapy, which are both in the Central Building. She said she works with children and seniors who have experienced trauma, and the lost spaces have impacted her clients. She said some of her older clients with mobility issues can't walk two or more blocks when the six remaining parking spaces on the street are taken, and they are canceling appointments.

If that continues, she said she may have to move both operations.

Even Keith Yonker, owner of The Angry Italian, who initially supported the idea of the dining strip, said since it was finished business has dropped by 5%. He added he has been threatened verbally by people who blame him for the strip and the parking spaces the city got rid of. If the threats continue, he said he will move his restaurant — which is the only one on the dining strip — elsewhere.

But parking isn't the only problem. Brian Bridgeforth, who owns Bridgeforth Design Studio, said the street now floods during heavy rain.

Many business and property owners on the street are most frustrated because they said the city did not make a good-faith effort to involve them in the decision-making process for the dining strip

or inform them it was happening.

David Shumaker owns a building on Sixth Street with apartments that he rents out. Although he served on Bristol Tennessee City Council for 15 years, he said even he didn't hear anything about the city's plans until after the project was underway.

The idea for the dining strip came from a downtown development study the city commissioned. Tom Anderson, director of economic development, said those with the Walker Collaborative, who conducted the study, held focus groups and spoke to business and property owners on the street about the idea of a dining strip. He said he didn't have a list of everyone they spoke to, but no red flags were raised at that time.

City Manager Bill Sorah said the planning process was very open and the city provided opportunities for

anyone who was interested or concerned to speak.

"Sometimes, you just don't know how else to get the info out there," Sorah said. "Everyone had an opportunity to participate if they so chose."

A presentation was held on the downtown development study in December, and a public breakfast meeting in January included discussion of the Sixth Street project and other suggestions in the study, Sorah said.

Funding for the dining strip was discussed at council's eight-hour budget work session on Jan. 22 and at its June 4 meeting. City Council approved the allocation of \$20,000 for the project when it adopted the 2019-20 budget. Council also heard a presentation on the project from city staff during its June work session, shortly before the work began.

The city manager added that news releases from the

city and Believe in Bristol, a nonprofit that focuses on downtown businesses, were sent out shortly before work began.

But Maggie Bishop, director of Believe in Bristol, said the process could have been handled better because emails were sent out around July 4, and people may have missed them because of the holiday weekend.

However, many business owners said the city never made them aware of the meetings when the strip was discussed. They didn't receive emails, fliers, notices or any other communication from the city until it was preparing to build, they added. Bridgeforth said the least the city could have done was send an employee out to talk to the business owners.

Yonker, who was part of the focus groups the Walker Collaborative used to come up with the idea of outdoor dining on Sixth Street, said

though he knew about the dining strip, he was out of the loop on how quickly the city planned to roll it out. He said he was under the impression the city was going to wait until 2020 for construction.

Some business owners have even asked if the lack of communication from the city was intentional.

Dr. Donald Quinn, who owns the Quinn Organization in the Central Building, said it seems the meetings were conducted without the knowledge of pre-existing businesses, and he hopes it wasn't an attempt by the city to control which businesses succeed on Sixth Street.

"Why would the city do that?" Sorah said, adding that the strip was meant to encourage outdoor dining. "It's an opportunity for food and beverage businesses in the downtown."

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# Sullivan

From Page A1  
 world we live in today, and that's sad."

The job of law enforcement and the criminal justice system, he said, is to adapt to a changing world. The backpack inserts are a way of protecting children who, because of physical or developmental limitations, couldn't hide or run from a shooter inside a school.

There are more than 100 students who qualify, according to Sullivan County Schools Assistant Director of Schools/Special Education Supervisor Angela Buckles. Cassidy said he wishes the Sheriff's Office could afford to buy the inserts for all those students, but it isn't possible.

The retail value of 100 inserts is \$30,000, or \$300

each, according to the ShotStop Ballistics website — the Ohio-based manufacturer of the product. The inserts are rated to withstand multiple shot impacts from handgun and rifle fire, including from an AR-15. Each one weighs around 3.5 pounds, according to Skip Gavorski, with the company.

ShotStop Ballistics partnered with Blue Blood Brotherhood, a Florida-based nonprofit that helps current and retired officers nationwide with financial needs for education, training, equipment and medical treatment. It also honors the lives of fallen and injured officers and helps support their families.

