

Sports

Oh My Darlings!

Clutch hit and slide sends Appomattox to 'Bama

CHARLES CONRAD
Times Virginian

Callie Lucado started the rally with a base hit, advancing to third base on an Amelia error.

Two batters later, Tenley Gilliam turned in a double to score Lucado for the Darlings' first run.

Next up was Maison Kelso, who showed some power at the plate with a long hit to right field, which resulted in an inside-the-park home run and a 3-2 lead.

After back-to-back hits by Almond and Harris, June Cartrett smacked a single that rolled under the Amelia first baseman's leg and brought home both runners.

Amelia didn't back down, however, storming back with four runs in the top of the second inning to retake the lead 6-5.

In what was akin to a back-and-forth ping pong match, Appomattox returned serve, so to speak, with another three runs in their half of the inning to go up 8-6.

Appomattox scored all three runs on another inside-the-park homer, this one by Gilliam, which scored Almond and Lucado.

Amelia went scoreless in the top of the third, but Appomattox added another run when Harris scored from third base on a fielder's choice play by Amelia. Harris had reached third on a single and error.

Another shutout inning by the Appomattox defense in the fourth inning gave the offense a chance to add to their 9-6 lead. MaKenna Lamberth reached base with a lead-off double, but Appomattox hitters were unable to drive her home for an insurance run.

The inability to add that extra run nearly came back to haunt Appomattox as Amelia stormed back with four runs when they were facing elimination in the top of the fifth inning.

With the game on the line, the young Appomattox girls dug their heels in deep. Kelso, who had produced several big hits in the game and played fine defense, reached first

base to start the inning but was thrown out going to second base.

The next batter, Almond, regained a runner on the basepaths for Appomattox with a single. Harris followed with another single, and Cartrett also reached base to load the bases and set the stage for Vaughan's big hit, Almond's tying score and Harris's slide that will live forever in Appomattox County lore.

After receiving their individual and team trophies, Appomattox and Amelia players and coaches gathered in a circle for joint prayer, showing good sportsmanship on both sides.

The Appomattox Darlings were as excited as they could be, knowing they are on their way to the Deep South for a chance to win the Dixie World Series.

Harris said her decision to slide into home plate for the winning run was made in a split-second

"When I saw the catcher coming at me, I slid," Harris said.

Harris was unsure if she was safe or not, but when the umpire made the call, she said she thought to herself, "Thank the Lord."

Vaughan recalled that on that last at-bat, she had a feeling she would make a clutch hit.

"I was gonna hit the ball," Vaughan said when asked what she was thinking about while in the batter's box.

She also said she was a little nervous but took a chance at a big swing anyway.

"I took a swing and ran" she said.

Vaughan expressed that it felt "really good" to make the game-winning hit and be lifted up in the air by her coaches and teammates immediately after the play.

The Dixie World Series begins July 27. The July 24 edition of the Times Virginian will include a Dixie World Series preview of the Appomattox Darlings with more photos and post-game player interviews.



Adam Wilmoth/Contributed

The Appomattox Darlings lift high their 2019 Dixie State Championship trophy.



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian

Hallie Vaughan (above) makes contact on the game-winning hit that drove in two runs in the bottom of the fifth and final inning to give Appomattox an 11-10 win and the Dixie All-Stars State Championship.



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian

Pictured are the three Appomattox Darlings who took part in the game-winning play in the last inning against Amelia. From left: Hallie Vaughan, who made the big hit; Kollyns Almond, who scored the game-tying run; and Willow Harris, who slid into home for the game-winning run.



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian

Callie Lucado (#22) tosses the ball from her infield position to first baseman Tenley Gilliam after a short Amelia grounder during Tuesday's state title game.

Attention sports coaches!

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Appomattox, Virginia

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

\$1.50

Man gets 5 years for shooting wife

Wife was shot in the head, forgave him

CHARLES CONRAD
Times Virginian

March 31, 2018, nonfatal shooting of his wife at their Spout Spring residence on Hummingbird Lane.

Steele, 58, received a five-year active sentence, which includes credit for time already served. He has

been incarcerated nearly 19 months since the night of his arrest.

Steele was convicted of aggravated malicious wounding, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony (first offense) and shoot-

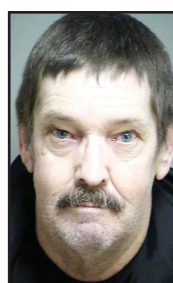
ing in an occupied building. All charges are classified as felonies. In July, Steele had submitted an Alford Plea to the charges, meaning that he acknowledged there is sufficient evidence to find him guilty.

Two years of the sentence were for malicious wounding while the other three

years are the mandatory minimum for using a firearm in a felony crime.

