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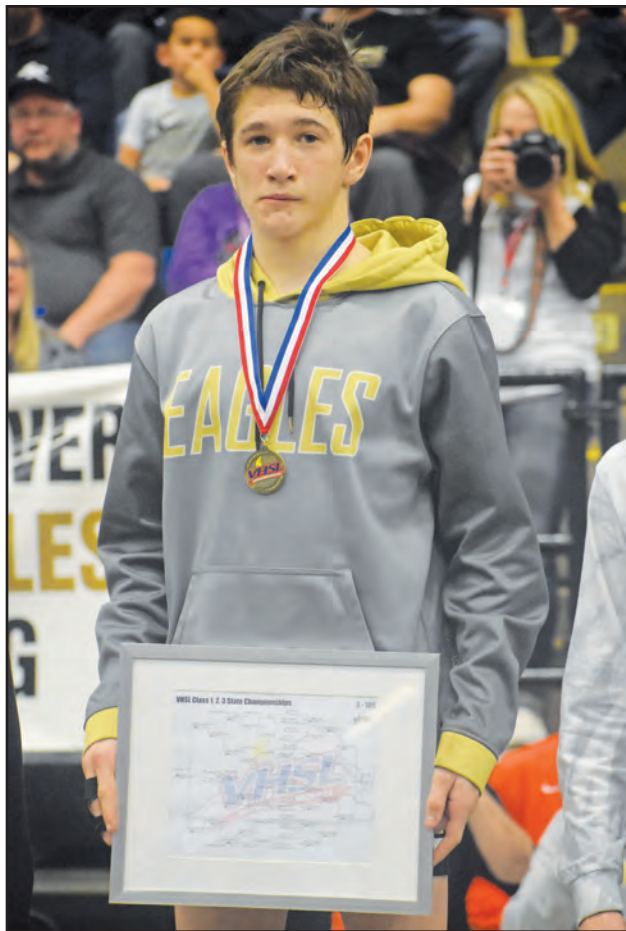
# SMITH MOUNTAIN EAGLE



SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE, VIRGINIA ■ WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022

\$2.00

## State Champions!



William Seidel/Smith Mountain Eagle  
Staunton River High School freshman Colin Martin won the Class 3 state title for the 106-weight bracket in wrestling.

William Seidel/Smith Mountain Eagle  
Staunton River High School Freshman Noah Niningering won the Class 3 State title for the 113-weight bracket in wrestling.

## M. Brown pleads not guilty due to insanity

### Agrees to bench trial

STAFF REPORT

Michael Alexander Brown, who is charged in the 2019 murder of his mother's boyfriend, Rodney Wilfred Brown (unrelated), of Hardy, plead not guilty to all seven charges against him due to insanity on Thursday in Franklin County Circuit Court and also agreed to a bench trial, in which the judge will decide his fate instead of a jury.

The motion hearing reportedly lasted for hours, in which two doctors testified

as witnesses of Michael Brown's mental health and believed that he met state requirements for a defense of insanity.

However, one of the doctors, Dr. Eugene Simopoulos, who is a board certified



M. Brown

See **BROWN**, Page 8

## FCBOS shelves rezone request for The Coves

WILLIAM SEIDEL  
Smith Mountain Eagle

The Franklin County Board of Supervisors voted to shelve a rezone request that would allow larger concerts and alter lots at The Coves at Smith Mountain Lake.

The decision was voted on 6-1 Feb. 15 after a public hearing that featured more than 20 citizens, most who spoke out against the rezone attempts.

In the past two years, The Coves has seen more than 5,500 people attend its concerts and have a goal of 10,000 for the 2022 year. They are hoping to have

between 12 to 15 concerts between April and October and at the most have 1,800 in attendance for a concert. The applicant also wanted to have parking space reduction to allow more parking in the grass fields to fit about 900 vehicles.

However, citizens voiced their concerns about the potential cons of having more vehicles and individuals at the concert venue. Those concerns ranged from safety to noise levels.

Adam Moore, a resident of The Coves, said he purchased property there thinking it will be a peaceful

See **COVES**, Page 10

## Martin, Niningering each win state wrestling title

### SRHS finishes 3rd in Class 3

WILLIAM SEIDEL  
Smith Mountain Eagle

It's been a season of first times and new school records for the Staunton River High School wrestling team.

