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## Mayberry sentenced to 41 years for sex crimes against 7-year-old

CHARLES CONRAD  
Times Virginian

On Thursday, Oct. 14, in Appomattox County Circuit Court, 35-year-old Concord resident Christopher Dustin Mayberry was sentenced to serve 41 years for sex crimes with a minor that were committed in 2019.

Mayberry had been found guilty by an Appomattox County jury at a Feb. 4 trial during which the victim, who was 7 years old at the time the incident occurred, appeared as a witness via closed circuit video feed.

Circuit Court Judge Andy Nelson followed the exact sentencing recommendation

of the jury back in February, which totaled 41 years. Mayberry was found guilty of four felony counts of indecent liberties with a child under age 15, one felony count of aggravated sexual battery of a victim under age 13, and one misdemeanor count of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

The felony aggravated sexual battery charge carries a mandatory 20-year sentence. Five years of active prison time were handed down on each of the charges of indecent liberties with a child, with five additional years suspended on each count. Twelve months of active sentence was applied to the mis-

demeanor charge.

Mayberry's attorney, Jordan Davies, said that Mayberry admitted committing the crime and deserves punishment but requested a sentence of 10-12 years. Davies summarized that the jury's recommendation of 41 years



Mayberry

See **CRIME**, Page 7

### A gift certificate for teachers

Charles Conrad/  
Times Virginian

Pictured from left: Appomattox County Public Schools Director of Curriculum, Instruction & CTE Dr. Amy Huskin, Main Street Stylists co-owner Anita Hubbard, and Appomattox County Children's Service Act (CSA) Coordinator Ashley Sandman.



## Salon treats teachers to free haircut, styling

CHARLES CONRAD  
Times Virginian

The additional pressure on school teachers to adjust their teaching methods during the COVID-19 pandemic of the past year and a half has been well-documented. As a way to say "thank you" and recognize teachers in the Appomattox County school dis-

trict for their efforts, a local hair salon has offered a chance for them to have a time of self-pampering, free of charge.

Main Street Stylists, located at 201 Main Street in Appomattox, donated gift certificates for one free haircut and style to every teacher employed by Appomattox County Public Schools. In a special drawing held Sept. 28

— the same day all teachers received their certificates — two fortunate employees, a teacher and school nurse, won a drawing for a \$200 gift card to use at the salon.

Owned by the husband-and-wife team of Robert and Anita Hubbard, Main Street Stylists first opened its

See **TEACHERS**, Page 10

## Juvenile mental health concerns discussed

JEFFREY WESTBROOK  
Times Virginian

Appomattox County Sheriff Donald Simpson addressed a crucial and escalating problem on Monday evening while speaking to the board of supervisors at their regular monthly meeting.

"We have an untenable situation (involving) the mental health of teens in our county," he informed the board.

He explained that the Appomattox County Sheriff's Office sometimes receives two kinds of orders involving teens in the midst of a mental health crisis: Emergency Custody Order (ECO) and Temporary Detention Order (TDO). When the department receives one of these orders, deputies take the teen into custody and take them to a hospital and/or a mental health facility.

Simpson provided the case of one teen as an example of the problem that is becoming too frequent across the county and across the commonwealth. "A Temporary Detention Order was issued for an Appomattox County female juvenile on Oct. 10 at 0055 (12:55 a.m.)," he said.

A deputy took the youth to Lynchburg General Hospital and received an order to take the patient to a mental health facility in Staunton.

"It is the only state-run mental health facility

See **HEALTH**, Page 7

## Local Operation Christmas Child 'packing party' held

CHARLES CONRAD  
Times Virginian

For the second straight year, people from the Appomattox area gathered at the Courtland Festival Park pavilion for a "packing party" hosted by Operation Christmas Child for the purpose of impacting children throughout the world.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian humanitarian aid organization headquartered in Boone, North Carolina. The project gathers various gifts — donated by church or business groups and individuals — for impoverished children, packs the gifts in shoebox-style boxes and ships them to specified locations.

Around a dozen adults and four to six children came together Saturday in



Susanne Wood/Contributed

Three youngsters are shown with gift boxes they packed during the Operation Christmas Child "packing party" Saturday at Courtland Festival Park.

Appomattox and packed along with her husband 100 shoeboxes full of Wally, is the area coordinator for the Central Virginia necessities and school supplies. Susanne Wood, who

See **CHILD**, Page 10

## N. Creek Ridge B&B holds ribbon cutting

CHARLES CONRAD  
Times Virginian

North Creek Ridge Bed & Breakfast held a ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday, Oct. 13, at approximately 1:30 p.m.

to officially become the newest small business venture in Appomattox County.

The venue is set to officially open its doors Friday, Oct. 15. North Creek Ridge Bed & Breakfast is

located at 4521 Oakville Road (State Route 26) about four miles past the Appomattox Walmart.

The owners of the new B&B, which is in a scenic

See **B&B**, Page 12



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian

Pictured at the North Creek Ridge Bed & Breakfast ribbon cutting ceremony are, from left: Owners Jim and Holly Conroy, Appomattox County Chamber of Commerce President John Redding and Appomattox County Chamber of Commerce Administrator Whitney Napier.



