

Sergeant demoted after FB comment

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

A Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office sergeant has been

demoted following his involvement in a controversial Facebook post deemed racist and offensive by many area residents.

Tuesday, Aug. 11, Buckingham County Sheriff's Deputy Chris Fishburne shared a Facebook post that outraged several citizens.

Fishburne's post joked about selling his "white privilege card," which he said he would be willing to trade for a "race card."

Fishburne and the Buckingham County Sheriff's Office received heavy backlash for the post, which was shared across social media.

A Facebook profile under the name Larry Redskin Franklin seemed to find humor in the deputy's joke, commenting laughing emojis

PRINCE EDWARD

under the original post. That's when locals identified Franklin as being an employee of the Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office.

A Monday afternoon, Aug. 20, press release from Prince Edward Sheriff L.A. "Tony" Epps said the sergeant had been demoted following the incident, and was being required to attend additional cultural diversity classes.

"This was a serious action which required serious reprimand," Epps was quoted in the release.

"This was totally out of character of this deputy," he continued. "I have never seen or

heard anything from him to indicate any racial tendencies. He loves and gets along well with everyone he encounters. He and I want to apologize for his actions and hope this community will forgive him."

Earlier in the week, Buckingham County Sheriff Bill Kidd released his own statement following Fishburne's Facebook post, apologizing for the incident and expressing disappointment in Fishburne's "derogatory remarks."

Fishburne ultimately submitted a Letter to the Editor to *The Herald*. He publicly apologized for the post in the letter, and said he did

not create but rather shared the post after seeing the statement elsewhere.

"I focused on the work ethic and just wasn't paying attention to the post as a whole," Fishburne wrote. "I've upset the community and my colleagues, and for that, I sincerely apologize. That's just not who I am. I made a mistake."

"As public servants, we simply cannot allow this type of behavior," Epps said in the Monday release. "I have always worked hard to bring people together in our county. As sheriff, I will continue to build relationships and trust with all citizens of the county."

CASES: 'This is not over yet'

FROM PAGE ONE

he highlighted.

Nash said he commends the university students, each of whom he has witnessed wearing a mask while seen walking out on the street.

He added the Town of Farmville's recent move to limit gatherings to 50 people or less seems appropriate, and added the area is at an approximate 1-2% positive active infection rate for its population.

"We are seeing limited outbreaks in multiple long term care facilities and assisted living facilities, and sadly, some schools already," he continued.

He added Virginia's Central Region, which includes Richmond and surrounding counties, appears to be doing much better than the state in terms of average coronavirus cases.

He also said the area is seeing a consistent downward trend in cases and may be headed for a new low in case levels not seen since June.

"Be vigilant and committed. This is not over yet," he advised.

Things were looking

up for the Immigration Centers of America (ICA) Farmville detention center this week. The facility was listed online by the U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on Monday as only having two detainees currently under isolation or monitoring for the coronavirus.

On Monday the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) listed Buckingham County as having a cumulative total of 634 coronavirus cases since the pandemic began, up 14 from 620 cases the week prior.

Cumberland County rose 8 cases since last week for a total of 92 cases.

Prince Edward County was listed Monday as having 466 total cases, up 17 from 449 the week prior.

Lunenburg County was up to 81 cases on Monday, up 11 from 70 cases last week.

Charlotte County rose one case this week, going from 58 to 59 cases.

Nottoway County also rose one case, going from 183 to 184.

Amelia County increased by seven cases, from 85 last week to 92 as of Monday.



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The Farmville Herald

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Farmville, Virginia

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

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Town may limit gatherings to 50

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

The Farmville Town Council is considering adopting an emergency ordinance to limit large gatherings to 50 people or less in preparation for the return of Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College students.

A rough draft of the emergency ordinance was presented to the council by Town Attorney Gary Elder at the

Wednesday, Aug. 12, Farmville Town Council Meeting.

Although Phase 3 of Virginia's reopening plans allow for social gatherings of 250 people or less, other college towns and cities such as Radford and Blacksburg have moved to adopt ordinances that reduce that figure as they prepare to welcome students back on campus.

Elder said Wednesday he borrowed much of the ordinance's language from Blacks-

FARMVILLE

burg and Radford, but asked councilmembers for feedback on changes that may need to be considered for Farmville.

