## The Charlotte Gazette

DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY - FIRST, LAST AND ALWAYS

50 cents

**Vol. 149 - Number 38** 

**Wednesday, June 1, 2022** 

Drakes Branch, Virgin a

## VSP continues investigation

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

It has been close to four months since the Board of Supervisors requested an investigation into the Charlotte County Voter Registrar's Office following multiple issues and still no questions have been answered.

After over a year of questions and concerns about the duties performed by former county Registrar Eric Goode and his office, followed by a

lawsuit, the Board of Supervisors sought an investigation by the Virginia State Police (VSP) of the office on Feb. 14.

The day following Feb. 15, Jenni Booth was named the county's new Registrar.

In December, the electoral board relocated the Registrar's office temporarily, citing concerns as well.

On Tuesday, May 31 County Administrator Dan Witt said computers taken from the office had still not been returned and that requests for information have been vague.

"The VSP still has the computers collected from the Registrar's office and we are being told the investigation could go on for quite a while." Witt said.

Issues involving the former Registrar and his office came to light following a protective order Goode took out on electoral board member Dean Foster in November.

Goode, who served as Registrar since the fall of 2020

following the retirement of Nan Lambert, took out a protective order against Foster on Nov. 8 after he said Foster followed him when he left his office on several occasions.

Following a show-cause court case between him and Foster, Goode resigned.

In his resignation letter, Goode wrote that he was being forced out of a job and denied any wrongdoing while serving as voter registrar.

Since his resignation, there have been allegations of office mismanagement and missing absentee ballots from the November election.

The concerns over the Registrar's office and practices had become such an issue over the past year that five citizens from the Randolph and Saxe area filed a lawsuit naming the county's Voter Registrar, Board of Supervisors and the Virginia Department of Elections as defendants in December.

On Feb. 9, a judge dismissed the case.



Photo by Carole Wallace

#### The meaning of the red poppy

Memorial Day is about more than cookouts and weekend trips with the family. In the past century, a symbol emerged to represent the ultimate sacrifice soldiers have made for America: the red poppy. Over the holiday weekend you may have notice vivid flowers everywhere: pinned onto clothing, tied onto rearview mirrors, or hanging from windowpanes. Whether its the actual flowers that plucked for the occasion or one made out of paper the meaning of the red poppy is the same. It symbolizes the memory of fallen soldiers.

## R-H Hall of Fame inductees named

The Randolph-Henry High School (R-H) Athletic Department will honor nine Hall of Fame inductees to the Class of 2022 on Saturday, September 24.

"Randolph-Henry Athletics has brought excellence and pride to our community for over 79 years," said RH Athletics Director Chris Holt. "The Randolph-Henry Athletic Hall of Fame will ignite our passion for sports, rekindle fond memories, and honor our history."

This years inductees are:

- ${}^{\bullet}$  Duane Davis Baseball, Basketball, Football Class of 1986
- - Jane Hayes -Class of 1974
- $^{\bullet}$  Kenny Howard Basketball, Football, Golf, Tennis Class of 1968 (GW Danville)
  - Robert Laine Class of 1972Jerry Mason- Baseball, Football, Golf Class of 1964
  - ustin Mason Baseball, Golf Class of 1995
  - Zachary Pack Tennis Class of 2007Wayne Vaughn Baseball Class of 1978

On September 23 inductees will have a social time together at 6 p.m. inside Bankston Field prior to the football game vs.

Recognition will occur at halftime on the football field.

The induction ceremony will take place on Saturday, Sept.

24 at 11 a.m. beginning with a catered brunch in the Central Middle School Cafe, followed by the induction ceremony in the R-H Auditorium.

Tickets are for sale in the R-H Main Office Tickets for \$15

Ticket sales will end on September 16. Tickets are required to attend and space is limited.

#### CCPS works to keep students safe

By Crystal Vandegrift

The Charlotte Gazette

In the wake of shooting at Robb Elementary

School in Uvalde, Texas, Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow has reached out to superintendents around the commonwealth for their views on what additional school safety measures the state should take.

"Our hearts are broken and the Uvalde community is in our prayers," Balow said in a press release. "As we grieve for the innocent children and teachers who died in this evil and senseless act, we must also review all of the facts as they come to light and determine what additional steps we can take to protect our students and faculty members — and everyone who visits one of our 2,381 schools and local and regional programs."

In Charlotte County Public Schools (CCPS) officials have taken precautions over the years to

ensure students are kept safe.

"School doors are locked and guests are required to use the buzzer system at the main entrance to be pre-screened by office staff before entering the building." CCPS Superintdent Robbie Mason said.