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# OBITUARIES

## Carolyn Anne Giles

Carolyn Anne Giles, 68, of Appomattox, died Sunday morning, October 17, 2021, in Lynchburg General Hospital.

Born February 13, 1953, in Richmond, she was a daughter of Anne Cabell Giles of Lynchburg, and the late Melvin Glenn Giles, Sr. She retired from the City of Lynchburg, working in Human Resources.

She is survived by two children, Christopher Maxwell (Lauren) of Roanoke and Whitney Maxwell

(Witt) of Charlotte, NC; three grandchildren, Sutter and Lane Maxwell and Ellery Sullivan; one brother, M. Glenn Giles, Jr. of Northern Virginia.

The family received friends Tuesday, October 19, 2021, from 6 until 8 p.m. at Robinson Funeral Home, Appomattox.

A private family graveside service will be held at a later date.

Robinson Funeral and Crematory is serving the family. An online con-



Carolyn Anne Giles

lence may be sent by visiting [www.robinsonfuneral.com](http://www.robinsonfuneral.com).

## Robert Hanes Gray, Jr.

Robert Hanes Gray, Jr., 83, of Lynchburg, Virginia passed away from a long illness on October 18, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was the son of the late Robert Hanes Gray, Sr. and Lois Dinger Gray (Mimi), and the husband of Kate Gray for 54 years.

Rob was born on August 7, 1938 in Lexington, VA. He attended The Lawrenceville School in Princeton New Jersey. At 18, Rob served his country as Military Police supporting intelligence operations in radio communications. In September 1962, he was deployed in support of the Federal protection program for James Meredith as the first black student admitted to University of Mississippi. This experience was one that largely influenced his life's work to promote social justice and protect the vulnerable.

On the GI Bill, Rob was later awarded a BA in Philosophy at Yale University and followed his father into the legal profession earning a J.D. from Washington and Lee University. As an attorney, Rob served throughout Central Virginia, primarily in Appomattox, where he had a law practice for over 30 years. He spent many hours on pro-bono work for the underrepresented and was committed to helping vulnerable communities receive fair representation, often by serving as interpreter for Spanish-speaking defendants and their families.

As a substitute circuit judge serving Southeast and Central Virginia, Rob was known by his colleagues for his jurisprudence and fairness and was remembered by many who appeared before him for his belief in the restorative benefits of giving second chances. Rob was a mem-

ber of the Virginia State Bar Association for more than 50 years.

After relocating to Lynchburg in 1993, Rob became an active volunteer in community theatre and the performing arts scene. His passion for the stage earned him leading roles in many plays, most notably those of Death of a Salesman, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, and The Seagull. He and his wife Kate have been devoted supporters of local performing arts and cultural community organizations, especially those of the Academy Center of the Arts, Opera on the James, and the Dante Alighieri Society.

Rob also volunteered for many local humanitarian, medical, and educational organizations including Meals on Wheels, Lynchburg General Hospital, Lynchburg College and Centra. He served as board member for Johnson Health Center and Riverviews Artspace. Rob enjoyed being both student and teacher throughout in his life with an insatiable curiosity about culture and languages and a strong drive to mentor lawyers new to the profession. He loved challenging medical students at the Lynchburg College School of PA Medicine as a Spanish-speaking patient in medical simulations and serving alongside his dear friend, Kern Lunsford as a Spanish interpreter for Centra.

Robert belonged to Holy Cross Catholic Church in Lynchburg and enjoyed his grandchildren, raising standard poodles, spoken languages, and brisk walks. He studied challenging languages such as Farsi and rode racing bikes. As a father, Rob brought light, hope, and humor to the toughest of situations and was tremendous source of



Robert Hanes Gray, Jr.

comfort, peace, inspiration and encouragement for his children, Robert III and Eliza. He also had ongoing conversations with them about existentialism, law, politics and religion. While a teenager in the Bahamas, young Robert was a hospital aid, had interest in becoming a doctor, and played maracas in a local band.

In addition to his wife Kate, Rob is lovingly remembered by his children, son Robert, III and daughter Eliza; daughter-in-law Carolyn Gray; grandchildren Laura, Anna, and Rebecca; sister Celie Rosenau; nephews William, John, and Edward Rosenau; dear friends Kern Lunsford, Alex Bell, Naomi Amos, and Laura Dupuy; and Dessi Dupuy, his goddaughter.

Robert is predeceased by his father Robert Hanes Gray Sr., his mother Lois Dinger Gray and his brother-in-law David Rosenau.

A funeral service will be held on October 25, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church located at 710 Clay Street Lynchburg, VA 24504. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Meals on Wheels of Greater Lynchburg, Johnson Health Center, and Centra Volunteer Services at LGH.

Tharp Funeral Home, Lynchburg is assisting the family. To send condolences, please visit [www.tharp-funeralhome.com](http://www.tharp-funeralhome.com).

For information about placing an obituary, email [accounts@timesvirginian.com](mailto:accounts@timesvirginian.com).