The draft ordinance proposes to prohibit gatherings of more than 50 people in town, excluding instances such as religious ceremonies, weddings or funerals, as well as demonstrations on town property or other public property as permitted by a

special event permit issued by the town manager or their designee.

Wednesday night owners of local restaurant North Street Press Club Nash Osborn and Jake Romaine came before the council with concerns regarding other localities putting curfews in place as college students return. Osborn told council members even a 12 a.m. curfew could result in a \$10,000 loss in revenue for North Street each week. The

establishment, he said, is normally open until 2 a.m.

Osborn said the restaurant is following social distancing guidelines and requiring people to be seated and not congregating in large groups while at the business, and owners plan to do the same as students come back.

It does not appear that the council is currently considering such a curfew. Farmville

See GATHERINGS, Page A2

Voters have more options this year

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

PRINCE EDWARD

There are multiple opportunities for voters to avoid the stress of long lines on Election Day, Nov. 3.

Prince Edward County Director of Elections Lynette Wright said the main change in the election process this fall will be the ability for people to vote early without having to state a reason. Previously, voters had to give a reason why they would not be able to vote on Election Day.

Early voting begins Sept. 18 and runs through Oct. 31.

"This should, I would think,

alleviate lines," Wright said. "You've got actually (44) days to vote just because you want to."

This early voting will take place on the second floor of the Prince Edward County Courthouse, located at 111 South St. in Farmville.

"It's going to be just like you're going on Election Day. You just come in, show your ID, get checked in, get your ballot, vote (and) you are done," she said. "And our office hours here are going to be Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. And then the



Lynette Wright

last two Saturdays in October, which are Oct. 24 and Oct. 31, (we're) also open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m."

Wright also offered a helpful explanation of the process of voting absentee, for those who wish to do so. She noted there has already been a significant uptick in her receipt of absentee voting applications.

See VOTERS, Page A2

Deputy's FB post questioned

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

Many area residents expressed outrage and disappointment this week in response to a social media post made by a Buckingham County sheriff's deputy.

A screenshot of the post, deemed racist and unprofessional by several citizens, began circulating online last week.

The Facebook (FB) status appeared to have been written by Deputy Chris Fishburne of the Buckingham County Sheriff's Office. In the post, Fishburne joked about selling his "white privilege card" which he implied had been useless

for all of his life.

"No welfare checks, no inheritance, no free college, no free food, no free housing," Fishburne wrote.

He continued the post by stating he may be willing to trade for a "race card."

"Those seem to be way more useful and more widely accepted," he continued.

Prince Edward County resident Kiera Scruggs said she initially came across the post from a friend on Facebook she and Fishburne have in common. She said she was immediately outraged by the post and decided to share it in

See DEPUTY, Page A2

500 hot spots made available for county students

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

Buckingham County supervisors voted unanimously to use a portion of CARES Act money to purchase 500 Verizon hot spot devices in order to provide internet access to the county's schoolchildren.

At the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors meeting Monday, Aug. 10, County Administrator Rebecca Carter addressed the board regarding Buckingham County Public Schools' plans to hold the first

nine weeks of classes virtually due to concerns regarding the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Carter said the school had advised that, according to a survey, approximately 400 Buckingham students do not have internet access, making at-home learning a challenge in the rural county. She added some families may not have responded to the survey, making the number of students without internet even larger.

According to Carter the

county's technology manager, Jamie Shumaker, spoke with a Verizon representative regarding how the county could help these students with little to no internet access. That's when officials became aware of Verizon's new Distance Learning Program for K-12 Public Schools.

Through the program, Buckingham will be able to purchase 500 hot spots that can be sent home with each child who does not have reliable

See HOT SPOTS, Page A8

Long, winding road leads to roundabout

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

FARMVILLE

Progress was made at the Farmville Town Council's Wednesday, Aug. 12, meeting with regard to the proposed roundabout project located at the intersection of High and Oak streets and Griffin Boulevard. But completion of the project is still projected to be a decade away.

The town council voted unanimously Wednesday to adopt a resolution authorizing support and the submission of a funding application to the Commonwealth Transportation Board through the bi-annual Smart Scale Program for the 643 (High Street) and Oak Street/Griffin Boulevard Roundabout project.

Either through email, on the phone or in person, 11 members of the public participated in the public hearing that preceded the council's vote. Nine of the community members spoke in favor of transforming the intersection into a roundabout, and two spoke in opposition to the proposed project.

