

TIMES VIRGINIAN

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Vol. 131, No. 28

Appomattox, Virginia

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

\$2.50

18 arrested on drug, gun charges

The Piedmont Regional Narcotics and Gang Task Force had conducted a multi-day enforcement operation that resulted in 18 individuals being arrested on 63 various felony and misdemeanor charges, according to the Virginia State Police last Wednesday.

Charges include distribution of controlled substances, possession of Schedule I/II narcotics with intent to

distribute, conspiracy to sell Schedule I/II narcotics, possession of controlled substances, failure to appear in court, destruction property, probation violations, and more. The charges were all handed up by a multi-jurisdictional grand jury.

On May 18, the Task Force arrested the following individuals in the Town of Farmville and Prince Edward County:

- Shaina J. Riddle of Pamplin
- Christopher Ray Lee, 42, of Rustburg
- Samuel E. Gaines, 36, Prospect
- Courtney E. Benson, 31, of Rice
- Jamie L. Johnson, 39
- William A. Johnson, 35, of Meherrin
- Delanta E. Harvey, 27, of Howardsville
- Shawtay S. Brooks, 44,

of Rice

• Shawn C. Paige, 50, of Rice

• Melody M. Bigelow, 33, of Farmville

From May 17 through May 20, the Task Force took the following individuals into custody in Buckingham County:

- Brent S. Franklin, 31, of Dillwyn
- Amanda S. Jamerson, 27, Dillwyn

• Kevin Shumaker, 51, of Dillwyn

- Bennett L. McKay Jr., 38, of Meherrin
- Angel Torres Jr., 49, of Farmville
- James D.S. Murphy, 30, of Farmville
- Timothy Randolph Jr., 32, of Cumberland

On May 19, Jonathan L. Randolph, 35, of Farmville, was taken into custody in Cumberland County.

The Piedmont Regional Narcotics and Gang Task Force is comprised of narcotics investigators and special agents from the Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office, Farmville Police Department, Buckingham County Sheriff's Office, Cumberland County Sheriff's Office and the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation's Appomattox Field Office.



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian

At left, a visitor plays with one of the rescued adult cats at Til The End of Time Animal Sanctuary in Appomattox. Above and below are several of the 52 cats rescued and up for adoption.

52 cats rescued from local hoarding situation

CHARLES CONRAD
Times Virginian

A bevy of kittens and adult cats are now being sheltered at Til the End of Time Animal Sanctuary in Appomattox and are awaiting good homes after being rescued from a local home where they were living under abysmal conditions in a hoarding situation.

Laurie Peters, president

of Til the End of Time Animal Sanctuary, said that she recently was contacted by an individual who had to move out of her home due to medical issues. The woman requested that Peters take in what was thought to be 26 animals, but the number turned out to be much higher.

"I hesitated but I said 'sure' because I was really worried about what was

gonna happen to them after the women left the home," Peters said. "Well, I had her herself go trap the majority of them, mainly the ones that were outside. Then I was told, lo and behold, that there were 52, not 26."

Peters and some of her work crew went to the home and were shocked by the living conditions. According to Peters, the home was filled with trash, there

was no furniture, no electricity, no heat, no indoor plumbing, and there was a strong odor from urine and fecal matter.

Peters said that at the time of rescue, many of the animals suffered from upper respiratory issues due to the strong odors inside the home, and some were malnourished.

See CATS, Page 7



Sharon Walker/Times Virginian

Firefighters sling buckets of water, trying to be the fastest to fill up the barrel at the Firefighters and Fireworks competition July 2 on Liberty Field in Appomattox.

Firefighter competition, fireworks held in town

SHARON WALKER
Times Virginian

A torrential rain fell on Appomattox on July 2 at about 3 p.m. — the same time the Firefighters & Fireworks competition was set to begin on Liberty Field in Appomattox.

Nobody considered canceling, though.

Instead, the rain slowly eased up and stopped. The sun came out. Firefighters who would participate in

the friendly competition later had already arrived from Pamplin, Red House and Concord; two teams were there from Appomattox. Their families and friends had already found room with their folding chairs and umbrellas or covers around the field.

The BMX demonstration had moved itself to Appomattox County High School, where the fireworks show would take place after dark.

Liberty Baptist Church kept their Facebook page up-to-the-minute with the latest changes and information on the event including some of what food trucks had to offer.

The church and the Town of Appomattox sponsored the Firefighters and Fireworks event.

A wooden train puffed along, taking children around the field at 3:30 p.m.,

See TOWN, Page 8

Concord celebrates its new firehouse

SHARON WALKER
Times Virginian

First responders, families, friends and colleagues from Concord and surrounding areas gathered July 4 at the Concord Volunteer Fire Department to celebrate a new building and the brick garden that's funding it.

Ladies' auxiliaries from the Concord Volunteer Fire Department and the collocated Concord Rescue Squad began cooking early

in the morning. A pancake breakfast was served at the rescue squad with donations accepted. A crowd between 300 to 500 people arrived for breakfast.

After the annual Concord July 4 parade and the dedication of Concord Fire Department's new building and brick garden that's funding it, barbecue, hot dogs, slaw, chicken and French fries were cooked in a new industrial style kitchen, a feature of the new fire house. This line for service began in-

side next to the kitchen, traveled out the door and around the building.