The team showed up to

the VHSL state wrestling tournament at the Salem Civic Center as a first-time Region 3D champion and had a school-record 10 wrestlers participate.

For head coach Scott Fike, sending 10 wrestlers to the state tournament

wasn't enough for him — he wanted to have his first individual state champion wrestler in his coaching tenure at Staunton River. After having seven runners-up in his five seasons as head coach, he finally got over the hump Saturday evening.

Freshmen Colin Martin (106) and Noah Niningering (113) delivered Fike his first two individual wrestling championships. In Class 3, Martin defeated Wilson Memorial's Cooper Brandt on an 11-1 decision, and Niningering pinned Skyline's Cody Salomon in 37

See **WRESTLE**, Page 14

## SRHS girls basketball team wins Blue Ridge Dist. Tourney

### Move to 23-0 on the season

WILLIAM SEIDEL  
Smith Mountain Eagle

Staunton River High School's girls basketball team continued its historic season by taking down Lord Botetourt High School for the third time this season 47-31 Wednesday at home to win the Blue Ridge District Tournament.

The Lady Eagles used a 19-1 run in the 3rd quarter to pull away from the Lady Cavaliers after being even at 24 through the first half.

They only allowed seven points to Lord Botetourt in the second half.

"We just picked up our intensity on defense. We were allowing too many shots in the first half," said senior Cali Levine about the second half.

After the Lady Eagles throttled the Lady Cavaliers 73-50 in their last

See **GIRLS**, Page 11



William Seidel/Smith Mountain Eagle  
Shown is Staunton River High School girls basketball head coach Kim Jones holding up the net that was cut down after winning the Blue Ridge District Tournament.

## Director talks about filming Princess Cut 3 movie at SML

WILLIAM SEIDEL  
Smith Mountain Eagle

Watchman Pictures' "Princess Cut 3: Beauty from Ashes" made its debut at the Grandin Theatre in Roanoke on Feb. 10 and features multiple locations around Smith Mountain Lake, such as the Smith Mountain Lake Alpaca Farm, Vinton Police Station and others.

Couple Paul and Sheilah Munger, who have directed all three films of the series, filmed both Princess Cut 2: Hearts on Fire and 3 at the same time in about eight-week span from late October to December 2018. Princess Cut 2

made its premiere in September 2021, and Princess Cut 3 soon followed a few months later.

When asked how Smith Mountain Lake came into the picture as a possible filming destination in multiple areas, Sheilah Munger said she was struck with the idea when she was sitting in her office in North Carolina figuring out the plot for the second movie.

She added that they were looking for different alternatives from a typical farm setting and found that there were multiple alpaca farms near where they were originally going to be shooting.

See **FILM**, Page 5



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Contributed  
At left is artist Maggie Perrin-Key surrounded by shapes. Above is "Rhythmic Symmetry" and at right is "Spring Transition," both by Perrin-Key.



## Perrin-Key featured in MOarts Gallery

Paintings by Maggie Perrin-Key will be on display from March 1 to April 30 in the MOarts Gallery at the Moneta/SML Library.

Artist Maggie Perrin-Key (born 1993) is an American contemporary artist from Roanoke. She earned her B.A. in Painting from Hollins University in 2017.

Since graduating, Perrin-Key has been showing her work regionally. She has been included in several group exhibitions, including ones at ArtSpace Gallery in Richmond, Virginia, and at Charlotte Russell Contemporary in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Her paintings and im-

mersive installation were recently on view at Alexander/Heath Contemporary Gallery in Roanoke, Virginia; "From Shape to Form" was her second solo exhibition. Participating in community mural projects as well as private murals allows Maggie to explore her work on a large scale.

Visit the Moneta/SML Library for a solo showing of her bright paintings that explore abstract elements of the physical world in an effort to build relationships with the subconscious. Her organic shapes are informed by memory and sentimentality, and her compositions consider a sense of spiritual

place. In her work, Perrin-Key investigates the difference between observational and intuitive creative processes as she draws, collages, cuts paper and paints her way through creating a familiar and vibrating visual scene.

Perrin-Key is currently living and working in her

hometown of Roanoke.

Maggie Perrin-Key's work may be viewed during regular library hours. The Moneta/Smith Mountain Lake Library is a branch of the Bedford Public Library System and is located at 13641 Moneta Road in Moneta. Call 540-425-7004 for hours and directions.