"Also, new camera systems are in place for the interior and exterior of all schools which are remotely accessible by School Resource Officers and school officials."

Mason said that lockdown drills are conducted with students and staff throughout the school year and school administrators participate in frequent crisis and threat assessment training at the federal, state, and local

levels.

According to Mason CCPS works with the Sheriff's Department to allow for joint reviews of school crisis plans.

"School threat assessment teams are utilized when a student's behavior or comments are deemed as a possible threat by school officials." Mason said. Recommendations from these teams allow for the determination of threat credibility and additional

resources for students who may need mental health assistance."

Several school leaders and law enforcement members have stressed the importance of the School Security Equipment Grants program that the General Assembly created in 2013 in the wake of Sandy Hook.

The criteria for receiving the grants give priority to schools most

in need of modern security equipment, schools with relatively high numbers of offenses, schools with equipment needs identified by a school security

(See **CCPS**, Page 2)

Career Tech students recognized Page 10 Advertising and news deadline: Friday at noon

"School doors

are locked"

Robbie Mason

**CCPS Superintendent** 



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## The Charlotte Gazette

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**Vol. 149 - Number 37** 

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

**Drakes Branch, Virginia** 

# Former VSP trooper acquitted

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

A Charlotte County jury has acquitted a former Virginia State Police trooper of multiple sexual assault charges.

On Wednesday, May 18, following a jury trial, Drakes Branch resident Derrick Thompson was found not guilty of three felony counts of sexual assault.

On Feb. 4, 2021, Thompson was arrested on three indictments from a Charlotte County grand jury and charged with one felony count of rape, one felony count of sodomy and one felony count of object sexual penetration.

According to Virginia
State Police, the charges
stemmed from an investigation into an incident reported
to state police in September



Derrick Thompson

2020.

The investigation was initiated by the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation's Richmond Field Office.

Thompson was hired in October 2007 and was assigned to the Area 23 Office, which encompasses Charlotte and Halifax counties, since August 2011.

# R-H Class of

## R-H Class of 2022 graduates

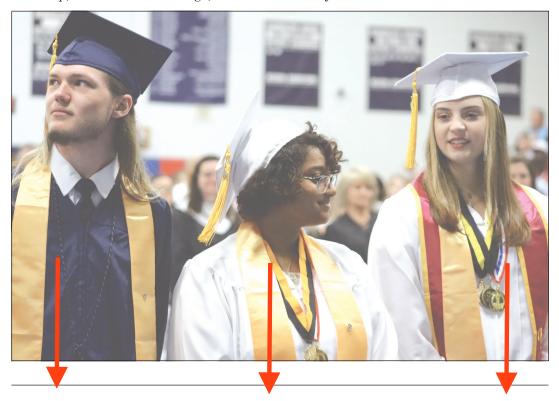
By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

For the first time since 2109 Randolph-Henry High School (R-H) held its commencement ceremony in a traditional manner on Saturday, May 21in the Central Middle School gymnasium.

"As I imagine our seniors facing their next step, whether that is college, the work-

force, or the military, I am reminded of a quote by Arthur Ashe," R-H Principal Erin Davis said.

'Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.' I think we can all agree that regardless of where the future takes us, this is indeed good advice. As far as your starting place, I cannot think of a better place to grow up than Charlotte County."



# Missing woman found alive

A Meherrin woman who has been missing for the past eight days has been found alive.

Prince Edward County Sheriff Tony Epps, in a statement Monday afternoon, May 23, said Aletha Gee Walton, 69, was found just under a mile from her home.

According to the release, Walton was found in a densely wooded pine forest with a thick underbrush at approximately 10:52 a.m. that morning. She was immediately assessed by emergency medical personnel from Meherrin Volunteer Fire & Rescue and transported to Centra Southside Community Hospital for further evaluation.

"This has been incredibly challenging, but we are thrilled to be able to provide the family the best possible outcome," Epps said. "I have



Aletha Gee Walton

spoken with the family and they relayed their appreciation to everyone involved in the search for their loved one."

Walton had last been seen at her home in the Simplicity area of Prince Edward County on Sunday, May 15. A search was launched the

(See **FOUND**, Page 3)

## Man arrested after shooting at police

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

An individual that Lunenburg County Sheriff's Office was seeking the whereabouts of just a few weeks ago has been arrested following a high-speed chase and shooting at police.

Noah Price, 21 years old, from Amelia County, was apprehended and arrested by the Nottoway Sheriff's Office on Tuesday, May 17.