The new building has a garage for the department's swift water rescue boat, trailer (these had to be stored in the parking lot before) and rescue paraphernalia and a large bay for the brush fire truck.

The kitchen, large dining area and conference room were designed to serve the community, too, both in

See FIREHOUSE, Page 12



Sharon Walker/Times Virginian

Shown is the new Concord Volunteer Fire Department building.



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OBITUARIES

Jessie Williamson Baldwin

Jessie Williamson Baldwin, 98, of Spout Spring, went to her heavenly home on Monday, July 11, 2022. She was the wife of the late Edgar Allen Baldwin, Jr.

Born in Red House, September 14, 1923, she was a daughter of the late Alice Rush and Henry Williamson. Jessie was the oldest member of Union Hill Baptist Church. She was a faithful Christian, loved her family, friends, gardening, cooking, bird watching, and loved taking care of others.

She is survived by one son, E.A. Baldwin, III of Spout Spring; daughters-in-law, Marie Baldwin and Me'Chelle Pollard; son-in-law, Larry Temples; sister-in-law, Sally Evelyn DeHart; six grandchildren, Ann Conner and husband Adam of Appomattox, Mikayla Servis and husband,

Nick of Red House, Kristy Lee of Manning, SC, Jamie Bayne of Destin, FL, Robbie Childress and husband, Jay of Concord, and Nikki Wade of AZ; five great-grandchildren, Brice Conner, Raegan Servis, Jay Kinney, Morgan, Olivia, and Nicholas Smith; a dear family friend, Bruce Blanks; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Barbara Temples; one son, Bobby Baldwin; 11 brothers and sisters.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, July 16, 2022, at Union Hill Baptist Church with Rev. Rick Sewell officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church and other times at her resi-



Jessie W. Baldwin

dence.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions please consider Union Hill Baptist Church, 12935 Red House Road, Brookneal, VA 24528 or the Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 894, Appomattox, VA 24522.

Robinson Funeral Home and Cremation Service is serving the family. An online condolence may be sent by visiting www.robinsonfuneral.com

Kenneth Wayne Gobble Sr.

Kenneth Wayne Gobble Sr., 79, of Appomattox passed away on July 8, 2022, at his residence.

Born in Campbell County on June 1, 1943, he was the son of the late Abraham Lincoln Gobble and Dorothy Goff Gobble. He was a member of New Hope Baptist Church and was a machinist at Limitorque. He was a member of American Legion Post #104 and served his country as a member of the Infantry in the United States Army. He was an infantry member in the Vietnam War.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Connie Wooten Gobble; his son, Kenneth "Kenny" W. Gobble, Jr., and wife, Alison of Appomattox; his daughter Latisha Campbell and husband, Doug of

Browns Mills, New Jersey; five grandchildren, Jackson Gobble, Josh Mann and wife, Shelby, Gavin Campbell, Blayden Campbell, and Shayla Campbell; four great-grandchildren, Raelyn Mann, Rhett Mann, Brooklyn Alkire, and Ava Alkire; one sister, Janice G. Carter of Toledo, Ohio; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Alice Faye Gobble and Phyllis G. Long, and a granddaughter, Morgan Campbell Alkire.

The funeral service will be held at 10 a.m., today, July 13, 2022, at New Hope Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. Rusty Small officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery with military rites accorded by Virginia Army National



Kenneth W. Gobble Sr.

Guard.

The family received friends from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at Robinson Funeral Home and other times at the residence.

Robinson Funeral Home and Cremation Service is serving the family. An online condolence may be sent by visiting www.robinsonfuneral.com.

Robert Charles Granato

Robert Charles Granato, 80, of Appomattox, passed away on Saturday, July 9, 2022, at his residence. He was the husband of Geraldine Vitelli Granato.

Born in Long Branch, New Jersey on August 18, 1941, he was the son of the late Louis C. Granato and Dorothy Johnson Granato. He served his country for 20 years in the United States Navy.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by four daughters, Sue Hamlett and husband, Gene of Pamplin, Katharine Bloodworth and husband, Thomas of Ap-

pomattox, Beth Turner and husband, Ricky of Spout Spring, and Kasandra Meadows and husband, Delbert of Spout Spring; four grandchildren, Damian Turner, Dallas Turner, Kaylee Meadows, and Logan Meadows; two great-grandchildren, Aiden Turner and Gracelynn Turner; one brother James Granato and wife, Carol of New Jersey; and one sister, Mary Lou Spiggle of Appomattox.

A funeral service will be held at 2 pm, today, July 13, 2022, at Liberty Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. Rusty Small officiating. Burial will

follow in the church cemetery.

The family received friends from 6 to 8 pm, Tuesday, July 12, at Robinson Funeral Home.

Robinson Funeral Home and Cremation is serving the family. An online condolence may be sent by visiting www.robinsonfuneral.com.

William "Bill" Norcross

William "Bill" Norcross, 74, of Union, Mississippi, formally of Appomattox, passed away on Saturday, July 2, 2022, at his residence. He was the husband of Kathryn O. Norcross.

Born in Appomattox County, he was the son of the late Walter and Emma Norcross. Bill retired from the U.S. Navy after serving 22 years. He then went to work at East Central Com-

munity College at Decatur, MS, as an automotive instructor for 24 years. Bill's passion in life was caring for all animals.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Dana Lawson and husband, David of Kewanee, MS; his son, Sean Norcross of Meridian, MS; his granddaughter, Lauren Lawson; his brother, Walter Norcross and wife,

Maurine of South Carolina; numerous cousins and extended family including Helen Adams and Iris Woody; and his grand-fur baby, Kane.