Evidence in the case was presented by Commonwealth's Attorney Les Fleet, who had sought a 10-year sentence. Steele's attorney, Joseph Sanzone, requested

See **SHOOTING**, Page A8



Steele

The Court Report

Local man sentenced on cocaine charges

CHARLES CONRAD
Times Virginian

2018. The fifth charge was brought when a vehicle in which he was a passenger was pulled over for a traffic violation. A search of the vehicle turned up drugs and scales.

On all charges combined, Wiley received a suspended sentence of 22 years based on 20 years good behavior and three years supervised probation.

Meth case co-defendant gets suspended sentence

Kimberly Dawn Mayberry, 27, of Spout Spring, was sentenced to five years suspended on a felony pos-

See **COURT**, Page A8

10 Halloween safety tips aired

Halloween is just a day away. Fast becoming one of the most popular holidays in this country, masses of little super heroes, cartoon and television characters will soon be out in their neighborhoods for trick or treat fun. The American Red Cross has ten tips parents can follow to help keep the kids safe while enjoying the festivities.

know where the kids are going. A parent or responsible adult should accompany young children door-to-door.

4. Be cautious around animals, especially dogs.

5. Walk, don't run.

6. Only visit homes that have a porch light on. Accept treats at the door - never go inside.

7. Walk only on the sidewalks, not in the street.

• If no sidewalk is available, walk at the edge of the roadway, facing traffic.

• Look both ways before crossing the street, and cross only at the corner.

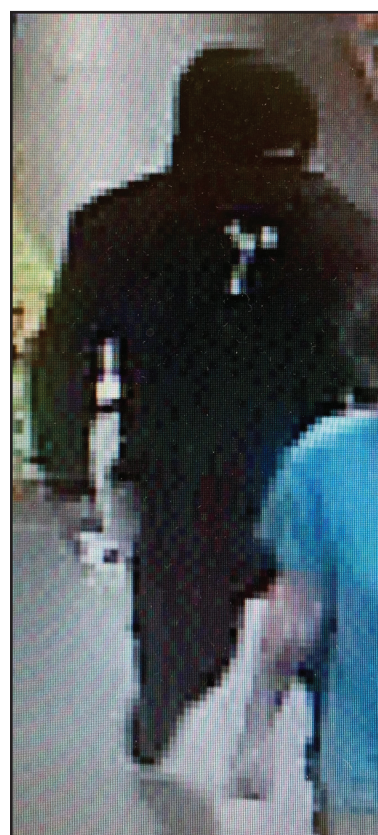
• Don't cut across yards or use alleys.

• Don't cross between parked cars.

• Drivers - use extra caution. The youngsters may forget to look both ways before crossing.

See **SAFETY**, Page A11

Robbery suspects sought



Contributed

Shown at left is surveillance camera footage of suspects in connection to an armed robbery Wednesday at Dollar General in Pamplin.

C.E. Adams Times Virginian

Shown below is the front of Dollar General in Pamplin boarded up after the glass was broken during an armed robbery Wednesday night of the store.



Pamplin Dollar General robbed

C.E. ADAMS
Times Virginian

The Appomattox County Sheriff's Office is searching for two suspects involved in an armed robbery Wednesday night of Dollar General at 2482 Pamplin Road in Pamplin.

The incident occurred around 10 p.m. The front glass door entrance was broken and one of the men may have sustained cuts as a result, accord-

ing an official over an emergency communication radio. How the glass was broken and whether there was a cut could not be confirmed.

Two clerks and one customer were inside the building at the time of the robbery. An undisclosed amount of cash was taken, and the suspects fled on foot. Police were on the lookout for two white males wearing all black, and a search dog from

Appomattox was used. They also looked for vehicles that may have been parked elsewhere, but no vehicle has been identified.

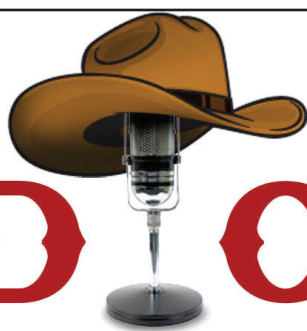
One of the glass doors was boarded up Thursday, and a sign was posted on the other door saying that the store was closed. When asking for a manager for any additional information to help identify the suspects, an employee said she was instructed

not to give out any information about the incident.

The Virginia State Police and Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office also responded to the call. According to Appomattox County Sheriff Barry Lettman, law enforcement members were on the scene for several hours. No other information was provided due to it being an ongoing investigation.

See **ROBBED**, Page A8

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Appomattox, Virginia

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

\$1.50

Two cars hit cow

CHARLES CONRAD
Times Virginian

Tuesday night at approximately 9:15 p.m., two vehicles collided with a black cow on U.S. 460 East just past Woodbridge Lane in Spout Spring.