On Monday, May 9, the Lunenburg Sheriff's Office posted a notice on its Facebook page seeking the whereabouts of Price but provided no details as to why Price was wanted.

According to a release from the Nottoway Sheriff's Office, on May 16, Nottoway Sheriff's Office received an attempt to

(See ARRESTED, Page 2)

Noah Lee Price

#### Grant will help economic development

Virginia's Growth Alliance (VGA) which serves Lunenburg and Charlotte Counties, was recently awarded \$100,000 as part of the Growth and Opportunity for Virginia (GO Virginia) grant awards.

According to a release from Gov. Glenn Youngkin, this grant will build and strengthen the capacity of the regional economic development organization through business sector analysis, workforce study, analysis

of regional incentives and a fundraising campaign feasibility study.

"GO Virginia is fostering a regional collaboration among businesses, education and government leaders while supporting innovative

approaches to jumpstart our workforce and economic development," said Governor Youngkin. "These projects will equip Virginians with the tools they need to thrive while strengthening workforce training and talent

development opportunities across the Commonwealth."

"GO Virginia has proven critical for building Virginia's economic development strategies and fostering innovation

(See **GRANT,** Page 2)

Statesmen earn #3 seed Page 11

### Advertising and news deadline: Friday at noon





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## Children ages 5-11 should receive COVID booster

On Tuesday, May 17, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration expanded the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID vaccine for a single booster for children ages 5-11 five months after completion of their first vaccination.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met Thursday, May 19, and voted to recommend children 5-11 should receive a single booster vaccine five months following their first.

According to the CDC, since the pandemic began, more than 4.8 million children ages 5-11 have been diagnosed with COVID-19, 15,000 have been hospitalized and over 180 have died.

"I endorsed ACIP's vote to expand eligibility for COVID-19 vaccine booster doses," CDC Director Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky said. "Vaccination with a primary series among this age group has lagged behind other age groups leaving them vulnerable to serious illness. With over 18 million doses administered in this age group, we know that these vaccines are safe, and we must continue to increase the number of children who are protected."

Rochelle said that with cases increasing, it is important that all people have the protection they need, which is why the CDC has also strengthened another booster recommendation.

According to a release, those age 50 and older and those who are 12 and older and immunocompromised should get a second booster dose.

"This pattern of ebb and flow with COVID-19 is our future with this disease, a periodic rise and fall that will require those who are most vulnerable to take extra care intermittently," Piedmont Health District Director Dr. Maria Almond said.

# Life is short. Don't make it shorter.

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## **GRANT:** More than \$1 million grants awards

FROM PAGE ONE

and collaboration," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "We are creating a stronger portfolio of entre preneurial ecosystems while offering Virginians the workforce development opportunities they need to diversify unique regional economies throughout the Commonwealth."

Since the program's inception in 2017, GO Virginia has funded 215 projects and has awarded approximately \$82.2 million to support regional economic development efforts.

In addition to the

VGA, eight other projects were awarded grants totaling more than \$1,261,859.

Some of those projects consisted of creating critical talent pipelines to support regional economic growth, strengthen workforce development and support collaborative programs between localities, public entities and private businesses.

To learn more about the GO Virginia program, visit dhcd.virginia.gov/gova.

## AFTER 2 YEARS OFF, IT'S FINALLY TEE TIME





GOLF CLASSIC

Southside Electric Cooperative invites golfers to play in the Opportunity Fund Golf Classic. Proceeds will fund scholarships for local high school graduates headed for higher education.

Tee Time: 10 a.m. Thursday, June 30 Lake Chesdin Golf Club in Chesterfield County

Please sign up by June 17.

For more information about playing or sponsoring, visit sof.coop/golf or contact Joy Stump at 434-645-3219 or joy.stump@sec.coop.

## **ARRESTED:** Charges pending from numerous jurisdictions

FROM PAGE ONE

locate from Lunenburg Sheriff's Office a stolen 1978 Blue Ford Truck. "The vehicle was spotted on the West End of Crewe at approximately 7:06 p.m. A pursuit began, with speeds of approximately 80mph. At approximately 7:14 p.m., the vehicle was in the area of 460 and Route 606 where the suspect shot out of the window multiple times at Nottoway Sheriff Deputies." the releases stated.

According to Nottoway Sheriff Robert Jones, Price jumped out of the vehicle and fled on foot, heading east.

At 8:25 p.m., a Code Red was sent out to citizens in the immediate area advising of heavy police presence in the area, searching for a subject who was armed and dangerous.