A funeral service was held at 3 pm, Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at Milling Funeral Chapel, Union, MS, officiated by Brother Bill Boykin. Burial followed at Union City, MS, Cemetery.

Cats

Continued from Page 1

While at the home, Peters and the workers experienced physical symptoms such as nausea, respiratory irritation and watery eyes.

The last batch of cats was extracted by July 4, but Peters said she still feels traumatized. However, she is glad to have been able to save the animals.

"I've never seen anything like it before in my life," she said. "I've been involved in a lot of hoarding cases, and this one I've never seen anything like it before. We couldn't even breathe in there ... I'm very thankful, though, that we did get all the cats out, because they wouldn't have made it much longer."

Peters said the cats had been dropped off at the home over the years, and the woman couldn't resist keeping them despite a lack of finances and other issues.

The kittens and cats are recovering well at the sanctuary and are in good spirits, ready to be adopted. Nearly all of the cats are domesticated. The sanctuary has been working with a veterinarian for health care and medications.

"They're happy as can be," Peters said about the felines. "People have this misconception that most hoarders have ferals, but 90 percent of these cats are not

ferals — they are so sweet and appreciative. It was definitely worth doing."

Feral cats are those who are not owned by any human and survive outdoors on their own.

The majority of the available felines are kittens, and Peters said that five of the adult cats are expectant mothers.

"We're doing the best we can," she said. "It has put a financial strain on us, but that to me is not important. These are, most of them are, adoptable cats."

For anyone interested in adoption, Peters said that fees are not being charged but a voluntary donation of finances or supplies benefits the shelter, including the animals that were being housed there before the latest 52 came onto the scene.

"I want to see them in good homes," Peters said.

Til the End of Time Animal Sanctuary adoption hours are from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. seven days per week.

The sanctuary is hosting a silent box auction and yard sale Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 260 Phelps Branch Road, Appomattox. Details can be found in the Community Calendar section of this week's Times Virginian.

For information, call Til the End of Time Animal Sanctuary at 434-607-7994. Also visit the website www.tiltheendoftimesanctuary.com.

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Groundbreaking hopefully in fall for High Bridge Trail in Pamplin

Sharon Walker/
Times Virginian

High Bridge Trail State Park manager Daniel A. Jordan provides updates on the park at the Pamplin City Town Council meeting July 12.



STAFF REPORT

High Bridge Trail State Park Manager Daniel Jordan brought some good news to the Pamplin City Town Council meeting July 12, although he advised council members to be “cautiously optimistic, but this is big.”

Jordan’s guess is that groundbreaking to connect High Bridge Trail to Pamplin will occur soon. “We look forward to breaking ground by late fall. As you know, we (DCR) purchased 30 acres in Pamplin, the last mile in town,” he said.

“We had money to buy the property. Unfortunately, there isn’t always money to develop

the property. But, fortunately, that is not the case with this,” Jordan said.

About two years ago, the Times Virginian in an April 2020 article reported that “the purchase sale agreement between the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Norfolk Southern was signed . . . for a mile of property that would connect the High Bridge Trail to the Pamplin town limits.”

Then, July 31, 2020, the Times Virginian reported on a DCR press release, which spoke of sealing the deal: “The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation purchased 30 acres in Pamplin, Virginia, from Norfolk

Southern to be added to High Bridge State Park. The acquisition, 15 years in the making, will connect the trail to its planned western terminus near the Pamplin, Virginia, train depot.”

“I’ve applied for a Recreation Trails Program grant, and we’ve been selected for an award of \$365,000 to work on the trail. This is a first step. But I have a caveat,” Jordan said. “We’ve been selected, but now we must go through approval. This is the first step in the process. This goes to my director for approval, then to the Federal Highway Administration for approval, then

See **TRAIL**, Page 8

Ricky Baldwin retires after 48 years in law enforcement

He spent 29 years in Appomattox Co.

RACHEL BRANNING
Womack Publishing
News Service

After 48 years of serving in law enforcement, Town of Brookneal Chief of Police Ricky Baldwin, who served 29 of those years in Appomattox County, celebrated his retirement.

Thursday, June 30, marked Baldwin’s final day of service, but his lifelong commitment to the communities he served has left a lasting legacy.

“It’s been a long career, and I’ve loved all 48 years,” Baldwin said. “I’m going to miss it. It’s been a way of life for me for so many years.”

Baldwin began his career on July 1, 1974, in the Appomattox County Sheriff’s Office at age 18.

“When I finished high school, I really never had any thoughts about going into law enforcement, but the local sheriff there in Appomattox County came to me and offered me the job,” Baldwin said. “I just stuck with it through the years. I’ve seen a lot and been involved in a lot, but it’s all just a part of the job.”

He moving up in the ranks in Appomattox County as he continued in the force.

See **RETIRE**, Page 3



Contributed

Brookneal Chief of Police Ricky Baldwin retired after 48 years in law enforcement. From the Appomattox County Sheriff’s Office in 1974, to the Campbell County Sheriff’s Office, and for the last 12 years the Brookneal Police Chief, he has put in a lifetime of service to the area. Pictured is Baldwin at the beginning and end of his long career.



