

# Gladstone raising funds for pumper fire truck

The Gladstone Senior Citizens had a spaghetti dinner last month to benefit the seniors and Gladstone Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department.

It was a huge turnout with over 100 people attending. They raised \$1,300 and presented the Gladstone Fire Department with a check for \$650.

The Gladstone Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department is raising money for a new mini pumper

truck that they desperately need. The cost is about \$300,000.

Nelson County has agreed to pick up 80 percent of the cost and the fire department will have to raise the rest of the money.

To donate toward the new mini pump truck, contact Paul Zelinsky at 434-365-9866. The public's donations are greatly appreciated by the Gladstone Senior Citizens and Gladstone Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department.



Paul Zelinsky/Contributed

The Gladstone Senior Citizens present a check to the Gladstone Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department toward the purchase of a new mini pumper truck.

# Local students earn college achievements

The following Appomattox County residents have recently been recognized for academic achievements at their respective colleges and universities:

- Jackson Cheatham, of Appomattox: Spring 2022 Dean's list at Emory & Henry College (Emory, Va.).
- Jake Willis, of Appomattox: Spring 2022 Dean's List at The University of Hartford (West Hartford, Conn.).
- Carolina Schlawiedt, of Pamplin: Fall 2021 Dean's List Hamline University College of Liberal Arts (Saint Paul, Minn.).
- Jennifer Lloyd, of Appomattox: Graduated from Shenandoah University (Winchester, Va.) with a Doctorate in Pharmacy.
- Mikahlynn Page, of Appomattox: Spring 2022 Dean's List at James Madison University (Harrisonburg, Va.).
- Cameron Womack, of Appomattox: Spring 2022 Dean's List at James Madison University (Harrisonburg, Va.).
- Katherine Goff, of Appomattox: Spring 2022 President's List at James Madison University (Harrisonburg, Va.).
- Alexis Fulcher, of Appomattox: Spring 2022

President's List at James Madison University (Harrisonburg, Va.).

- Abigail Swanberg, of Appomattox: Spring 2022 Dean's List at College of William & Mary (Williamsburg, Va.).
- Jaisen Williams' of Appomattox: Graduated from Marietta College (Marietta, Ohio) with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History.

- Anna Elder, of Pamplin: Spring 2022 President's List and Spring 2022 Dean's List at Shenandoah University (Winchester, Virginia).
- Kendall Caldwell, of Pamplin: Graduated from James Madison University (Harrisonburg, Va.) with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Information Systems.

- Colleen Caldwell, of Pamplin: Graduated from James Madison University (Harrisonburg, Va.) with a Bachelor's Degree in English.
- Tyler Gilliam, of Appomattox: 2022 Spring Dean's List at Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, Va.).
- Luke Olimpio, of Appomattox: 2022 Spring Dean's List at Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, Va.).

# LHS to hold Beagle adoption event

The Lynchburg Humane Society (LHS) is encouraging the community to come out this Friday through Sunday for the Bring Home Happiness Adoption Special to help save more Envigo Beagles as well as at-risk pets from other area shelters. All adoption fees, (excluding VIPs, which are marked in blue in pet listings on their website), are reduced to just \$20 starting Friday.

Claire LeFew, Development and Communications Manager, said, "Every single adoption this weekend during the special will not only save that pet but it will make a space for us to save more Envigo Beagles or transfer another at-risk pet from shelters in our

area that are overwhelmed like Amherst, Appomattox, Campbell, and Bedford. We are also still in kitten season so there are many, many lives to be saved."

The Lynchburg Humane Society is currently housing over 400 cats and kittens and 90 dogs in their Center for Pets with another 393 pets in foster homes.

Interested adopters can stay updated on adoptable pets by visiting [www.lyncburghumane.org/](http://www.lyncburghumane.org/) adopt and visiting the Center for Pets at 1211 Old Graves Mill Road in Lynchburg. Questions about adoptable pets can be directed to our Adoptions Team at the Center or by email at [adoption@lyncburghumane.org](mailto:adoption@lyncburghumane.org).

# 2nd LPD officer charged

A second Lynchburg Police Department officer has been charged in connection with the incident that occurred on Thursday, May 19.

On July 17, one of the involved parties in this incident obtained a warrant for trespassing against Kasey Smith. Kasey Smith is related to Brian Smith, who was charged by the Virginia State Police with one count of trespassing and one count of assault and battery.

On May 19 at 12:31 p.m., the Lynchburg Police Department (LPD)

received a 911 call for an assault in the Boonsboro area of the city. Patrol officers arrived on scene and determined that an off-duty LPD officer was involved in this incident.

Kasey Smith was placed on administrative leave with pay and remains in that status pending the adjudication of the criminal investigation and the outcome of an internal investigation. She has served with the LPD for 10 years and currently holds the rank of Police Officer III assigned as a detective in the Forensics Unit.

# ACHS girls basketball coach retires 4th on VHSL win list

CHARLES CONRAD  
Times Virginian

After a prestigious career of coaching high school girls basketball, Appomattox Raiders varsity head coach Tracie Hayes has decided to turn in her clipboard for good. Hayes has retired at age 60 after 27 years of coaching and 38 years as a teacher.

Hayes, the Raiders' head coach since 2016, has compiled 593 career wins, ranking her fourth all-time in the Virginia High School League (VHSL). She had a 78 percent career winning percentage.

Before coming to Appomattox County High School (ACHS), where she also taught physical education and driver's education, Hayes led several Lynchburg high school programs: Brookville, E.C. Glass and Heritage.