## Festival

Continued from Page 3

Chair Susan Adams replied to the compliments, "Every good leader has a great team."

The festival committee expressed gratitude to "Susan Walton and her AVRS/DRT team, Sheriff Donnie Simpson and his law enforcement team, and Chief Jonathan Garrett and his AVFD team for their dedicated, professional assistance throughout the festival."

"Collaboratively, they maintain safety and security support for all of the festival attendees," the festival committee added.

A variety of music acts, food vendors of all types, carnival rides for the kids and an overall emphasis on the community marked the festival Oct. 8-10.

Throughout the weekend, a wide variety of musical acts performed on three different stages: Courtland Festival Park Stage, Abbitt Park Stage and Main Street Stage.

Hometown ensemble Southland Band kicked off

the music on Friday evening at Courtland Festival Park. They opened with "Sweet Home Appomattox," an apt variation on Lynyrd Skynyrd's southern rock classic, "Sweet Home Alabama."

On Saturday morning, Nashville recording artist Sarah Montgomery with Tim Teague put on a great performance of country and a little bit of rock-n-roll music. Other musicians performing Saturday included Ray Martin, BoCo, Apple Butter Soul, Karlee Raye Trio, New Beginnings Gospel Singers, Rare Form and Desiray Lorain Trio.

Battle of the Bands winners JusT Us delivered a blazing performance on the Main Street Stage in the late afternoon. The Bedford-based group played up-tempo classic rock and country rock tunes that pleased the audience.

A number of food trucks parked at the library parking lot (and dotted around the festival area) provided all sorts of delicious food, from funnel cakes, fried oreos, and kettle corn to barbecue, Asian cuisine, stew and more. The long lines indicated how popular these

food stands were. There also were various drinks such as freshly squeezed lemonade and soft drinks.

Vendors lined Main Street and the portion of Court Street up to the courthouse, offering wares from home decor to local honey. At the Good Ole Days in the courthouse area, the Appomattox County Historical Society offered kids' projects outside and a historic quilts exhibit and museum tours inside the Old Jail Museum.

Especially popular with families with small children were the carnival rides at Courtland Festival Park. The giant slide, a train, and various other rides brought smiles to kids' faces. There was even a ride for the "big kids."

Next year's festival will take place Oct. 7-9, 2022. It is not too early to volunteer to help the committee for next year's Railroad Festival. Visit the festival website, [appomattoxrrfest.org](http://appomattoxrrfest.org), email [info@appomattoxR-Rfest.org](mailto:info@appomattoxR-Rfest.org), or send mail to P.O. Box 513 Appomattox, VA 24522 for more information.

## Crime

Continued from Page 1

is understandable based on natural outrage at sex crimes against children but argued that 10-12 years was more fitting for the facts of this particular case.

However, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Dana Smith argued for the full sentence recommended by the jury, citing that Mayberry still doesn't seem to grasp the seriousness of the offenses. In stating her conclusion, Smith referred to an official psychosexual evaluation that categorized Mayberry as an "average risk" for repeat behavior.

The victim's mother and father, who no longer reside together, both gave victim impact statements, speaking of the emotional damage and behavioral changes the victim has suffered since the incident took place.

"You have stolen my daughter's innocence," the victim's father said to Mayberry during his statement. "She has to suffer with this for the rest of her life, and she'll never be the same."

Mayberry made a statement before he was sentenced, offering an apology to the victim's family, while acknowledging, "I know that 'sorry' doesn't fix things." He also added, "But

I have a life to live as well."

Mayberry had resided with the victim in a stepfather role at the time of the illegal acts, a situation that Judge Nelson said put Mayberry in a position of trust, and that was broken.

As was reported in the Feb. 10 edition of the Times Virginian, testimony provided at trial revealed that the incident occurred March 27, 2019, in a vehicle at which Mayberry and the victim lived while the victim's mother was sleeping due to an illness.

The victim had gone outside and noticed Mayberry urinating behind his truck. Mayberry then asked the victim to help him clean a car, but while

inside the car Mayberry instead showed the victim pornographic videos on his cell phone and touched the victim inappropriately. He also caused the victim to touch him in an inappropriate manner before touching and relieving himself in front of the victim. The victim remained clothed during the ordeal.

Mayberry also showed the victim pornographic DVDs that were located in the car's glove compartment and suggested that they watch them sometime when the victim's mother isn't at home.

According to testimony at trial, Mayberry was reported to have attempted to silence the minor by warn-

ing that if the truth were known, they would both go to jail. However, the victim did notify an adult a few days later.

A trail camera on the property (which takes still photos triggered by a motion sensor and is primarily used by hunters or wildlife enthusiasts) showed that Mayberry was in the car with the minor for about 25 minutes.

Before sentencing Mayberry, Judge Nelson said he believes that "other than murder, (sex crimes against minors) are about as serious a crime as you can get."

Judge Nelson emphasized that he places great weight on sentencing recommendations by a jury, a

part of the judicial system that is now abolished by the Virginia General Assembly as of July 1 — the date of which does not affect the jury's decision in this case.