United Methodist Family Services/Contributed

Pictured are some United Methodist Family Services personnel, from left: Foster Parent Recruiter Katherine Solvig, Family System’s Coordinator Lyn Howard, Intake Coordinator and Family Trainer Samantha Bain, Community Based Services Supervisor Ralph Branch III, Administrative Services Manager Stephanie Edwards, Community Based Services Coordinator Nicole Byrd, Senior Social Worker Oasia Banks, and Assistant Regional Director Andrea Walker.

Foster care agency seeking homes for children in need

CHARLES CONRAD
Times Virginian

United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) is seeking people who want to make a difference in a child’s life by providing a stable environment of love and understanding.

Katherine Solvig, a foster parent recruiter from the UMFS Lynchburg

office, is hoping to develop more foster homes for children who need placement in Appomattox County, Campbell County and the surrounding areas.

Solvig, a North Carolina native who earned a Bachelors Degree in Psychology and is now working toward a Masters Degree in Counseling, both through Liberty University,

has worked for UMFS since January 2021. Her mission is to find people who want to become foster parents and assist them during the approval process.

As Solvig explained, the United Methodist Church founded the organization as an orphanage in 1900 but

See **FOSTER**, Page 8

Small Business Spotlight

Appomattox Drug Store fulfills more than just medicine needs

COURTNEY MENDENHALL
Times Virginian

Brod and Rick Pack, owners and pharmacists of Appomattox Drug Store, welcome all town residents to visit the store for medical and miscellaneous needs, from medicine to Hallmark cards.

Appomattox Drug Store has been serving the area for more than 53 years in the same Confederate Boulevard location. Rick Pack’s father, Brod Pack, purchased the business in 1969 and is still working there today. Rick came to work at the store in 1993 and said that he thoroughly enjoys helping the community.

The drug store is a “full service” pharmacy with a drive-thru, providing natural medicines, alternative therapies and health equipment. Available for purchase are diabetic medical supplies such as prescription insulin pens and shoes (specifically made for diabetic patients).

Appomattox Drug Store is recognized by the

See **STORE**, Page 7



Contributed

Shown are some supplements available at Appomattox Drug Store, which has been serving the area for more than 53 years in the same Confederate Boulevard location.



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Foster

Continued from Page 1

has had to change course based on state laws and other factors. For instance, orphanages are no longer permitted in Virginia. Just as in 1900, however, displaced children still need a family atmosphere.

“As research has shown, being in a part of a family is much better than being in a group home, or something like that, for kids and their outcomes and their health,” Solvig said. “And that’s what we’re ultimately seeking, is the well-being and success of the kids all over the state of Virginia, and so we’ve shifted and become a foster care organization.”

Unfortunately, there are not enough homes in the local area to meet the need of referrals that UMFS receives from the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). UMFS serves children aging from infancy to 17, but the primary need is for teenage placement and sibling groups.

“In the Lynchburg and surrounding areas, there are over 350 kids in foster care,” Solvig said. “Every day we receive referrals for these kids, and we don’t have homes available ... Other agencies are facing the same struggles. Over this past year since COVID, we’ve seen a 54 percent decrease in the amount of parents that we can approve ... The amount of kids coming into foster care is still there, but the way that we meet that need has gone down; here’s an imbalance, there’s a gap there. So, we really want to better serve this population but we don’t have homes available, so we need people who are interested in just learning more.”

UMFS offers therapeutic foster care, adoption

services, kinship services (placing kids with family members), and plenty of training and support for foster parents.

“We don’t drop kids off and say ‘good luck.’ We take it with you every step of the way,” Solvig said.

UMFS provides foster parents with support services such as safety plans, on-call services, training throughout the year, social worker visits, foster child surveys, training on trauma-informed care, holiday events, an appreciation event in May in recognition of Foster Care Awareness Month and more. This year, families will be invited to attend a Lynchburg Hillcats minor league baseball game.

Children who are unable to be placed in local foster homes through UMFS or another agency are often sent to group homes or placed out of state. There are current around 5,000 children in foster care in Virginia, according to the VDSS.

“We really need foster parents, truly,” Solvig said. “We need people who are willing to take more long-term placements, and we also do respite care. Respite care is a short-term care, two to seven days, often on weekends and provides support to long-term parents.”

Solvig wants people who are considering becoming foster parents to realize that the children in need of a home are victims of circumstances for which they have no control, and there is a need for understanding, patience and communication.

“Those kids coming into care, we always like to remind people that they’re not coming into care for any reason that they’ve done,” Solvig said. “It’s not because of their behaviors or whatever; it’s because they face a lot of

hard places, and their living environment is not safe anymore, and so we’re stepping into that place to create safety for them and create healing for them because they’ve experienced a lot of trauma whether it be abuse, neglect or household dysfunction.”

“We really want to have a low disruption rate, so we want to be making good replacements on the front end,” Solvig added. “And a lot of that comes from having good families, and families who are just open — they’re non-judgmental, they’re willing to listen, and they know that the way kids react and the way they behave is a coping skill and not because they’re a bad kid. They’ve had so much happen to them, and they’re responding to their environment. And so the way our parents interact and create relationships really is what creates change and healing for these kids. And so, that is really reflected in our kids and their experience.”