## YMCA children spread love with valentines

For seniors at Franklin Health Care, the YMCA children who participated in Monday's Fun Club provided some extra love for this Valentine's Day.

There were 41 children in the Franklin County Family YMCA Fun Club program who decorated 100 valentines on Feb. 7. The valentines were delivered to seniors at Franklin Health Care center Feb. 14.

"It's a good thing to help others and be kind, and provide a sense of community to people who may feel isolated or lonely," said Jamie Stump, YMCA childcare director. "Everyone deserves to feel a little special on Valentine's Day."

Participants included Lexi Hall, 8, a student at Boones Mill Elementary.

"I think it's a really nice thing," Lexi said. "I think it'll make people very happy and make them smile. I like Valentine's Day and seeing all of the flowers, chocolates and teddy bears in the stores, too."

All of the YMCA's youth programs incorporate outreach projects to support its Character Counts curriculum. Character Counts uses the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship as a foundational strategy for development while having fun. These values were identified by



Contributed  
Above are students in the YMCA's after school program at Callaway. At right, Lexi Hall, 8, a student at Boones Mill Elementary, focuses intently as she finishes off her first Valentine's Day card.

a group of youth development experts in 1992 as core ethical values that

transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences.



Contributed

Stauton River High School assistant coach Chip Nininger gives freshman Josh Kelly some words of encouragement after Kelly lost to New Kent's Domonic Bake in the state championship match for the Class 3 170-weight bracket.

## Wrestle

Continued from Page 1

seconds. They became the first two freshmen to win a state title in Staunton River history.

"It's awesome. It's great for the program to see that and for it to finally come to fruition," Fike said.

Those in the stands saw lots of wrestlers flex their arms or point to the crowd when they won their state championship this past weekend. For Martin and Nininger, winning a state championship was just another day for them, as they showed little to no emotions. Fike and Nininger's father, Chip, who is the assistant coach for Staunton River, showed more emotion when their star freshmen won their state titles.

Martin said competing at national tournaments helped prepare him for the VHSL state tournament but said the feeling of winning is still the same.

"I'm excited that I won my first state title," Martin said.

As soon as Martin became the first freshman in Staunton River history to win a state title, Nininger ran on the mat with a determined look that he was going to soon join his star teammate at the top of the podium for his weight bracket. Not only did he do just that, but pinning Salomon in 37 seconds turned out to be the shortest match of his state tournament run.

"I wanted to wrestle, and I was warmed up. I was ready to go," Nininger said.

Fike mentioned earlier in the year that Martin liked

to tell Nininger that he was going to be the first to win a state championship because he will wrestle first due to his weight being lower. Martin acknowledged they like to pick on each other, but it's also a way for them to be competitive.

"We try to compete, see who gets the most take-downs and points," Martin said.

Both Fike and Chip Nininger have seen their star freshmen compete and have success at the national level, so they knew the expectations for them starting their high school careers were going to be high.

Needless to say, both have handled the expectations of their freshmen campaign well, capping it off with a state title. Chip Nininger said both have maintained an attitude of



Contributed

Stauton River High School head coach Scott Fike (left) and assistant coach Chip Nininger talk to freshman Colin Martin during a quick time out at the 2022 VHSL State Tournament over the weekend.

humbleness all season, which has led to their success.

"Both of them have done really good; they have done it for so long at that high level that they get it. You can't overlook any opponent, and if you do, that's when you get caught. They make sure every match they do count," Chip Nininger said.

Not only did Fike oversee his two first state champion wrestlers, but the Golden Eagles also finished third as a team in the state for Class 3, which is their best finish in school history. The previous record came in Fike's first year as head coach, when the Golden Eagles finished fourth overall as a team in Class 3.

New Kent (273 points) won the state title for the fourth consecutive year.

Skyline (173 points) finished second, and Staunton River (158 points) finished third. Christiansburg (148.5 points) and Brentsville District (96.5) finished out the top five.

The Golden Eagles had two other wrestlers who competed in the state finals for their respective weight bracket. Senior Logan Arnold was pinned by New Kent's Evan Holloway in the 145-weight bracket championship, and freshman Josh Kelly was pinned by New Kent's Domonic Baker in the 170-weight bracket championship.