Aside from the 41-year sentence, Mayberry is subjected to 60 years of good behavior beginning immediately, and upon release five years supervised probation, registering as a sex offender, no contact with the victim along with a permanent protective order, no contact with a minor under age 18 or an incapacitated adult, no access to pornography or electronic devices to enable such access, and restitution of \$2,285.22 for the victim's psychological counseling treatment.

## Health

Continued from Page 1

for juveniles in Virginia," Simpson noted.

The Staunton facility was reporting that it was full and had no beds or space to take the patient.

That site is the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents. According to its website, it is "an acute care, mental health facility for youth under the age of 18 years, operated by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services." It also notes: "Admissions to the Center are based on referrals from a community mental health agency or juvenile court."

Simpson explained further in an interview with the Times Virginian, "The TDO is statutorily, and by opinion of the attorney general, a transportation order. We have 24 hours to serve the order and transport the individual to the facility named in the order, then the state has 72 hours (96 for juveniles) to evaluate the patient in a therapeutic setting."

The director of the Commonwealth Center refused admission to the patient.

"At approximately 2:40 p.m. on the 10th, I ordered the deputy to take the child to the center in Staunton as directed on the TDO; it was then we were refused. That refusal to accept the patient is what I argue is illegal."

The sheriff cites Virginia Code 16.1-340.1:1, which states, "Under no circumstances shall a state facility fail or refuse to admit a minor who meets the criteria for temporary detention pursuant to §16.1-340.1."

Simpson continued, "The juvenile was then brought back to the Lynchburg General Emergency Room, where she sat with the deputy in an emergency room bay for three more days. With no specific treatment, no access to outside, no recreation, in a manner in which criminally convicted inmates are not treated. We repeatedly pleaded with CSB and the Staunton facility to accept this patient as ordered and were told there were no beds available. On Oct. 13 at 11:54 p.m. the child was accepted at the Staunton

hospital as originally ordered on the TDO, literally an hour before the paper was to expire."

The sheriff showed the board a photo of a parking lot at Lynchburg General Hospital full of deputies' cars from various area jurisdictions waiting to take patients to mental health facilities, all of which are overflowing.

"The deputy watched her deteriorate during the time she was being held at the hospital. She had to stay in a bed in the emergency room and received no treatment for her mental health issues during the four days that she was there."

This patient was just one of too many cases.

"We had four juvenile TDOs in the past month," Simpson stated. "Two were delivered to Staunton, and despite there being no beds, they took them anyway. Another one was released early. This one was stuck in an ER bed at Lynchburg General Hospital for 94 hours while in the middle of a documented mental health crisis."

This kind of problem "ties up officers from other

duties, but most important, a child is not getting the treatment needed," Simpson explained.

County attorney Thomas Lacheney quoted for the board the relevant Commonwealth of Virginia regulation, "Under no circumstances shall a mental health facility refuse admission of a minor." And yet it happens.

Lacheney reported, "My office was on a conference call today with other jurisdictions; we're not the only ones dealing with this problem." He added, "A member of my staff volunteered to draft a lawsuit" against the state facility. While not all the jurisdictions were keen on pursuing that route, they agreed that the problem is serious and must be addressed.

"I've told our sheriff that he is not obligated to carry out a TDO when the facility refuses to take the patient. ... The Sheriff's department ends up being a babysitter for child in a mental health crisis."

Lacheney noted that case law supports that an officer cannot be required to carry out an order that is impos-

sible to fulfill.

"It needs to be addressed at the state level," he averred.

Supervisor John Hinkle (Falling River District) said that he would like to have a resolution about this crisis. Chairman Samuel Carter (Courthouse District) concurred. Lacheney volunteered to draft a resolution for the board.

Supervisor William Hogan remarked, "I feel for the sheriff. We went through this problem in the summer with adults .... Richmond needs to do something. We have children crying on the floor, begging for help. I know they're short staffed, but so is he (Sheriff Simpson), and yet he is expected to take the patient across the county."

Carter asked if Social Services is involved during the four-day wait. Simpson replied, "not unless there's a previous case." He added that he supports the attorney's advice.

Supervisor Watkins Abbitt Jr. — who attended the meeting virtually via conference call — pondered, "Should the sheriff ask our delegate or state senator to

contact the state attorney general? What should the sheriff do?"

Lacheney replied that a state senator had contacted Attorney General Mark Herring, who said that it is the sheriff's responsibility to carry out the orders of a TDO or ECO. Such a stance raises the question: how can the sheriff's offices carry out the orders if the facilities are full and turning away people?

Simpson explained that Community Services Boards (CSB) comprised of mental health counselors determine where children in need of treatment go.

"They said there are no beds available in private facilities either," he noted.

Carter thanked the sheriff for bringing this crisis to the board's attention.

The sheriff told the Times Virginian, "I have reached out to lawyers, the media, judges, politicians and the public to bring awareness to this problem. Something must change with the mental health system, particularly juvenile mental health, in Virginia. It is fundamentally broken."