Many children come into a foster home feeling scared, nervous and unsettled by events that caused their world to be “turned upside down,” as Solvig described.

“Remember, these kids, you’re a stranger to them,” she said. “When you’re bringing them into your home, they’re joining your family for ever how long it might be — it might be a long time or it might be a short time — but they’re a part of your family now, so we want normalcy. We really promote that within our families, like they are part of your family, they’re not a separate entity. But you’re a stranger to them so you have to build a relationship, you have to get to know them and really find out what it is that they need and then meet those needs.”

Nevertheless, while the

challenge seems great, the rewards are plenty, and personal perfection is not a prerequisite for a foster parent loving a child.

“People can do this,” Solvig said. “You don’t have to be perfect to be the perfect foster parent. Just take the first step because we’re gonna be there along the way.”

Parenting experience is not necessary but some of the requirements include a driver’s license, adequate space in the home for a child, undergoing a CPS (Child Protective Services) and FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) background check, and not currently receiving government financial assistance. Foster children receive a state-funded stipend to cover their needs while in foster care. Parents of all adult ages are considered but recruits typically range from their late 20s through mid-50s.

The ultimate goal of UMFS, as Solvig explained, is to find permanency for the children. That could lead to adoption or reunification with their birth families if possible. Fifty percent of foster children, according to Solvig, end up returning to live with a parent or family member.

“We want to be creating strong families, so those

parents have to do what they’ve got to do to get their kids back,” Solvig said.

UMFS also wants to recruit good families to help curtail the amount of children who “fall through the cracks” by becoming homeless (around 20 percent, according to Solvig) and getting into other dire circumstances once they age out of the foster care system.

“That’s a negative cycle and we need to break that, so we need some parents who can take in some teens — and know that teens aren’t scary, they’re really not,” Solvig said. “They’re just kids and they need parents who can just love on them.”

Solvig cited a recent positive outcome foster parenting case of a girl in Lynchburg who struggled with mental health and substance abuse issues as a pre-teen but has graduated high school, earned a CNA license and found a job. Her foster mother taught her to create a budget and provided emotional support.

“She’s about to go out into the world, you know, and she has a plan, and she has achieved so much,” Solvig said of the girl. “The stats for kids in foster care aren’t great — there are so many negative out-

comes that are associated with it — and that’s why we have to have parents who are willing to step in there and really do the hard work and parent these kids and love them, and through that we see so many good outcomes.”

Solvig, a child of missionary parents who has lived overseas, serves throughout Virginia, but the Southwest Region she oversees includes locations within an hour’s driving distance of UMFS offices in Lynchburg, South Hill and Farmville. UMFS headquarters are in Richmond, with other offices in Fredericksburg, Northern Virginia (Alexandria) and Tidewater.

UMFS often hands out informational brochures at vendor and community awareness events, and gains support through fundraisers, such as one recently held by Applebees restaurant in Farmville.

For those who aren’t interested in, or aren’t able to become foster parents, UMFS has other opportunities to get involved through building awareness and supporting the organization.

To learn more, visit www.umfs.org/foster or contact Katherine Solvig by phone at 434-846-2002, ext. 2095, or email at ksolvig@umfs.org.

Trail

Continued from Page 1

back to the DCR director. So, there are some steps involved. We have three years to spend the money. Now, this is a cash match grant, and DCR has the cash match available. I say this all cautiously optimistic.

“But I will tell you this — Mary (Hinds), thank you for the letter on behalf of PALS (Pamplin Area Legacy Supporters — a volunteer organization supporting Pamplin). When they reviewed the project, the RTP (Recreation Trails Program) folks were really excited because of the relationship between Pamplin, the community and High Bridge Trail, and they easily saw the necessity of getting this trail to town, and what a game changer it is for the trail, the community and the town.”

“I appreciate your support and your patience. You and I would have gotten this done much sooner, but we weren’t driving this train, pun intended,” Jordan said to laughter in the room.

“So, we can be cautious in our excitement, but can I say something?” he asked the group.

“I asked,” Jordan said,

meaning he posed the question to his superiors. “I was like, ‘So, the money isn’t official, however can I say something about it? Because this is a big deal.’ So, yes, I can say something about it. Be cautious in your excitement, but me, personally, I don’t see there being any issue. Even our chain of command up line is really excited about this. And the town of Pamplin are not only willing to donate a half-acre but are also going to improve it.”

Mayor Sarah Blackwell asked several questions about the funding and about a possible time frame. Jordan said he expected the full approval to be complete by fall.

“My chain upline is excited about this,” he said.

Jordan said he would stay closely in touch with Blackwell and council members about the progress of the funds and building.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused some hiccups in the process of the trail becoming connected to Pamplin, although the High Bridge Trail Park itself stayed open and thrived with visitors. People either used the park to continue their exercise and healthy walks, rediscovered the park or learned about it for the first time, Jordan said.

Jordan said the park recently had the Firefly Festival, attended by about 350, and had several 5K and 10K runs, again with more than 300 people showing up for each.

He said with pandemic pricing, they went to bid for the Visitor Center on the eastern side of High Bridge at 1466 Camp Paradise Road in Rice, Virginia, but lumber prices were exorbitant.

“They killed us, so we went to no bid on that,” Jordan said. “We got money from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act), so we’re getting ready to see if the original bidders are still interested. If they are, we won’t have to go through the whole process again.”