See ROUNDABOUT, Page A8

Director defends detention facility's response to outbreak

BY ROGER WATSON
The Farmville Herald

members have tested positive for the virus.

The director of the Farmville Immigration Centers of America (ICA) Detention Center told the Farmville Town Council Wednesday, Aug. 12, the facility has not had any detainees or staff exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 since July 10 and claimed much of the stories in the media about problems with the treatment of detainees in the facility are not true.

Jeff Crawford appeared before the council in an effort to answer questions surrounding reported issues with a COVID-19 outbreak at the facility. More than 90% of the detainees of the facility and 28 staff

"We had many positives of COVID-19, but there is a great difference in being positive for COVID-19 and being sick, and no one seems to be differentiating between the two," Crawford said.

He said the center had no more than 10 detainees actively displaying symptoms of the virus at one time at the height of the outbreak. He said half of those who became ill had low-grade fevers, and only four or five detainees had serious symptoms that typically lasted only 24 to 48 hours.

"Much of what the news has been reporting the

See OUTBREAK, Page A5



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GATHERINGS: College students return

FROM PAGE ONE

Mayor David Whitus said Friday although the emergency ordinance limiting gatherings was still a draft, he does not

anticipate it will affect restaurants. On Wednesday night, Elder also said he did not believe the ordinance would apply to restaurants, as the state

is already providing guidelines to food and beverage establishments regarding occupancy limitations during the pandemic. Farmville Police Chief

Andy Ellington said at Wednesday's meeting law enforcement is expecting to see a surge in house parties and similar gatherings as students return. Under the draft ordi-

nance, a person found hosting a gathering of more than 50 people after being warned by law enforcement to disperse the group could be subject to a fine of up to \$300. A person attending such a gathering who does not heed

the warnings of an officer could be subject to fines up to \$150. Councilmembers did not take action on the draft ordinance Wednesday night, but an updated version is expected to be presented at the Wednesday, Aug. 19 meeting.

VOTERS: Intelligent barcode to help protect against fraud

FROM PAGE ONE

"For absentee voting by mail, (voters) can get an application," she said. "Either they can download it off the website, which is at www.elections.virginia.gov, and they can fill it out and mail it in."

Or they can apply completely online without having to mail anything in if they have a Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles ID or driver's license, she said. They can put in their driver's license number, their social security number and submit the application online.

"It comes straight to

our computer within an hour, so that way they don't have to worry about it being mailed," she said. "The other option is if they don't have internet, they can call us here at (434) 392-4767, request an application, we mail it out to them, they fill out the application, get it back to us."

Wright stated that as of Monday, Aug. 17, she had approximately 600 completed absentee voting applications sitting in her office.

"The ballots will not get mailed until Sept. 18 — that's when we start, so there'll be a huge mailing on that day," she said. "So I take them to the

post office (and) mail them certified mail. The state has started doing an intelligent barcode mailing system."

She said she has not used the system yet, as she has not printed any labels yet. But when she does, they are supposed to have a barcode that will allow the voter to actually go to www.elections.virginia.gov and track their ballot.

Wright said she is also going to list the link on the county's website to help voters track their ballots.

"The last day to register to vote or change your voter information is Oct. 13," she said. "You

do not have to re-register if you are currently registered, and anybody can call and check with us to make sure they are registered. That way it'll save them a lot of work and save a lot of taxpayer money from us sending out extra mail that doesn't need to be (sent)."

She said Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. is the deadline for requesting a ballot by mail. This means a completed application must be in her office in her hand by 5 p.m. that day. "It can't be postmarked," she said. "It has to be in my hand so I can enter it that evening and be able to mail (it) out the next

day." Oct. 31 is the last day to submit an absentee ballot to the registrar's office in person, she stated.

Wright said she is not sure yet if Prince Edward will utilize lockboxes, which would be boxes placed somewhere in the county where voters could submit their ballots.

"At the moment, we are still waiting on the General Assembly's special session for any additional election administration instructions, so I do not know if we would be doing it until we hear from them, until they let us know if we can do

that," she said. Asked what protections have been put in place to help protect against fraud, Wright pointed to the intelligent barcode system she mentioned prior.

"I think the intelligent barcode is one thing that the state just activated for every county in the state of Virginia so that people could go to that website and track their ballot," she said. "It doesn't track it to the office, it just tracks it to the post office that's in your area. But still, that allows you to track your ballot. I think that's one thing that they have done to help reassure people."