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## Candidate Evans, wife indicted Evans' attorney denies Local GOP condemns; forgery/perjury claims supervisors respond

CHARLES CONRAD  
Times Virginian

ively, relating to validity concerns over paperwork submitted by Alvin Evans to the Appomattox County Voter Registrar, specifically a Petition of Qualified Voters.

Virginia State Police spokeswoman Corrine Gellar stated in a press release that the forgery charges against Alvin Russell Evans Jr. are classified as uttering. The definition of uttering, according to USLegal.com, is: "Utter-

ing a forged instrument is the passing or making use of a forged writing or document with knowledge of its forged nature. Uttering

See EVANS, Page A9



Evans

STAFF REPORT

Appomattox County Republican Committee Chairman Christian Raymond released a press release on the evening of Thursday, Sept. 30, regarding last Wednesday's grand jury indictments against Court-house District Board of Supervisor candidate Alvin "AR" Evans, who is running against current board chairman Samuel E. Carter, and Evans' wife Brandy.

Alvin Evans was indicted on two counts of felony uttering, and his wife Brandy was indicted on 12 counts of felony perjury, both in relation to paperwork submitted to the Appomattox County



Carter

Voter Registrar. The press release is contained herein, which contains allegations regarding Piney Mountain representative Watkins Abbitt Jr.



Abbitt Jr.

See RESPONSE, Page A10

### Railroad Festival this weekend



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian

Above, Appomattox Outdoor Equipment's Cory Osborn and his family built this mini train ride, which placed first in the sculpture category of the Railroad Festival Storefront Decorating Contest. At bottom is Appomattox Drug Store window display that also placed first in its category.

## Festival dedicated to late Dr. Harvey

**Inside**

See Railroad Festival publication in this issue for schedule of events, highlights and more!

CHARLES CONRAD  
Times Virginian

After a one-year hiatus, the Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival is back in town. The annual festival that began nearly 50 years ago was canceled in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic but returns this

See FESTIVAL, Page A10



## Miss Va. USA to be festival grand marshal

Miss Virginia USA 2021 Christina Thompson will lead the Appomattox Railroad Festival as grand marshal on Saturday, Oct. 9.

Thompson won the title of Miss Virginia USA on July 17 at the Carpenter Theater in Richmond. Since then, she has spent her time volunteering for the Virginia Special Olympics, Smile Train, Runway for a Cure and other local organizations.

Thompson has incorporated her love of journalism into promoting the Miss Virginia USA



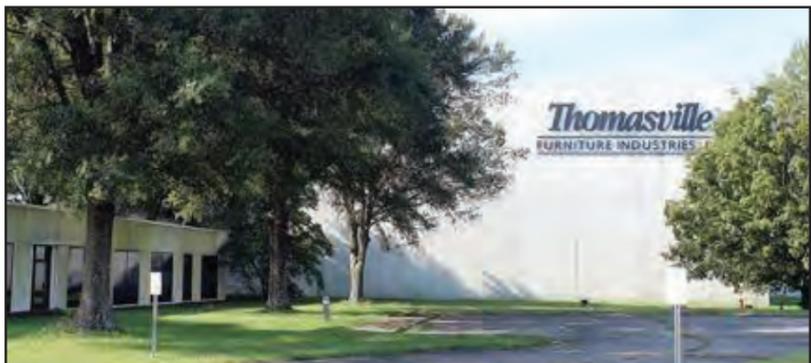
Thompson

See MISS, Page A10

## Youngkin releases ad on local Lindenberg debacle

STAFF REPORT

2021 Republican gubernatorial candidate Glenn Youngkin posted a new video ad Sept. 28 that is critical of Democrat opponent Terry McAuliffe for his role in the botched 2014 deal with China-based Lindenberg Industries that promised to bring hundreds of jobs to Appomattox in the former Thomasville Furniture building.



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian archives

Shown is the building that once was home to Thomasville Furniture in Appomattox.

See AD, Page A9



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# OBITUARIES

## John J. Franklin



John J. Franklin

John Junior Franklin, 79, of Appomattox, died Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at Lynchburg General Hospital.

Born in Appomattox County, VA, on January 6, 1942, he was the son of the late Violet Lee Carrico Franklin and Jesse James Franklin. He was a member of Evergreen Baptist Church and a retired tobacco farmer.

Junior is survived by his sister, Virginia Lee Demers and her husband, Pete of Appomattox; a nephew, J. R. Demers and his wife, Melanie of Evington; and many cousins.

A memorial service officiated by Pastor Todd Estes

was held at 11 a.m., on Saturday, October 2, 2021, at Evergreen Baptist Church.

Robinson Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family. An online condolence may be sent by visiting [www.robinsonfuneral.com](http://www.robinsonfuneral.com).

## Jean M. Nash

Jean Megginson Nash, 91, of Pumping Station Road, died Sunday, September 26, 2021, at Babcock Manor. She was the widow of Harold Thomas Nash, Sr.

Born in Appomattox County, April 7, 1930, she was a daughter of the late Ella Virginia Spradlin and Samuel Thomas Megginson.

She is survived by two grandchildren, Derek Nash and Jason Nash; and a great-grandson, Connor Alexander Nash all of Mississippi;

and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a son, H.T. Nash, Jr.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m., Thursday, September 30, 2021, at New Concord Presbyterian Church with Dr. Rev. Reggie Warren officiating.