Jordan said he had a worry that the Visitor Center would end up looking sort of bland and building-like.

“I said, ‘What if it looked like a train station?’”

He gave the firm the Norfolk Western (at that time) design of a 1914 train station, “and they put it together for us,” he said. “So, that will be along the trail and will look like a train station.”

“This is big,” he said. “We still have a couple of hurdles to jump, but you’re looking at the project manager, and I will keep all of you involved.”

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Vol. 131, No. 44

Appomattox, Virginia

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

\$2.50

Fire survivors appear on TV show

Family given \$10K check

Aalaysia Canada, a 12-year-old hero, and her mother Chantae Patterson from Appomattox appeared on national television Tuesday on "The Jennifer Hudson Show" and received \$10,000 toward a new home.

On Oct. 17, their home on the 10,000 block of Stonewall Road went up in flames.

Canada, a middle school student who recently saved her family from the house fire, shared her story of waking at 3 a.m., thinking she "smelled hot dogs" and instead discovering smoke and flames surrounding her.

The quick-thinking pre-teen raised the alert and got everyone, including her mom, three sisters, and the family cat, to safety.

Her mother, who calls Canada her "miracle child" and said this was the

second time Canada saved her life, told Hudson that while they lost everything to the fire, she is grateful for the local community's support and positivity.

Groups that assisted included the Appomattox Community & Disaster Relief, American Red Cross and Patterson's employer.

During the interview, Hudson surprises the family with \$10,000 to help rebuild their home, courtesy of Pillsbury.

The video of the interview titled "Girl, 12, Who Saved Family From Fire Gets a \$10K Check!" may be watched at <https://youtu.be/0LPZTxFKWs>.

Canada also received the Civilian Meritorious Service Commendation from the Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department on Oct. 20.



Chris Millard/Warner Bros./Contributed

Shown are (from left) Chantae Patterson and Aalaysia Canada from Appomattox receiving a \$10,000 check courtesy of Pillsbury from Jennifer Hudson on "The Jennifer Hudson Show."



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian

Shown are Appomattox County personnel and others who attended the Domestic Violence Awareness Month event at Courland Park. From left: Appomattox County Commonwealth's Attorney Les Fleet, Appomattox County Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Dana Smith, Investigator Justin Rothgeb of the Appomattox County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Josh Davis of the Appomattox County Sheriff's Office, Appomattox County Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Kia Scott, Appomattox County Victim Witness Director Libby Ashby, Linda Ellis-Williams, senior director of Victim's Services for the YWCA of Central Virginia, Appomattox County Administrator Susan Adams and Appomattox County Board of Supervisors member Rev. Al Jones.

Domestic violence victims honored at vigil Thursday

Hope and grim reality presented

CHARLES CONRAD
Times Virginian

At Thursday's candlelight vigil to honor deceased victims of domestic violence, attendees were reminded of the hope that remains for the future as well as the grim reality of the present struggle against domestic-related crime.

Approximately 25 to 30 people, including law enforcement officials, attended the annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month event at Courland Park on Court Street, Appomattox, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The event was led by Appomattox County Victim Witness Director Libby Ashby, who was recently hired to replace long-time director Mary



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian

Shown are "Silent Witness" cardboard silhouettes of six-year-old Charles Johnson Jr. and two-year-old Charlena Johnson, who died as victims of a domestic violence-related arson fire in 1972 in Buffalo Junction.

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Veterans Day to be observed at Post 104

Maj. Gen. Daniel L. York is the speaker

To commemorate Veterans Day, American Legion Post 104 and Auxiliary Unit 104 along with Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9855 and Auxiliary Unit 9855 will sponsor a ceremony on Friday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. at the American Legion Post 104 Headquarters on Oakleigh Avenue in Appomattox.

The observance that we now call "Veterans Day" began as "Armistice Day." It is historically significant that this day is usually observed on the month, day and hour that the guns fell silent in World War I: 11 a.m. Nov. 11, 1918.

While the commemoration has strong historical roots, current events continue to add meaning to the ceremony.

"On Nov. 11th, we will remember all the veterans who have served the cause of freedom to protect our Republic. We are reminded that thousands of Americans are serving in uniform, today. They, and the families have sacrificed greatly so that we might remain free. We owe all of our veterans a tremendous debt of gratitude and grateful remembrance,"



Maj. Gen. Daniel York

said Post 104 Commander Pablo Moctezuma.

The keynote speaker will be Maj. Gen. Daniel L. York, United States Army Reserve (retired). York was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1981 upon graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He began his career with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Over his 36-year military career, he commanded at every level: platoon, company, battalion, brigade and three different divisions, two of which were nationwide commands. He led the

See VETERANS, Page A12



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OBITUARIES

Calvin Hubbard "Butch" Martin

Calvin Hubbard "Butch" Martin, 78, of Gladstone, died Wednesday, October 26, 2022. He was the husband of Amy Moore Martin.