DEPUTY: 'This is nothing to joke about'

FROM PAGE ONE

order to spread awareness of the inappropriate comments made by a local officer of the law.

"I understand we all like to joke, but this is nothing to joke about," she said Monday. "Especially when it deals with racial profiling and stereotyping people of color, or anyone for that matter."

Scruggs said as a young, biracial woman who grew up in the area, it scares her to imagine an officer could look at her and think any of what Fishburne said in his social media post based solely off the color of her skin.

According to Scruggs, earlier last week a fake Facebook page was created in order to write a comment directed at her reaction over the post, telling her to "keep on picking that democratic plantation cotton."

She said she was able to laugh the comment off. "In this community we have no room for hate, stereotypical comments, and prejudice-thinking law enforcement officers or people," she said. "Love, compassion and unity will always win."

Local resident Gayle Jones-Foster said she also stumbled upon Fishburne's post on her Facebook timeline. Her reaction was a mixture

of shock, offense and a feeling of needing to address the issue.

"Too long have we sat back and let statements like these from people in uniform with their ancient backwoods opinions be expressed and we as a 'people' tuck our heads and not address them because we don't want to ruffle any feathers, or we want to be politically correct," she said Friday.

"Law enforcement and/or public servants may have their own personal opinions about anything, but when you represent all people and your salary is paid by all people, your opinions are just that, yours, and are not necessarily reflective of the people you serve, therefore they should not interfere with your duties as said servant. Those comments can clearly cloud the judgement of the person that made them, and for the people that are to be protected, it can pose trust issues and division between the department and the citizens."

Buckingham County Sheriff Bill Kidd responded to inquiries regarding the Facebook post Friday afternoon.

"On the evening of August 11, 2020, I was informed of an inappropriate social media post published by one of my employees," Kidd wrote.

"Upon reading the post, I immediately spoke with the employee expressing my discontent and the posting was removed. By that time, unfortunately, irreversible damage had been done."

"Since taking office, I've worked very hard to establish and maintain good relations with all segments of our population in Buckingham as well as surrounding areas. It is disheartening to have a setback like this from one inappropriate comment. Although I am not at liberty to discuss employee discipline matters, I can assure you that these derogatory remarks do not represent myself or the views of my office. Bias of any kind, cannot and will not be tolerated. If such acts are brought to my attention again, repercussion and swift

action will occur. I sincerely wish to apologize to all for this unfortunate incident."

Members of the public also expressed discontent regarding a commenter under the name of Larry Redskin Franklin who found humor in Fishburne's original Facebook post and posted laughing emojis. Several residents identified Franklin as a Prince Edward County Sheriff's deputy, which he lists himself as under his social media profile. Prince Edward County Sheriff Tony Epps did not respond to an email asking for confirmation of the commenter's possible employment with the county.



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The Farmville Herald

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Farmville, Virginia

Friday, December 4, 2020

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Centra sees record numbers

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

It's been a tough week for Centra after the health care provider saw record numbers of hospitalized coronavirus patients, but good news could be just on the horizon as officials prepare for the arrival of a vaccine.

In a Wednesday, Dec. 2, press conference, Centra officials highlighted the difficulties seen by hospitals during the month of November, particularly Lynchburg General.

According to Centra Vice President of Medical Affairs Chris Lewis, the number of COVID-19 patients in Lynchburg increased steadily throughout the month of November, with the hospital seeing its largest peak of 56 COVID patients over the weekend.

"A peak of 56 is quite high and frankly broke all of our previous records by a good amount," Lewis said.

See **CENTRA**, Page A2



DAN PEMPEL

Farmville Fire Department Sgt. Brian Seimetz fights the fire on the roof of the house at 602 Race St. Tuesday morning, Dec. 1, as Capt. Travis Finch, right, supervises.

Passerby saves family from blaze

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

FARMVILLE

A good Samaritan helped save occupants of a house on Race Street in Farmville on Tuesday morning, Dec. 1, along with the house, drawing multiple fire departments to put the fire out.

Dan Pempel, of Farmville Fire Department (FFD), said a passerby saw smoke coming from the eaves of the roof of the house and was banging on the door to get the people out of the house, while also calling

911.