Robinson Funeral Home and Cremation Service is serving the family. An online condolence may be sent by visiting [www.robinsonfuneral.com](http://www.robinsonfuneral.com).

## Pamela C. Mays



Pamela Cox Mays

Pamela Cox Mays, 66, of Appomattox, died on Saturday, October 2, 2021, at Lynchburg General Hospital. She was the wife of Irie C. Mays for 45 years.

Born on July 18, 1955, she was a daughter of the late Joe Cox and Barbara Wingfield Massie. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, who helped to raise her, Leighton "Sonny" Walton Wingfield and Hilda Roger Wingfield.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by two sons, Joshua Walton Mays and Christy and Zachery Clinton Mays; four grandsons, Hayden, Cedar, Parker, and Noah; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Jay Kelly, Monte and Linda Mays, and Lois Mays; aunts and uncles, Linda and Richard Presley and Deborah and H. L. Meeks; and many friends.

A private service will be held at a later date. The family will receive friends at her home.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made to the American Heart Association, 4217 Park Place Ct., Glen Allen, VA 23060.

Robinson Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family. An online condolence may be sent by visiting [www.robinsonfuneral.com](http://www.robinsonfuneral.com).

## Rosemary K. Vassar



Rosemary K. Vassar

Rosemary Knight Vassar, 77, of Hummingbird Lane, Concord, died Saturday, October 2, 2021. She was the wife of the late James Edward "Jimmy" Vassar.

Born in Lynchburg, July 17, 1944, she was the daughter of the late Mary Elizabeth Gentry and Horace N. Knight, Jr. Rosemary was a member of Hebron Baptist Church where she served as a Sunday school teacher.

She is survived by one son, James E. "Duke" Vassar, Jr. and close friend, Allen Hamilton of Concord; one brother, Horace N. Knight, III, and wife JoAnne of Madison Heights; five grandchildren, Tiffany Baker and husband, William of Concord, Amanda Daniel of Appomattox, Shana Biggs and husband, Grant of NC, Heather Johnson and fiancé, Clint Clements, and Hailey Johnson all of Appomattox; and five great-

grandchildren, Michael Daniel, Shayne Johnson, Alyssa Daniel, Landon Johnson and Tripp Sperry; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held 2 p.m., Thursday, October 7, 2021, at Hebron Baptist Church with Rev. Tom Walker and Pastor Sammy Gunter officiating.

Robinson Funeral Home and Cremation Service is serving the family. An online condolence may be sent by visiting [www.robinsonfuneral.com](http://www.robinsonfuneral.com).

## Chamber

Continued from Page A4

Events organized by the Appomattox County Historical Society such as their Oyster & Seafood Festival and the Clover Hill Village Wine Festival have become annual fixtures. Experience the Holidays and activities around the surrender anniversary are growing in recognition with each year. Efforts by the Appomattox Vintage & Artisans Markets, Wolfbane Productions, Falling River Country Club and others add to our community as a destination.

Although I am certain

to have missed some of our jewels, the point is that tourism is a major portion of our commerce and one from which each and every one of us benefits. The work of the Appomattox Tourism Committee (ATC) is ongoing and very important to our economic well-being.

If you are not already involved in this effort, consider getting involved. At the very least, recognize that you are an ambassador for your community, be a welcoming host to visitors, and spread the word of what we have to offer when you travel or communicate with those from afar.

## William E. Mann Jr.



William E. Mann Jr.

William Edward "Stick" Mann, Jr., 66, of Appomattox, died Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at his residence. He was the husband of Pamela Lawson Mann.

Born in Lynchburg, Va., on April 12, 1955, he was the son of the late Rachel Mayberry Mann and William Edward Mann, Sr. He retired after 46 years as a Precision Assembler with Flowserve. Stick was a Union member for 46 years, a Chief Steward for 5 years, and a Shop Steward for over 20 years. A sports enthusiast, he loved everything Raiders, Redskins, and UVA but his favorite events to watch were his grandkids sports. Stick will be remembered for his "smooth" corner jump shot.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Billy Mann and wife, Kelly of Appomattox and Jason Mann of Lynchburg; four grandchildren, Clay Mann, Paisley Mann, Levi Mann, and Brooks Mann; a special nephew, Frank Smith;

numerous other nieces and nephews; and his beloved dog, Marley.

He was preceded in death by his sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Otto Smith.

A graveside funeral service was held at 2 p.m., Sunday, October 3, 2021, at Spout Spring Baptist Church officiated by Rev. Dan Davis.

The family received friends at the home.

Robinson Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family. An online condolence may be sent by visiting [www.robinsonfuneral.com](http://www.robinsonfuneral.com).

To place an obituary, email [accounts@timesvirginian.com](mailto:accounts@timesvirginian.com).

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## Ad

Continued from Page A1

"Appomattox was promised hundreds of new jobs by Terry McAuliffe. Seven years later, after a \$1.4 million deal with a Chinese company, the factory in Appomattox remains empty," Youngkin wrote on his Facebook page along with the ad. "Where are the jobs? Where is all that money? Terry McAuliffe was duped. His bad deals are bad for Virginia."