Other Golden Eagle wrestlers who competed at the state tournament were freshman Brady Barns (152), who finished third; freshman Peyton Hatcher (132), who finished in fourth; and freshman Ma-

con Ayers (160), who also finished in fourth.

With a majority of their varsity starters being freshmen and schools such as New Kent losing lots of star power from their senior class, Fike has been vocal that the next three seasons at Staunton River will be a team state title or bust. He and his team both know that they will be getting everybody's full attention when they wrestle in tournaments from here on out.

"We're not a secret anymore; they're not secret freshman that people don't know about anymore. It's very well-known now around the whole state about who we are, and now we'll have the target on our back, but I really think we are in a good place to win multiple team state titles for sure," Fike said.

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## 16 treated after chlorine gas cloud incident Friday

Forest Fire Department/Contributed



A hazardous situation involving chemicals mixing to create a chlorine gas cloud occurred Friday at the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant on Orange Street in Bedford, resulting in 16 people being treated.

The Bedford County Department of Fire and Rescue called in regional hazmat teams to assist. They worked on decontamination and stabilizing the spill.

At approximately 7:40 a.m. Friday, Bedford Regional Water Authority (BRWA) received a chemical delivery at the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant. According to the Bedford County Fire Marshal and BRWA, there was an inadvertent mixture of two chemicals that led to a hazardous materials situation in the form of a chlorine gas cloud.

Several teams were on site monitoring the air quality of the exterior and interior of the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant to ensure the chlorine gas had dissipated. The Virginia Department of Emergency and Bedford Fire Department also were among the teams that responded.

BRWA stated that staff called 911 and fire and rescue teams. Orange Street was

closed in response. As of around 3:30 p.m. Friday, the hazardous situation was contained, and air quality inside and outside of the plant read 0 parts per million

See **HAZMAT**, Page 12

Engine 51 and Rescue 5 with the Forest Fire Department operated on the hazmat alarm Friday with Bedford Fire Department. Engine 5 responded to a medical and Brush 5 and Tanker 5 took in a brush fire while these guys operated.

## Citizens fight to stop sale of nursing home

TAYLOR BERGER  
Smith Mountain Eagle

The Bedford County Board of Supervisors held a special called meeting Monday, April 18, for public and council discussion on a resolution authorizing the sale of the Bedford County Nursing Home but didn't move forward with it.

American Healthcare had offered to buy the nursing home

but withdrew its offer.

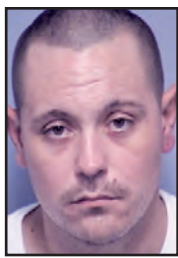
County Administrator Robert Hiss opened the public hearing, which was the main reason for the meeting. Hiss talked about the struggle with locating enough staff for the residents of the facility as is and how the county "would be in the red" if the nursing home is not sold to an interested party for purchase.

See **SALE**, Page 12

## Man faces drug, weapon charges

Christopher Ross Kimberling of the Hardy/Roanoke/Salem area is facing several drug- and weapon-related charges in Bedford County, Roanoke City and Roanoke County, according to the Bedford County Sheriff's Office on Monday.

Investigators with the Bedford County Sheriff's Office along with Virginia State Police, Roanoke City Police Department and Roanoke



Kimberling

See **CHARGES**, Page 11



Bedford County Sheriff's Office/Contributed

Several search warrants were executed involving Christopher Ross Kimberling of the Hardy/Roanoke/Salem area, in which a large amount of narcotics, to include approximately 2 pounds of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine and fentanyl, firearms (both legal and stolen), and over \$50,000 in cash were seized.



## In front of 25-30K crowd



Contributed  
Shown is 8-year-old Tate Bauer of Moneta, who competed in front of 25,000 to 30,000 people at the KTM Junior Racing Supercross at Ford Field Stadium. At left is his father, David Bauer, helping him get ready on his big day.

## 8-year-old competes at KTM Junior Racing Supercross

WILLIAM SEIDEL  
Smith Mountain Eagle



Eight-year-old Tate Bauer of Moneta has been competing in motocross for about four years and has rode in front of a couple of thousand people before.