FFD Capt. Travis Finch said the department was dispatched at 7:50 a.m. to the home at 602 Race St.

Pempel noted that Hampden-Sydney Volunteer Fire & Rescue and Prospect Volunteer Fire Department joined FFD in response.

"The first units arrived and entered the house with a hose

See **BLAZE**, Page A2

Teen killed in crash

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

The Cartersville community experienced a tragedy this week when a local teen was killed in a single-vehicle crash Monday, Nov. 30.

Virginia State Police (VSP) responded to a single-vehicle crash on Route 45 (Cartersville Road) just a mile north of Route 626 (Meador Road) at approximately 3:37 p.m. Monday afternoon.

A 1998 Ford Explorer driven by Malachi D. McLean, 18, of Cartersville, was traveling south on Route 45 when it ran off the left side of the road and struck a tree, according to Shelby Crouch of the VSP.

McLean died at the scene.

Family and friends were heartbroken by the news of McLean's passing.

Family described McLean as a devoted man of God serving faithfully at Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church where he volunteered as an usher, armor bearer and walking trustee while actively assisting with the Mighty



Malachi D. McLean

CUMBERLAND

See **CRASH**, Page A2



Farmville residents Sarah Allman and Clint Thackston recently worked together to help free a goose at Wilck's Lake that had become tangled in some thick string. Pictured, Allman poses for a brief photo with the goose after it was cut free before letting the animal go.

Goose chase results in rescue

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

FARMVILLE

A local couple was led on a literal wild goose chase in an effort to help out a distressed bird at Wilck's Lake in Farmville.

Town residents Clint Thackston and Sarah

Allman enjoy taking regular trips to Wilck's Lake Park in order to spend time together and feed the ducks and geese that can usually be found around the lake and by

See **GOOSE**, Page A2

CARES funds ease burdens

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

PRINCE EDWARD

Prince Edward County has been able to provide aid to as many as 67 area businesses and organizations through the allocation of CARES Act funding.

The county has received \$3,978,774 from the federal government as the county's

share of the Coronavirus Relief Fund, which was established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

The complete list of Prince Edward businesses and organizations receiving CARES Act funds, included at the end of

this article, represents a combined allocation of \$324,000, with all but four businesses receiving \$5,000 each.

Leaders from some of the groups on the list shared how the funds benefited their organizations.

Tony Perini, owner of Perini

See **CARES**, Page A5

No action taken on mining dilemma

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

The Buckingham County Planning Commission voted unanimously last Monday, Nov. 23, to table any further discussions of removing mining from A-1 and A-C agricultural districts until more information could be

gathered.

Last month the commission heard from a panel of geological experts after public concerns escalated following the discovery that Canadian-based company Aston Bay Holdings had been performing exploratory

gold drilling/core sampling for years without the knowledge of county officials.

Citizens were angered both by Aston Bay's under-the-radar operations and the potential for gold discoveries to leading to an open-pit mine.

See **MINING**, Page A6

Reassessment brings rise in values

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

PRINCE EDWARD

Prince Edward County's reassessment of property values has been completed, and property owners have begun to receive the results, with many finding marked increases.

A Tuesday, Dec. 1, press release from the county noted reassessment is the process by which the assessed

value of real estate property held by citizens, businesses and industries within the county boundaries is revised to reflect fair market value. Adjustments in value are necessary to reflect the current real estate market in order to more equitably

See **REASSESSMENT**, Page A9



Doug Stanley



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CENTRA: First vaccine could arrive next week

FROM PAGE ONE

As of Wednesday that figure had dropped to 32 active coronavirus patients in the hospital's COVID unit plus 13 patients in the ICU, 10 of which were on ventilators, for a total of 45 COVID-positive patients.

Mortality rates have also increased, bringing Lynchburg General's cumulative number of COVID-19 patient deaths to 114.

Lewis addressed concerns seen around

the country that Thanksgiving celebrations could lead to an even larger surge of virus cases, remarking that the effects of the holiday may be visible toward the end of this week.

"The next one to two weeks will be pretty critical to find out if and how Thanksgiving essentially plays out for COVID and our community," he said.

Centra President and CEO Andy Mueller said Wednesday that the organization is working with the state in prepa-

ration to become one of 16 vaccine distribution sites across the commonwealth.

He added while officials don't know exactly when the first vaccine will arrive on site, it could be as early as next week once authorization is received from the Food and Drug Administration.