The inserts are being donated in honor of Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Steve Hinkle, a former school resource officer and

longtime deputy who was shot and killed in the line of duty in February.

BBB created a GoFundMe page for Hinkle's family with a goal of \$10,000. As of Thursday afternoon, \$190 had been raised. Tuesday Browning, the organization's co-founder, also attended his funeral.

"When this opportunity came to us to be able to get a donation of backpack inserts we thought that it would be great, because he was at one point a resource officer, to do it in his memory," Browning said.

She and Gavorski said they've never done something like this before, but both think it's a great idea. The idea to give the inserts to "higher needs" students came from former Director of Schools Evelyn Rafalowski, according to Cassidy.

"The ultimate goal is to save lives, no matter what," Browning said.

The inserts will be donated to the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office and Sullivan County Schools today at 11 a.m. at the Sheriff's Office.

"Our mission is to save lives — build confidence to save lives," Gavorski said. "When I heard what Blue Blood Brotherhood stood for, I said, 'We're all in.' ...

We're doing it in honor of the school resource officer that was gunned down. That's why we're doing it to protect kids."

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**THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN (PG)** - 1:10PM, 4:10PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM

**DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD (PG)** - 12:50PM, 3:50PM, 6:50PM, 9:30PM

**THE KITCHEN (R)** - 1:20PM, 4:20PM, 7:20PM, 9:50PM

**SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK (PG-13)** - 12:20PM, 3:20PM, 6:20PM, 9:05PM

**SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK (PG-13) - MXX** - 7:00PM, 9:45PM

**FAST & FURIOUS PRESENTS: HOBBS & SHAW (PG-13)** - 6:10PM, 9:10PM

**FAST & FURIOUS PRESENTS: HOBBS & SHAW (PG-13) - MXX** - 12:40PM, 3:40PM, 6:40PM, 9:40PM

**ONCE UPON A TIME... IN HOLLYWOOD (R)** - 1:40PM, 3:20PM, 6:20PM, 8:50PM

**THE LION KING (PG)** - 12:00PM, 3:00PM, 6:00PM, 8:50PM

**THE LION KING (PG) - MXX** - 12:30PM, 3:30PM

**SENSORY FRIENDLY SHOWING:**  
**THE LION KING (PG) - SATURDAY (ONLY) 11:00 AM**

**CRAWL (R)** - 12:15PM, 9:30PM

**SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-13)** - 11:50AM, 6:30PM, 9:35PM

**TOY STORY 4 (G)** - 11:30AM, 1:55PM, 4:20PM, 6:50PM, 9:20PM

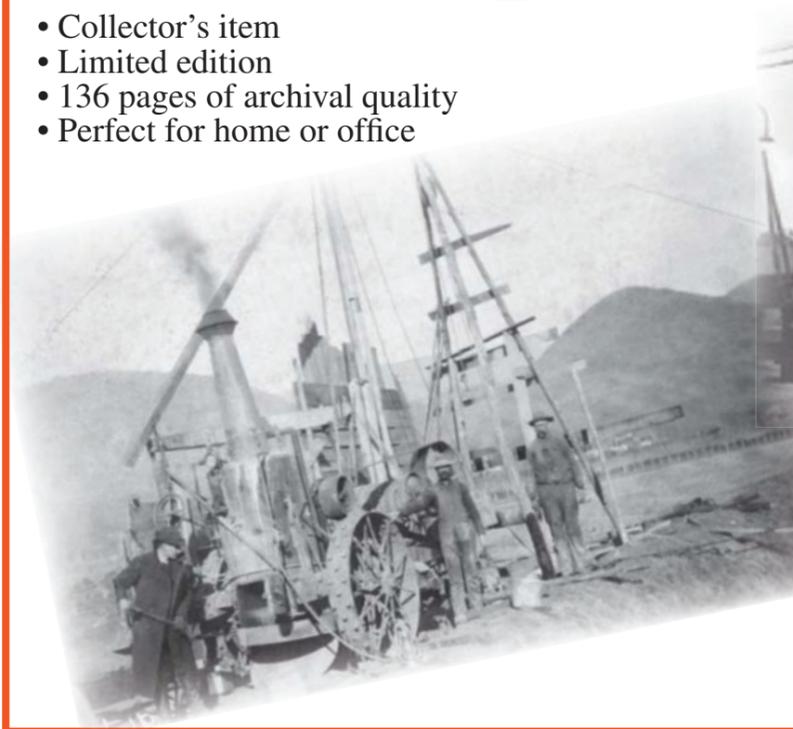
**SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY FLASHBACK:**  
**BIG TROUBLE IN LITTLE CHINA (PG-13)** - 3:30PM, 7:00PM

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The Bristol Herald Courier is pleased to offer photo's from the archives of Bristol Historical Association, Museum of the Middle Appalachians, Sullivan County Department of Archives and Tourism and William King Museum of Art from the 1800s to 1939.