Hayes coached Brookville to 10 straight Seminole District championships during her 12-year tenure. Two of those teams won regional titles and qualified for the state playoffs. One team lost in the state semifinals and the other team was state runner-up. Her final Heritage team also won the regional title and was state runner-up in 2013. She then took three years off due to back fusion surgery.

Hayes graduated from E.C. Glass High School, where she recorded more than 1,000 points and more than 500 rebounds. She went on to attend Radford University and Liberty University. During her coaching career, she spent several years as an assistant women's coach at Liberty University and the University of Lynchburg.

After leading the Raiders for the past six seasons, Hayes is once again stepping away largely due to health reasons after sitting out the 2021-22 season recovering from knee surgery. Brandon Bryant was the varsity interim head coach last winter.

"I (will be) 61 years old on August 9th, and I have worked extremely hard all my life," Hayes said. "I have been teaching for 38 years and coaching for 27 years, so it was time for me to take a break. I need to have a back fusion and knee replacement, so I need to do this in order to stay healthy and take care of my body. You only get one body, so you better take care of it. I have been getting spinal ablations for years and have needed to have a spine fusion, so I am finally going to get it done at Duke. This is my third back fusion and hopefully it will be my last."

Hayes, along with one of her assistant coaches, her husband Bill, led Appomattox to a winning record of 12-6 in 2016-17, her first year at the helm, but the Raiders lost to Chatham in the 2A Conference 37 playoffs. In the seasons to follow, the Raiders had records of 11-11, 2-19, 11-11, and 1-4 (COVID-shortened year).

Despite several losing records at Appomattox, Hayes was able to coach a number of talented individual play-



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian

Appomattox Raiders varsity girls basketball head coach Tracie Hayes (center), who recently announced her retirement, is shown giving instructions to the team during a timeout alongside her husband and assistant coach Bill in a January 2019 game at Appomattox County High School.

ers, such as Shaniya Johnson, who set the ACHS all-time free throw record. Hayes also held summer girls basketball camps at ACHS in the years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. She is proud of what has been accomplished at ACHS and emphasizes the importance of assistant coaches in developing an athletic program.

"I feel that Bill and I worked extremely hard to leave the program in better shape than we inherited it," Hayes said. "We had to work extremely hard to develop this program. We tried to guide the program in the right direction. Brandon Bryant assisted us in developing our JV program, and Lizzie Millner assisted us with varsity. We tried to get the right coaches in position to carry on building this program. You never really understand how much time it takes to build up a program until once you coach. Several (other) coaches that we got enjoyed it but said that they could not put that much time into building the program because of their real job to make a living. It is a full-time job if done correctly because there is never really an off-season time. It is a continuous grind all year long in order to build the pieces of the puzzle."

Although Hayes is one of the most successful coaches in the history of girls high school basketball in Virginia, she believes that wins and losses aren't the true measure of success.

"What you have accomplished with a program should not always be measured in wins and losses," she said. "It is measured in the lives that you have touched, positively affected. We did the best that we could have with the players that we were given. We united as a family to form a bond to help each other out, whatever it may be."

"I have loved the relationships that are formed with your team," she added. "I enjoy teaching not only the game of basketball but also about life. Competitive team sports teaches you so much. It teaches you to work as a family, trust, loyalty, discipline, work ethic, competitiveness, teamwork and unity. We have always had three simple rules to live by — our team rules: (1) Don't

quit (2) Trust your teammates (3) Control what you can control. If you do these three things, then you will be successful in life."

Hayes said her favorite basketball-related memories are those that involve watching her players develop personal character as human beings.

"I think that my favorite moments are when I see that my former players have become great people and very successful in life," she said. "It is an honor to have coached them all and a privilege to see them accomplish great things in life. To me, basketball is a means to the end. It helps you learn about hard work, friendships, dedication, sacrifice and unselfishness. And isn't that how we should live our lives? I will always miss coaching and teaching but all these lives will remain in my heart and prayers forever. I have been around a lot of great people in my time and I appreciate each one of them for helping me grow to be a better person. I tell my players quite often, in order to be a better player then you must first be a better person."

Hayes also has some great on-court memories as well, including an incredible late-game comeback win that she highlighted.

"I will never forget when I was coaching at Brookville, we were down by 20 points with 1:58 on the clock against Buckingham," she said. "We did not quit. We rallied from behind and won by eight points. It is something that is unheard of

but it is possible. It all goes back to Philippians 4:13 in the Bible — 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.'"

Leaving the sport she has been involved with since childhood is not an easy step for Hayes even though her body is telling her it's time to step aside. Relationships with players, coaching with her husband, gaining basketball knowledge and participating in competition are aspects of coaching that she will surely miss.

"I will miss the most not seeing the young ladies on a daily basis and sharing in their lives," she said. "Also, I will miss coaching with Bill because he is a great coach and I have learned a lot from him over the years. He is so, so knowledgeable about the game of basketball and I have been around it all my life and am still learning something everyday. You should always have a quest for learning and it will help form you into a better person. We just work so well together as co-coaches due to our strengths and weaknesses. Bill has a knack for breaking things down to simplify it in order for the girls to learn. I will miss basketball and teaching a lot."

"I will miss basketball so much because it has always been a part of who I am," she continued. "God gave me the talent to play basketball at Liberty University. It paid for my college education and enabled me to coach basketball my whole life, and I am grateful for that."

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