Mueller said Centra anticipates it will prioritize distribution of the vaccine as indicated by the state and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) around

frontline caregivers who are treating patients who have or are suspected to be high risk for COVID-19. While Centra will not mandate vaccination for caregivers, the vaccinations will be strongly encouraged.

He added while the health care provider does not have specific details about what distribution will look like or what amount of vaccines will be received, officials are hopeful of a full allotment.

During Wednesday's conference, Lewis noted Centra Southside Community Hospital in Farmville seems to be holding its own in relation to virus mitigation, remarking

that the hospital hovered around five coronavirus patients in its COVID unit this week.

"Southside actually is doing relatively well," Lewis said. "You all have been very helpful in being able to offload at times some patients with COVID that came into say the Gretna emergency room or somewhere else that needed COVID care and we were being

challenged for example at Lynchburg at that time ... Southside Hospital really has been able to step up and help manage patients for the whole region."

Officials also stated Monday that Centra is not currently considering suspending elective procedures in response to recent numbers, although the situation will be watched closely.

BLAZE: 'We just remained on scene doing overhaul for another hour'

FROM PAGE ONE

line and pulled the ceiling to get to the fire and were able to knock down the fire in the ceiling," Pempel said, adding that other units cut a hole in the roof to extinguish the rest of

the fire.

Finch said the departments had the scene under control in 10 to 15 minutes.

"We just remained on scene doing overhaul for another hour," he said.

He confirmed that no one was hurt by the fire.

"Everybody was out of the house when we got there," he said.

He stated the cause was an electrical short in the attic, adding that it was old wiring.

"It was under some blown-in insulation," he said.

CRASH: 'He loved his family dearly'

FROM PAGE ONE

Men of God ministries and the weekly food bank pickup and distribution.

"Malachi was a gentle giant," sister Chante Cooper stated. "He loved his family dearly and spent his spare time binge-watching movies with his mom, laughing and enjoying his life."

Described as having an infectious smile and a quiet personality, McLean was a member of the Cumberland County High School Class of 2020 and frequently enjoyed playing football, basketball and visiting friends

from high school.

"We were saddened to hear about the passing of Malachi," Cumberland County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Chip Jones said Tuesday.

Jones added a high school counselor was available this week in case any students or staff needed support during this difficult time.

A viewing/wake has been arranged for Sat-

urday from 3 to 6 p.m. at Colbert-Wiley Funeral Home, with a funeral scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 6 at 1 p.m. at Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Additionally, a GoFundMe page has been set up by McLean's family in order to help pay for funeral expenses. The page had raised more than \$3,000 dollars in funds as of Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 2.

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GOOSE: Animal was released

FROM PAGE ONE

the library.

According to Thackston, the couple was spending an afternoon feeding the birds when they noticed a goose that was unable to lift up its wing or fly around like the others.

A closer look revealed the animal had a thick section of string tangled around its wing, digging into the skin.

Although Thackston and Allman were unable to get close enough to help the creature, they returned the next day. As they searched around in the pouring rain, they discovered the same injured goose.

The couple threw a beach towel over the bird in order to catch it. Allman held the goose as Thackston used his pocket knife to cut the string, which was wrapped several times around the wing and body of the goose.

"The goose didn't fight us while we were holding him," Thackston recalled. "I guess because he could tell we were trying to help him."

After stopping to take a few photos and ensure the bird was alright, the couple released the animal.

After a few precautionary flaps of the wings, the goose was freed and ran off.

Thanks to a bit of compassion and ingenuity, the couple turned a goose's rainy day gone south into a happy one.



Centra Southside Pediatrics offers endocrinology services

Centra Southside Pediatrics offers endocrinology services as part of its medical care for children under the age of 18.

Luis Siliezar, MD, pediatric endocrinologist, completed medical school at the University of El Salvador and residency training in pediatrics in Nassau University Medical Center, after which he served a fellowship in pediatric endocrinology. Dr. Siliezar performed his pediatric endocrinology training at NYU Winthrop Hospital.

Centra Southside Pediatrics is open Monday – Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.

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- Adrenal disorders such as premature adrenarche, congenital defects of steroidogenesis, or excess (Cushing syndrome, low-renin hypertension)
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- Obesity
- Disorders of calcium metabolism, including vitamin D deficiency, low or high calcium level



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