The ad featured Richard Durbin of Appomattox.

"Terry McAuliffe brought a big show and big promises," Durbin said in the ad. "Seven years later, the factory is still empty. What Appomattox needed was jobs. Instead it was one big scam."

The video can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/GlennYoungkin/videos/575530520539217>.

Another post from Youngkin's Facebook page

that day also mentions Appomattox and makes accusations against McAuliffe.

"Bad business deals and big failures — that's Terry McAuliffe's record as governor," the post stated. "He bragged about giving the Chinese company Lindenberg \$1.4 million of taxpayer money to create hundreds of jobs in Appomattox, Virginia. It turned out to be a Chinese scam. Zero jobs were created and taxpayers lost all their money because McAuliffe did a bad job and got suckered."

"McAuliffe also lied to the people of Virginia to make himself look better. It appears that more than a month \*after\* he approved \$1.4 million in taxpayer money for the Chinese company, McAuliffe made a trip to China at taxpayer expense just so he could put out a press release falsely claiming that the jobs were 'a direct result of the Governor's meeting with company officials in Beijing, China.'"

## Evans

Continued from Page A1

is a crime usually charged in conjunction with a forgery."

Alvin Evans, otherwise known as "AR Evans," is running as a candidate for the Courthouse District seat against incumbent and current Appomattox BOS Chairman Samuel E. Carter.

Gellar stated that the investigation was initiated by Virginia State Police at the request of the Appomattox County Commonwealth's Attorney. However, to protect the integrity of the proceedings, a special prosecutor from the Henry County Commonwealth's Office has been appointed to the case.

Rick Boyer, a Lynchburg-based attorney representing Alvin Evans, denied the allegations in a telephone statement made to the Times Virginian.

"We've looked at all of the facts, and we don't believe that Mr. Evans or his campaign have done anything wrong," Boyer said. "Once we've had a chance to go to court and put our side of the story out there, we believe he's going to be vindicated in court."

Boyer also stated that his client is "heading on full steam with the campaign."

Alvin "AR" Evans was featured in the Sept. 15 edition of the Times Virginian as the first Appomattox County Board of Supervisors candidate to receive a joint endorsement from the Appomattox County Republican Committee and Appomattox County Democratic Committee.

Alvin Evans faces two forgery charges, according to the indictments, alleged in violation of Virginia Code Section 18.2-172.

Brandy Evans is facing 12 charges alleging that she committed perjury while under oath. The alleged violations also fall under Virginia Section Code 18.2-172.

Evidence was gathered by the Virginia State Police, according to the indictments.

Alvin and Brandy Evans are scheduled to appear in Appomattox County Circuit Court on Thursday, Oct. 7, for advisement on attorney arrangements and to set a trial date. Boyer stated that although he advised Brandy Evans as well in the lead-up to the indictments, she will seek separate legal representation because there are two different charges on two different clients.

Both Evans are free on bond as the investigation continues.



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C.E. Adams/Times Virginian  
At left, Glenn Youngkin, who is campaigning for the Republican nomination to run for Virginia governor, speaks to attendees of a campaign stop he made Thursday at Bull Daddy's restaurant in Appomattox. Above in foreground, Vance Wilkins of Amherst County, who once held the title of Speaker of the House of Delegates, introduces Youngkin to the audience.

## Republican gov. candidate Youngkin visits Appomattox

*Former House of Delegates speaker Wilkins also present*

JEFFREY WESTBROOK  
Times Virginian

Virginia gubernatorial candidate Glenn Youngkin, who is running for the Republican nomination for this year's election, paid a visit to Appomattox on Thursday, April 22. He spoke at Bull Daddy's restaurant.

Introducing Youngkin to the audience was Vance Wilkins, a former represen-

tative from Amherst County to the Virginia House of Delegates. Wilkins served for 24 years (1978-2002), including a stint as the Speaker of the House.

Providing closing remarks was Del. Matt Fariss from Campbell County, who has represents the 49th District in the House of Delegates (including Appomattox County) since 2011.

Points of emphasis in

Youngkin's talk included the necessity of the GOP winning back the governor's office this year, as well as the need for Republicans to work together to win not only the top office in the commonwealth, but also the lieutenant governor and attorney general races, along with seats in the House of Delegates and local offices.

See **YOUNGKIN**, Page 11



C.E. Adams/Times Virginian  
Glenn Youngkin, who is campaigning for the Republican nomination to run for Virginia governor, speaks to guests during a campaign stop he made Thursday at Bull Daddy's restaurant in Appomattox.



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian  
Members of the Appomattox Rescue Squad assist a student actor during a distracted driving event held Friday at Appomattox County High School.



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian  
Members of the Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department fictionally cut a car to save passengers during a distracted driving event held Friday at Appomattox County High School.

## ACHS students taught dangers of distracted driving

CHARLES CONRAD  
Times Virginian

Students at Appomattox County High School were given a close-up demonstration of the dangers of distracted driving Friday morning during a staged car crash scene, sponsored by the school's FCCLA (Family Career and Community Leaders of America) group.