At approximately 9:09 p.m., the sheriff's office received a call of an attempted breaking and entering into someone's truck in the 3000 block of Cottage Road. At approximately 12:38 a.m., a resident in the 3000 block of Cottage Rd. heard a gunshot near Brian's Automotive.

At approximately 6:13 a.m on Tuesday, May 17, Price was spotted stealing a 4-wheeler from the 2000 block of Cottage Road.

At 7:42 a.m., a citizen called 911 advising of a suspect matching Price's description knocking on her door at the 1000 block of Piddle Pead

block of Riddle Road.
Shortly after, deputies and the Virginia
State Police began a foot
pursuit, and Price was
apprehended shortly

before 8 a.m.
Price, from Amelia
County is also wanted

in Cumberland County. Charges are pending

from numerous surrounding jurisdictions.

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Centra Medical Group Orthpedics welcomes William Andrews, MD, FCCP, and William Fluker, PA-C. They join John Kona, MD, in the practice located at Centra Southside Medical Center.

Dr. Andrews earned his medical degree from Duke University. He completed his internship and surgery residency at University of Virginia Hospital and served his orthopedic residency at Duke University.

William Fluker, holds bachelor of science degrees in biology from the University of Kentucky and from the physician assistant program at James Madison University.



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## The Charlotte Gazette

THE BEST INTERESTS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY - FIRST, LAST AND ALWAYS

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**Vol. 150 - Number 5** 

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

**Drakes Branch, Virginia** 

## Randolph selected to attend event

Piedmont Area Veterans Council (PAVC) Board Member, Douglas Randolph was recently nominated and selected as one of the winners for the prestigious Bob Woodruff Stand Up for Heroes Event.

Stand Up For Heroes is a night of hope, healing, and laughter, honoring our nation's injured veterans and their families.

The 2022 Stand Up For Heroes will be Monday, Nov. 7 at the legendary David Geffen Hall at the Lincoln Center in New York City.

The Hall has completed a comprehensive makeover, and this event will be one of the first in the completely remodeled event space.

Randolph will receive two omplimentary tickets to atend the Stand Up For Heroes vent as an honored guest, itting in the front row.Also, le will be provided a twoight stay in New York City



**Douglas** Randolph

near the Hall.

Stand Up for Heroes launched in 2007 as the brainchild of Bob and Lee Woodruff and New York Comedy Festival founders Caroline Hirsch and Andrew Fox, and is one of New York's most anticipated nights of hope, healing and laughter, honoring our nation's injured veterans and their families. Since then, the



The Sheriff's Office is asking citizens to be on the lookout for counterfeit bills that are circulating throughout the county.

#### Counterfeit money circulating in county

By Crystal Vandegrift The Charlotte Gazette

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office is currently investigating the use of counterfeit money within the county.

According to investigators, a \$100 bill was used to purchase items at a Dollar General Store in the county last week. Investigators say that the fake bill was noticed when store

employees took it to the bank to deposit. Anyone who receives a counterfeit bill is urged to contact the

sheriff's office at (434) 542-5141.

#### **HOW TO SPOT A COUNTERFEIT BILL**

One of the first things to check to see if a bill is authentic is if the bill denomination on the bottom right-hand corner has

(See **MONEY**, Page 11)



Pictured are Danielle Ferrell, Caroline Wood, Donna Crews and Desiree Lipscomb. Squatting is Dylan Crews and the kids are Harper and Brantley Lipscomb.

### Truckers parade continues tradition

By Crystal Vandegrift The Charlotte Gazette

Citizens lined sidewalks and roadsides to watch as 226 trucks took part in the annual Trucker's Parade Against Cancer (TPAC) on Saturday, Oct. 8.

The event has raised over \$1.4 million over the last 20 years to fund research for new and improved cancer treatments, support cancer patients and efforts to demand better coverage of cancer fighting drugs and

(See **PARADE**, Page 2)





A replica of the car driven by Dale Earnhardt Jr. in 2001 at the Daytona 500 will be on display at the car and motorcycle show.

#### Christmas parents' group to hold fundraiser

Charlotte County Christmas Parents will host a car and motorcycle show later this month. On Saturday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the group will hold their event at the Heartland Business Park, just outside of Keysville.

No admission is being charged for the show vehicles or the spectators; however, the volunteers are hoping everyone will contribute generously to their donation jars. Already committed to the Oct. 29 event are a wide variety of classic street cars, antique cars, and motorcycles. There will also be some race cars, including an exact replica of the car driven by Dale Earnhardt, Jr. in 2001 at the Daytona 500, where he came in second, and sadly,

his legendary father, Dale Sr., lost his life. The car on hand was built by the Richard Childress shop and has an original Dale Earnhardt Incorporated engine, producing 850 horsepower.