**Sullivan constable indicted on felony charges**  
**REGION » A3**



**THE BUMP**  
 1999 race remembered for Earnhardt's nudge of Labonte  
**» SPORTS, B1**

# BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

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## US delays tariffs on some Chinese goods until December

BY PAUL WISEMAN and CHRISTOPHER RUGABER  
 AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON — Responding to pressure from businesses and growing fears that a trade war is threatening the U.S. economy, the Trump administration is delaying most of the import taxes it planned to impose on Chinese goods and is dropping others altogether.

The announcement Tuesday from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative was greeted with relief on Wall Street and by retailers who have grown fearful that the new tariffs would wreck holiday sales.

The administration says it still plans to proceed with 10% tariffs on about \$300 billion in Chinese imports — extending its import taxes to just about everything China ships to the United States in a dispute over Beijing's strong-arm trade policies.

But under pressure from retailers and other businesses, President Donald Trump's trade office said it would delay until Dec. 15 the tariffs on nearly 60% of the imports that had been set to absorb the new taxes starting Sept. 1. Among the products that will benefit from the 3½-month reprieve are such popular consumer goods as cell-phones, laptops, video game consoles, some toys, com-

See **TARIFFS**, Page A4

### INSIDE



**Johnson City gives robot to Bristol police** » A3

Thank you, **Ellis Whitten**, for subscribing to the Bristol Herald Courier.

**83/65**  
**Weather » A10**



## SULLIVAN COUNTY



DAVID CRIGGER/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Sullivan County K-9 Officer Andrew Walden wears a new bite suit during a training demonstration Tuesday with K-9 Officer Neeko. The bite suit was purchased by Food City in honor of fallen Sgt. Steve Hinkle.

# Stronger bite

## New K-9 bite suit donated in honor of fallen Sullivan officer

BY LURAH SPELL  
 BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BLOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — Sullivan County Sheriff's Office K-9 Officer Neeko demonstrated Tuesday how a new bite suit holds up to continue his training in apprehending potential suspects on command.

During a training session outside the Sheriff's Office in Blountville, the 7-year-old Belgian Malinois listened to his handler, K-9 Unit Sgt. Kris Thomas, and, within seconds, took down K-9 Officer Andrew Walden, who played the role of a suspect by donning the big orange suit.



DAVID CRIGGER/BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

K-9 Officer Sgt. Kris Thomas gets Neeko to release his bite from K-9 Officer Andrew Walden during the demonstration.

“He did what he was supposed to do at the end of the day, so, I mean, I was happy with it. ... I can actually feel his full bite.”

— Andrew Walden, Sullivan County K-9 officer

See **BITE**, Page A6



**ONLINE**

View video of the Sullivan County K-9 officers demonstrating the new bite suit at [HeraldCourier.com](http://HeraldCourier.com).

## Blackjewel

# Feds ask judge to halt coal

Motion seeks stoppage until workers get pay

BY TIM DODSON  
 BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

The U.S. Department of Labor is asking a federal judge to halt the movement of coal from two Virginia facilities owned by bankrupt coal operator Blackjewel LLC until idled workers receive overdue pay.

The federal government considers coal at Blackjewel facilities in Raven and Honaker “hot goods” produced in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, which prohibits the transportation of goods made in violation of minimum wage and overtime requirements, Department of Labor attorneys wrote in an emergency motion filed Aug. 9.

As a result, the federal government requested an order in bankruptcy court prohibiting the transport of coal at these locations and requiring that any sales proceeds from the coal be held in an escrow account until the issue of uncompensated work is resolved.

Blackjewel is cooperating with federal authorities, the company's attorneys wrote in a preliminary response filed Aug. 10.

The federal bankruptcy court in Charleston, West Virginia, had not ruled on the motion as of Tuesday afternoon.