Born in Appomattox County, Va., August 5, 1944, he was a son of the late Nellie Moore Martin and John Graydon Martin. Butch was a member of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church. He was an avid Braves fan, a great outdoorsman, and a honorary member of Churchill Hunt Club and Greenway Hunt Club. Butch worked for CSX and Amtrak for 37 years combined serving as clerk, yard master and various other duties. While working he took his family to numerous states and cities, where they met many people from different walks of life. Butch was always found surrounded by a group of people being entertained by his wonderful storytelling. In addition to his wife, he

is survived by his children, Kris McFadden and husband, Buddy of Gladstone and Steve Martin and wife, Jessica of Glen Allen; four granddaughters which were Papa's girls, Megan Jennings and husband, Kevin, Courtney McFadden, Kassey Martin, and Kennedy Martin; two great-grandsons, Hampton Jennings and Leonardo Collins; a sister-in-law, Alice Martin of Bedford; and his "special brother," Louis Walker Moore and wife, Anne of Appomattox.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Warren Martin and Clayton Martin, and a sister, Verta Banton.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m., Friday, October 28, 2022, at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church with Pastor John Flood officiating. A private burial will be held at a later date.

The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the church and



Calvin H. Martin

other times at the residence.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions please consider the American Cancer Society C/O Sharon Mobley, PO Box 1084, Appomattox, VA 24522 or the J.W.C. Martin Family Cemetery fund, C/O Kris McFadden 183 Hampton Lane, Gladstone, VA 24553.

Robinson Funeral Home and Cremation Service is serving the family. An online condolence may be sent by visiting www.robinsonfuneral.com.

Cecil Craig Nash

Cecil Craig Nash, 73, of Promise Land Road, passed away Sunday, October 30, 2022. He was the husband of Amy Evans Nash for 52 years.

Born in Lynchburg, July 22, 1949, he was a son of the late Nellie Jennings Nash and Henry Elliott "H.E." Nash. Cecil was a member of Central Baptist Church, charter member of The County Line Hunt Club and Appomattox Moose Lodge. He was a former member of the Appomattox Jaycees and Volunteer Fire Department. Cecil retired from The Williams Co "Transco" after 27 years of service. He served in the United States Army Reserves from 1969 until 1975, attained

the rank of E-6 and had the honor of becoming a drill sergeant. Cecil was an avid hunter, fisherman, loved raising a garden and sharing it with family and friends. His sense of humor was well known, he never met a stranger.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Jennifer Nash Royal and husband, Andre and Cecilia Nash of Appomattox; two granddaughters, Hannah Royal and Grace Royal of Harrisonburg; one brother, George Nash of Lynchburg; three sisters, Shirley Kerr, Daye Mann and husband, Nelson of Appomattox and Linda Cyrus of Concord; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in

death by one brother, Lloyd E. Nash.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., today, November 2, 2022, at Central Baptist Church with Pastor Jeff Worley officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Following the service, the family will receive friends in the fellowship hall and other times at the residence.

In lieu of flowers please consider Central Baptist Church Cemetery Association, 2546 Central Church Road, Appomattox, VA 24522.

Robinson Funeral Home and Cremation Service is serving the family. An online condolence may be sent by visiting www.robinsonfuneral.com.

For information about placing an obituary, contact the Times Virginian at: accounts@timesvirginian.com.

Vigil

Continued from Page A1

Anne Freshwater. Offering words of prayer were retired minister and current Appomattox County Board of Supervisors member Rev. Al Jones and Appomattox County Sheriff's Office Deputy Josh Davis. At the conclusion of the evening's speeches, attendees lit candles in remembrance of victims.

Linda Ellis-Williams is the senior director of Victim's Services for the YWCA of Central Virginia, and oversees the Domestic Violence Prevention program and the Sexual Assault Response program. Williams offered a dose of truth regarding the fight against domestic violence, stating that the issue is getting worse, especially among young people.

"In 31 years of intervention, I want to say that we are losing the fight," Williams said. "In 31 years, I've watched domestic violence numbers climb. I've watched our abusers' age drop — young boys are abusing far more faster or earlier in life than ever; young girls are being abused more and faster than ever — and we're having to model our programs to fit the times we are in."

While some victories have been won, including the lobbying efforts to make it possible for teenagers to take out protective orders, Ellis-Williams believes that the focus needs to shift from prevention to intervention. Many young people who've experienced domestic violence carry unresolved issues into adulthood, which may result in a cycle of victimhood or another generation of offenders.

"I have seen people who

were children in our shelter, they are now adults and they are bringing their children into the shelter," Ellis-Williams said. "I've seen young boys who were little kids running around and having a good time playing in the shelter who we are now sitting across the table helping to prosecute them for domestic violence."

Ellis-Williams highlighted a new intervention program named "Amend Together," which aims to work with young boys and men to discuss the violence they've been exposed to and how to dispel the false perception of violence against women being normal.

"We need to give our young boys, our youth, a place to talk about these things and to learn something different other than violence," she said. "We have to teach our young men how to resolve conflict with their mouths and with their head versus their fists and the end of a gun."

Ellis-Williams emphasized that an average of 50 children per year in Virginia lose their lives as casualties of domestic violence situations. She told the story of two of those children, who were victims of a Buffalo Junction arson murder in 1972.

"Silent Witness" cardboard silhouettes were on display at the vigil, propped up at the LOVE sign at Courtland Park, representing the two child victims, 6-year-old Charles Johnson Jr. and 2-year-old Charlena Johnson. Their father had left work during his third shift job, poured gasoline around the home, moved heavy furniture in front of the exit doors, and lit a match as he left to return to work. The children were found dead, clinging to their mother, who was found

dead attempting to move away the furniture.