According to a fireman at the scene, one of the vehicles hit the cow before a second car also crashed into the animal. The cars reportedly did not make contact with each other.

The second car, a blue 1999 Chevrolet, flipped over at the edge of the grass median.

According to Virginia State Police, the driver, 64-year-old Eugene Kennedy of Appomattox, was

See COW, Page 11



Contributed

This blue 1999 Chevrolet flipped over at the edge of the grass median after hitting a cow on U.S. 460 East just past Woodbridge Lane in Spout Spring. The driver, 64-year-old Eugene Kennedy of Appomattox, was transported to Lynchburg General Hospital with a head laceration.

Fence-In ordinance falls short

MICHELLE PAYNE
Times Virginian

At the Monday night county meeting, residents of Appomattox County used the citizen public comment period to make known their opinions on the proposed Fence-In Ordinance, which would later fail to pass.

Carolyn Page, addressing the board, said she was present to support Fence Out.

"We have a lot of children in this county — we have a lot of people in this county that it would make it a harder obligation to take care of their small animals if you changed this ordinance."

Timothy Coverdale spoke up in favor of the Fence-In ordinance. He shared that, because of damages incurred by his neighbors' animals, he is having to carry the finan-

cial burden of repairing his own personal property.

According to Coverdale, he has now spent more than \$5,000 as a result of the damages to his property. He said he spoke to legal counsel.

"And unfortunately, due to the way the law is written, I'm responsible, and there's nothing we can do about it," said Coverdale.

Coverdale said that if they were under a Fence-In ordinance, the neighbors could have been held responsible.

"I'm hoping you guys will see that a lot of money is being spent over the negligence of other people's animals," he continued.

The proposed Fence-In Ordinance later came to the table for discussion and consideration.

Wreck Island District representative, Bryan

See FENCE-IN, Page 11

Lavender fest entertains

MICHELLE PAYNE
Times Virginian

Ken and Bonnie Swanson welcomed the public to their Evergreen Lavender Farm once again for their annual Lavender Festival on Saturday.

It was a bright, sunny day with a gentle breeze wafting through the air as the parking areas filled with guests coming from Appomattox County and beyond.

The Evergreen Lavender Festival featured various food trucks and vendors, ranging from local to out of town. And one thing was a given at the festival — lavender takes center stage.

Guests could be seen purchasing potted lavender or purchasing an opportunity to pick their own from the farm.

To coincide with the lavender theme, a few folks were walking around with purple colored hair and clothing.

"We think it's important for the community," said Ken Swanson. "We want to share the farm with the community. And we do it

See LAVENDER, Page 16



Michelle Payne/Times Virginian

Little Grace Ellin poses for a photo opportunity Saturday at the Evergreen Lavender Festival. She said she loved the ice cream at the festival.

County gets broadband grant money

C.E. ADAMS
Times Virginian

The Virginia Tobacco Commission recently granted Appomattox County its \$600,000 request for the Pamplin Area Fiber Broadband Project.

This was a second request to fund an expansion of the Central Virginia Electric Cooperative's (CVEC) Firefly broadband network. It was awarded \$979,850 in the initial funding round in March.

According to the grant application, nearly 600

homes and businesses will benefit from the expansion, which covers parts of Appomattox, Buckingham and Prince Edward counties. Of those, 359 homes in Appomattox County will be served. Most places in the area has speeds of 10 mbps or less, with the exception of residents along Route 460.

The project notes that Holliday Lake State Park currently does not have broadband internet service options and will be includ-

See GRANT, Page 10

Car crashes into Appomattox Post Office

CHARLES CONRAD
Times Virginian

Just after 4 p.m. Friday, a driver crashed into a brick pillar in the front of the Appomattox Post Office on Court Street.

According to a Virginia State Police trooper at the

scene, the female driver of a gray Nissan Maxima lost control of the vehicle by accidentally stepping on the gas pedal while in a parking space and going up over the curb.

No pedestrians were injured.

The trooper identified the driver as 81-year-old Lenore Peay of Appomattox. Peay was transported to Lynchburg General Hospital. While being checked by medics at the post office, she was alert and aware of her surroundings.

Family of Peay had been notified, and a man who

described himself as her cousin arrived shortly after the incident. The man stated that Peay was the lone occupant of the car.

An employee of O'Reilly's Auto Parts, located across the street from the post office, said the parking lot was initially full of smoke from the car's tires burning rubber.

The middle brick pillar near the front window of the post office was bent and damaged at the bottom but did not collapse when the car was towed away. Rescue crews then at-

See POST, Page 4



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian

A gray Nissan Maxima crashes into a brick pillar Friday at the Appomattox Post Office.

The deadline for submitting content for the July 3 issue of the Times Virginian is noon on Thursday, June 27.

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