The scene displayed an

automobile that had fictionally crashed into a tree near the school's office entrance parking lot (there was no actual crash). The plot of the narrated story involved a high school girl who had left home and picked up two friends for school. On the way to school, they turned up the music and were singing and speeding.

The driver, who turned into the parking lot too

fast, became distracted by a text notification on her cell phone. When she looked up she noticed another car in front of her, tried to avoid the car and crashed into a tree. But while avoiding the car, a girl who was on the sidewalk was struck and thrown onto the grass with serious injuries. One passenger went through the windshield and sustained a

See **DRIVING**, Page 13



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian  
Appomattox County High School students of the FCCLA club participated in Friday's crash scene event to warn fellow students of the dangers of distracted driving. From left are Jackie Bryant, Shyann Bankston, Morgan Howard, Saryna Williams, Brianna Bolte and Sara Conner.

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# Driving

Continued from Page 1

serious head injury. The fire department crew had to cut the car to get the passengers out.

While in this case, the cause of the wreck was distracted driving, FCCLA pointed out that there are numerous things that can cause a driver to lose focus, including talking to others on a cell phone or in person, setting GPS directions, adjusting radio or music player controls, drinking, eating, putting on makeup, etc. This type of distraction is known as "inattention blindness," a failure to notice a visible hazard because your attention is elsewhere.

"By driving distracted, you are robbing yourself of seconds that you may need to avoid a close call or deadly crash," FCCLA narrator told the students.

Two sessions of approximately 15 minutes each were held Friday in order to accommodate the number of students in attendance outdoors. Other students on the staggered schedule were present Monday, April 19, during a practice run-through.

Members of the Appomattox Rescue Squad, Ap-

pomattox Volunteer Fire Department and Appomattox County Sheriff's Office took part in the demonstration by enacting the emergency procedures that would take place during such an accident.

Appomattox County Sheriff Donald Simpson warned students that the type of crash scene they were witnessing Friday is a very real experience that has permanently changed the lives of the people involved and that rescue crews have seen often.

"This is not make-believe, this is a recreation of something that really happens," Simpson said. "This is a visual, but let it climb into your mind. Look at it, think about it, put yourself in these spots ... Put yourself outside of it — maybe you caused this, how's that makes you feel?"

FCCLA Appomattox Vice President Brianna Bolte, a student at ACHS, said she was inspired to showcase the problem of distracted driving by another type of event held previously at the school.

"I've wanted to do it since we were in 10th grade because I remember them doing something similar when my brother was in high school about drinking before prom, and

I remember it having an impact on me when I was a young kid. ... I've noticed that kids are texting and driving more than drinking and driving. So, I thought it was a problem that I saw in the community, and I thought it was something that needed to be fixed and brought attention to," Bolte said.

FCCLA Appomattox President Shyann Bankston, also an ACHS student, agrees that distracted driving, especially when it comes to cell phones, is an issue that needs to be solved for the safety of everyone, and hopes the demonstration will make an impact.

"Most of the teenagers here in the parking lot, they're on their phone and you see them driving one-handed with their phone in the other hand," Bankston said. "It's a really big issue because they don't really care until it happens to someone they love or someone like them. So, we thought why not just do it and give them a visualization of what it would look like if this were to happen to them or someone they know."

FCCLA cited statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Association,

which states that in 2019, distracted driving killed 3,142 people on America's roadways, a 10 percent increase from the previous year. And although people of all ages use their cell phone devices while driving, the National Center for Biotechnology Information states that drivers age 16-24 rate the highest.

FCCLA suggests using common sense safety measures such as pulling over in a safe location if texting or calling is necessary, designating a passenger as the designated person for texting and calling, place the cell phone in a place away from you until you arrive at your destination, and setting your music or radio station before driving.

Friday's presentation took two to three months of preparation by FCCLA, which included working with ACHS administration and teachers, the local emergency organizations and students who took part in the crash scene. The Appomattox Rescue Squad and ACHS Drama Club assisted with the "blood and

bruises" makeup. Appomattox Fire Chief Jonathan Garrett provided the vehicle, which was donated by Damien Bailey and was not in a prior wreck.

Of working with the first responders, Banston stated, "They are really, really nice, and I thought that this

was really cool because I've never been this close up to a fire truck before."

FCCLA advisers Ron-da Matthews and Mandy Howard were present for the event. FCCLA currently has nine members at ACHS, but other students help as needed.



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**Tracy Cheatham, FNP**

A native of Amherst County, VA, Tracy received her nursing degree in 1999 at Lynchburg College. In 2003 she graduated from Old Dominion University with a Master of Science and a Family Nurse Practitioner Degree. As an RN, she worked on a medical-surgical unit. Her greater than 15-year career as a nurse practitioner has included pulmonary and sleep medicine, occupational health, correctional health, and primary care. She has an interest in many different aspects of health, but particularly enjoys working with patients with chronic care issues. In her spare time she enjoys reading, listening to music, and hunting. However, the beach is her happy place!

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