Appomattox County Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Dana Smith, who works with many domestic violence victims as a prosecutor for Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, indicated that those who are survivors of domestic violence, as well as people who have been touched in some way by those crimes, should offer hope for victims who are still embroiled in those situations and are juggling a menu of conflicting emotions such as anger, embarrassment, fear, guilt and love for their abuser.

"Today we celebrate the lives of those who didn't make it out, those who died at the hands of their abusers," Smith said. "But their lives have meaning for us; their lives are the 'why' we continue to shine our light into the dark place of domestic violence."

"That's why every person who's here and has been touched by domestic violence matters," she continued. "Whether you've been touched in your family life, relationships, your professional or volunteer work, we know that there is hope, that it may take many times for domestic violence victims to leave before they leave for good, but they can finally leave. We may have victims back up and not want to move forward with prosecuting their abuser today, and we may have no other way to move forward with our case today, but the next

time may be the time they're ready, that we hold him accountable."

Smith outlined three goals when dealing with crimes of domestic violence. (1) Safety of the survivor: access to all resources such as a victim/witness advocate, forensic nurses at Centra Health, YWCA safe house, Virginia Victim's Fund for reimbursement of crime-related expenses, SART (Sexual Assault Response Team), and other support groups. (2) Holding defendants accountable for their actions by working with evidence and investigators. In some cases the victim is not needed to testify in order to secure a conviction. (3) Treating abusers' underlying issues such as alcoholism, drug addiction and mental health issues — if they are willing to cooperate.

"As we all know, those changes occur only if someone is willing to change. Frequently, they're not," Smith said.

Investigator Justin Rothgeb of the Appomattox County Sheriff's Office spoke candidly about his childhood experiences with domestic violence. A native of Appomattox County, his parents were drug addicts, and he and his brother were "bounced home to home." He witnessed domestic violence in his home, along with alcoholism, and was abused himself as a youngster. His brother died as an adult of heroine overdose. He gave credit to his recently deceased grandmother,

who took them in to give them a better environment in which to grow up.

Having worked with the sheriff's office since 2017, Rothgeb has had the opportunity to use his life's experience to provide comfort to victims of domestic violence.

"For that, this curse has kind of become a blessing," Rothgeb said. "I've been able to use those experiences in the past to be relatable to people that struggle with narcotics because, I don't understand from an addict's point of view, but I grew up around it. I understand domestic violence, not so much for exactly what you're going through, the person that I'm talking to, but the fact that I grew up with it and saw it, and with help and strength and compassion, that's something that you can overcome, too."

Although many domestic violence emergency calls are to repeat locations, Rothgeb said that having patience and building trust is key to eventually breaking the barriers that prevent justice from being served. He also stated that most homicides and violent acts are in Appomattox County are domestic in nature.

"I try to impress upon (the victim) the severity of (domestic violence) ... Yes, you never thought he would do this, or no, he's a good person when he's not drinking or what not, but the next time there might not be a next time. The next time I might not get to talk to you

and hear these things."

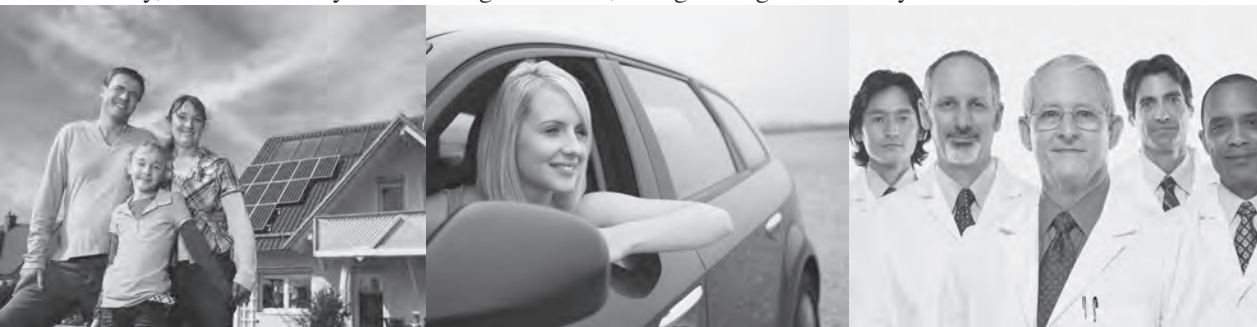
Ashby, in speaking of the role law enforcement plays in domestic violence cases, said it takes a woman an average of eight incidents before she makes a decision to leave. Many return visits to the same address by police takes on its own risks.

"They are called multiple times to the same residence, not only endangering their safety and the future of their own families if they get hurt but also the safety of other drivers as they hurry to respond to the scene," Ashby said. "Add contending with the mental state the abuser has put (the victim) in — 'he's sorry, he'll never do it again; I'll forgive and forget, he's the bread winner' — and then they're called the next week to the same residence for the same thing. It's no wonder that compassion fatigue is a legitimate barrier in law enforcement."

Rothgeb said that many victims of abuse have lost their self-worth, and it takes a team of individuals to build up their trust and offer support.

As several of the vigil's speakers reiterated, the public is encouraged to speak up and offer resources if they know of anyone involved in a domestic violence situation.

Victims of domestic violence may contact someone for help, including 911, the Appomattox Department of Social Services at 434-352-7125, or the Virginia Domestic Abuse Hotline at 1-800-838-8238.



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