Department of Labor investigators interviewed Blackjewel employees in Virginia, who said they were owed pay from between June 10 and July 1. About 20,000 tons of metallurgical coal — with an estimated value of at least \$2.5 million — were observed stockpiled in train cars at a facility called Raven Dock, and employees told investigators 1,800 tons of clean coal and 15,000 tons of raw coal were at the Flat Rock Prep Plant in Honaker, according to the government's filings.

Blackjewel — the country's sixth largest coal producer in 2017, according to the most recently available federal data — filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on July 1 in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of West Virginia. At the same time, the company halted operations

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# Bite

From Page A1

The \$1,800 suit was paid for by Food City in honor of fallen Sgt. Steve Hinkle, who was killed in the line of duty in February.

Thomas got Neeko out of his cruiser and shouted to Walden, who was sitting inside a vehicle, "Sheriff's Office K-9! Get out of the car! Sheriff's Office K-9! Get out of the car with your hands up!"

Walden got out of the car and acted like he was fleeing. Before turning Neeko loose, Thomas shouted, "Turn around! Stop! You're going to get bit!"

When he was let go, Neeko bolted toward Walden and latched onto his left forearm, keeping his grip despite being slung around in circles. Within seconds, he had Walden pinned, face down on the pavement, and he didn't let go until Thomas told him to.

During the takedown, Walden shouted to mimic being in pain, but when asked afterward if it was an act, he said no because it was painful.

"He did what he was supposed to do at the end of the day, so, I mean, I was happy with it," Walden said, adding that the new suit is much better than the old one. "I can actually feel his full bite."

Obviously, Neeko takes his job seriously because, even after he was commanded to stop, he looked around a couple times as if searching for the suspect before taking a break.

"The dog is getting

trained, but it's also training us, too, because we've got to work off of our cues of our dog," Thomas said. "If we're doing a track, and we get close to him [suspect], you'll see the dog's ears go up, he'll stiffen up, tail goes up, then you'll know you're close. His head will come up off the ground, and he'll start wind-scenting instead of tracking down on the ground, so it helps us training all the time to read the cues of our dogs."

Neeko is trained to search for, track and apprehend suspects, as well as to find drugs.

The scenario was similar to a recent call Walden and his dog, K-9 Officer Drako, responded to in the Sullivan Gardens area of the county, he said.

The material of the new suit is much thinner than the retired suit used for training for nine years, but Walden and Thomas said that's a good thing because it means better training for the dogs and handlers. There was some blood on the suit from Neeko's gums after the training. That's normal until the material is worn in some, and it strengthens the dogs' gums, Thomas said.

"It's kind of like wearing a winter sports coat," he said. "It's all about the decoy and the dog. If the decoy can't feel the dog come in and punch, your dog's going to not have a good bite, and the pressure that he can feel, he'll actually have bruises on the arm that he caught the dog on."

The suit is University of Tennessee orange

with white stripes down the legs and arms. Printed on the back of the suit in all capital letters is "Hinkle," and his badge number, 1741, is printed on the side of the left leg.

Sheriff Jeff Cassidy said he and his department are thankful for the donation and for Food City's dedication to helping law enforcement and the community.

"We rely a lot on donations and grants and stuff for certain equipment because most of our budget goes to mandatory [costs] — cars, fuel, the jail, inmates' health care, food, water and shelter," he said.

But Food City Security Director Daniel Sluss, who watched the demonstration with other Food City employees, said the goal of the donation was about honoring Hinkle. After his death, they asked what they could do, and Cassidy said they needed a new bite suit, so they donated the money.

"In light of the tragedy and what happened, we observed everything, and it really pulled on our heartstrings," Sluss said. "We're big in the community. We strive to help and involve the community, and a big part of that is first responders, whether it's EMS [emergency medical services], fire or your local sheriff's office or PD [police department], and we just really felt we want to do something in the honor of Sgt. Hinkle."

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# Blackjewel

From Page A1

at its facilities in Virginia, Wyoming, Kentucky and West Virginia, and most of the company's 1,700 employees found themselves out of work.

Miners reported that paychecks from the end of June bounced, creating dire financial straits for many who suddenly found themselves with bills to pay and little information about whether they would return to work.

"Employee statements indicate Blackjewel employees worked on the coal at Raven Dock facility and Flat Rock Prep Plant during the relevant period and were not compensated for the work they performed on the coal," Department of Labor attorneys wrote in the Aug. 9 filing.

In accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act, "the transporting and transferring of the coal in dispute should be halted in light of the violations of the 'hot goods' provisions of the FLSA and the evidence that these goods were produced by uncompensated employees," the attorneys added.

This follows a similar request earlier this month, when the Department of Labor sought to halt a shipment of coal from Harlan County, Kentucky. That coal had been sold to Blackjewel

Marketing and Sales Holdings LP, an entity formed by Blackjewel, Javelin Global Commodities and Uniper SE that marketed Blackjewel's coal.

Blackjewel is working with federal authorities to reach an agreement to resolve the situation in Kentucky, the company's attorneys said in an Aug. 10 filing.

When Blackjewel learned of the possible FLSA violation in Virginia, it "again cooperated fully with the DOL and DOJ," the attorneys said in the same filing. Some of the Virginia coal was also sold to the marketing company, and Blackjewel agreed not to move it "until a similar agreement to that proposed in Kentucky could be structured related to the Virginia coal."

Blackjewel has asked the Department of Labor to

withdraw the motion related to the allegations in Virginia.

It remains to be seen when and whether Blackjewel's Virginia employees will receive their back pay. State data shows the company employed about 480 Virginians in 2018.

After filing for bankruptcy, the company failed to obtain long-term financing that would have allowed it to fully resume operations at its facilities. It has since sought court approval for a number of sales, most notably a \$33.75 million sale of three mines in Wyoming and West Virginia to Bristol Tennessee-based Contura Energy. Although a judge approved the sale, the federal government still needs to approve the deal.

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**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF THE FRR OPEN ACCESS DISTRIBUTION SERVICE TARIFF CASE NO. PUR-2019-00111**

On July 10, 2019, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company"), pursuant to § 56-236 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), filed with the State Corporation Commission of Virginia ("Commission") a petition ("Petition") requesting approval of its Fixed Resource Requirement ("FRR") Open Access Distribution Service Tariff (the "FRR-OAD Rate Schedules").

House Bill 2477 ("HB 2477"), which became effective on July 1, 2019, amends § 56-577 of the Code by requiring customers that elect to shop for retail electric energy pursuant to § 56-577 A 3 and § 56-577 A 4 of the Code to continue to pay the incumbent electric utility for non-fuel generation capacity and transmission related costs that the utility incurs to meet its capacity obligations, if the utility has elected the FRR alternative as a load serving entity in the PJM Interconnection L.L.C. region. The Petition states that APCo has elected the FRR alternative through May 2022. Thus, the Company filed this Petition requesting approval of the FRR-OAD Rate Schedules, effective as of July 1, 2019.

The Company asserts that the non-fuel generation capacity and transmission related costs that shopping customers will pay pursuant to the FRR-OAD Rate Schedules are identical to those in its standard service tariff, which the Commission has approved. Thus, the FRR-OAD Rate Schedules mirror the Company's standard service tariff, except that, as required by HB 2477, the FRR-OAD Rate Schedules exclude the costs for fuel and purchased power and the incremental costs of complying with the voluntary Virginia Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents for the details of these and other proposals.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company's application and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice of its Petition and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment or request a hearing on the Petition.

Copies of the Petition and the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment are available for public inspection during regular business hours at each of the Company's business offices in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Copies also may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for APCo, Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, 1051 East Cary Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. If acceptable to the requesting party, the Company may provide the documents by electronic means.

Copies of the Petition, and the public versions of other documents filed in this case, also shall be available for interested persons to review in the Commission's Document Control Center, located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

On or before September 24, 2019, any interested person may file with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, written comments on the Petition. On or before September 24, 2019, any interested person desiring to submit comments electronically may do so by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Compact discs or any other form of electronic storage medium may not be filed with the comments. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2019-00111.

On or before September 24, 2019, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation. If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the notice of participation shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. A copy of the notice of participation as a respondent also must be sent to counsel for the Company at the address set forth above. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. All such filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2019-00111. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment.

Any person may request a hearing on the Petition by filing such request for hearing on or before September 24, 2019. If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the request for hearing must be submitted to the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Requests for hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2019-00111 and shall include: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the filing party; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter; and (v) a precise statement why such issues cannot adequately be addressed in comments. Persons filing a request for hearing shall send a copy of the request to the Company's counsel at the address set forth above.

All documents filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

The Commission's Rules of Practice may be viewed at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. A printed copy of the Commission's Rules of Practice and an official copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment may be obtained from the Clerk of the Commission at the address above.

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