Another Richard Childress built race car that was previously driven by Ryan Newman will be there. This car has been outfitted with two seats. Christmas Parents volunteers have been selling \$5 raffle tickets for a chance at a 30-minute ride in this car, with speeds up to 170 mph (if the winner wishes to go that fast) at Virginia International Raceway.

Family and friends of the winner will

(See **FUNDRAISER**, Page 11)

Traffic deaths on the rise Page 10

Advertising and news deadline: Friday at noon





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#### LCVA to host bestselling author

The New York Times bestselling author-illustrator Corinna Luyken will appear at a reception in her honor at the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts (LCVA) on Thursday, Oct. 13. She is best known for her acclaimed The Tree in Me, My Heart, and The Book of Mistakes, the latter of which has been widely praised by NPR, The Wall Street Journal, and Entertainment Weekly.

Luyken is also the illustra-

tor of Patchwork (written by Matt de la Peña); Something Good and Adrian Simcox Does NOT Have a Horse (both written by Marcy Campbell); Nothing in Common (written by Kate Hoefler); and Weird Little Robots (written by Carolyn Crimi). She was also recently named the 2022 Illustrator of the Year by the Virginia Children's Book Festival.

Each Small Kindness: The Art of Corinna Luyken is the

sixth iteration of the LCVA's annual Arts and Letters exhibition series. The series, presented in proud partnership with the Virginia Children's Book Festival, showcases the best art in children's literature today. The exhibition is made possible in part by the Walter J. Payne Foundation, Candice Jamison Dowdy '69 and Charles H. Dowdy III, Northwestern Mutual and Hotel Weyanoke.

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Bedford, VA 24523

#### **EVENT:** Providing help for veterans

FROM PAGE ONE

event has raised more than \$65 million to create long-lasting, positive outcomes for our nation's injured veterans, service members and their families.

PAVC serves to assist active duty service members, veterans and their dependents/caregivers who reside in the Counties of Appomattox, Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway and Prince Edward in the State of Virginia. We serve as a community partner by connecting veterans to services and resources they made need either at our site or to local, state. fed eral and National Resources.

#### **MONEY:** Bill used to make purchase

FROM PAGE ONE

color-shifting ink.

Going back to 1996, all bills of \$5 or more have this security feature. If you hold a new series bill (except for the new \$5 bill) and tilt it back and forth, you can see that the numeral in the lower right-hand corner shifts from green to black or from gold to green.

The watermark is a characteristic security feature of authentic banknotes.

Here are some things to keep in mind when looking at a bill's watermark:

- The watermark should only be visible when you hold the bill up to the light.
- The watermark should be on the right side of
- If the watermark is a face, it should exactly match the face on the bill. Sometimes counterfeits bleach lower bills and reprint them with higher values, in which case the face wouldn't match the watermark.
- If there is no watermark or the watermark is visible without being held up to the light, the bill is most likely a counterfeit.

Other ways to tell if a bill may be counterfeit include the feel of the paper, raised printing, and blurred lines and wording.

#### **FUNDRAISER:** Features variety of cars and motorcycles

FROM PAGE ONE

also be able to enter VIR at no admission charge to watch the ride. The owner of the car will coordinate the day for the experience with the winner. Each ticket sold will fill half of a Christmas stocking for a child in need.

#### WHAT IS CHRISTMAS PARENTS?

Christmas Parents' goal is to provide a toy over \$20, one under \$20 toy, a sweater/sweatshirt, a stocking filled with goodies, a blanket, and books for each child. In previous years the number of children helped has been between 200 - 300. Last year they also had some bicycles donated, which permitted a drawing for them to be given to a few very lucky children.

All of this is possible only due to the generosity of individuals, churches, and businesses. The Car Show and Raffle this year is the first since Christmas Parents was revived and reorganized in 2019. The Charlotte Lions Club members are kindly helping by having food and drinks for sale at the event.

Christmas Parents is a 501(c)3 entity whose mission is to provide Christmas presents to Charlotte County children in need from birth to age 12. A registration form was distributed in the schools and is available at Social Services. Qualifications are verified.

For questions about the Christmas Parents program or to volunteer your time, email ChristmasParents@yahoo.com.



116 Nationwide Drive Lynchburg, VA 24502

1511 W Third St Farmville, VA 23901 412 N Bridge Street