However, Bauer got the experience of a lifetime by riding in front of 25,000 to 30,000 people at Ford Field Stadium, home of the Detroit Lions, at the KTM Junior Racing Supercross in March. This event gives motocross riders who are 7 and 8 years old the experience of being treated like a factory rider.

The participants that get picked are randomly selected. Tate Bauer's dad, David Bauer, said that he and his wife Brittany Bauer have tried two years to

See **RACING**, Page 13



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# Racing

Continued from Page 1

get their son into this major event to no avail until now.

“We were actually starting to lose hope because it’s a random draw, and people from all over the world can come,” David Bauer said.

One night, as they were getting ready to go to bed, David Bauer asked his wife if she had checked Tate’s status regarding the KTM Junior Racing Supercross. When she checked her email, both David and Brittany got the notification that their son had been selected.

“I was stoked. Knowing that he gets to be on the track with the pros, that’s something many don’t get to experience,” David Bauer said.

When they told their son, his reaction was what anyone would expect.

“Oh, I was super excited,” Tate Bauer said.

When they made the trip to Detroit, The Bauer’s got to take a sneak peek at the track and saw the professional’s take some laps around the track for press day. Knowing he was going to get his turn on that

track made Tate Bauer even more anxious.

Before his race day, Tate Bauer was fitted for his whole gear — helmet, neck brace, etc., which was officially made by Troy Lee and was free of charge. As one can imagine, the gear was top quality.

“It was probably around \$1,200 worth of gear they gave to the junior racers,” David Bauer said.

The next day, Tate Bauer, along with the other riders, experienced the dirt track up close before the race, as he got to walk it with his father David and the factory riders for about 15 to 20 minutes. Speaking of factory riders, there were quite a few of factory riders that Tate Bauer was able to meet and take pictures with. Some riders included Eli Tomac, Jett Lawrence, Chase Sexton, Malcolm Stewart and Justin Barcia.

“I was kind of shy, but at the same time I was very happy I got to meet them. I was stoked to meet all of them,” Tate Bauer said.

After they did their walkthrough, held their first 10-minute practice session and signed autographs for those in their respective pits, Tate Bauer

and the other junior riders went through one final 10-minute practice session that evening before the actual race.

The junior riders also were treated with an actual opening ceremony, which saw each one of them get their moment on the jumbotron telling the crowd their name and from where they traveled. David Bauer said there were kids from all across the country and one that even flew in from Germany.

Once the ceremonies were over, the junior riders lined up on their bikes in preparation of the race starting. From there, the gates fell to the floor, and the junior riders were now officially racing at the KTM Junior Racing Supercross.

“It was super fun, but I was a little nervous. I was surprised to be racing in front of that many people in the stadium,” Tate Bauer said.

Once the race was over, Tate Bauer finished in fifth and seven seconds faster than his second practice run.

He added, “I wanted to do good, that was my mindset when the race was about to start. I think

I did pretty good. I was pleased.”

David Bauer said watching his son race on a stage that big was a “mind-blowing experience” saying he’s been to stadiums like Ford Field, and it can be very intimidating performing in front of a crowd of that scale. He said he was impressed with the composure of all the junior racers taking part, including his son.

“Those kids have to have a lot of heart and passion for motocross to be able to go out there in front of a large crowd and not get frozen with fear of messing up,” David Bauer said.

Tate Bauer said he still finds himself thinking about his once-in-a-lifetime experience. He also was able to share his experience with his classmates when he returned to school. Before the race, a GoPro was put on the front bender of his bike, which captured a video of the whole race. That same video can be seen on Tate Bauer’s Instagram page: tate\_mxracer428.

To remember his experience in Detroit on the dirt track, David Bauer said they are planning to build a case that Tate’s gear will



Shown is 8-year-old Tate Bauer of Moneta, competing in front of 25,000 to 30,000 people at the KTM Junior Racing Supercross at Ford Field Stadium.

be put in for display. There also will be one other memorabilia that will go along with it.

A fundraiser that is set up through the Ryan Dungey Foundation helps raise money to buy bikes to give to schools and for charities such as St. Jude. Ryan Dungey, a former KTM rider and founder of Ryan Dungey Foundation, works closely with St. Jude due to his grandmother passing away to cancer in 2005. According to its website, Dungey and St. Jude partnered up in 2012 to create a benefit cycling event

known as the MN Major River-to-River Ride. It later evolved into the St. Jude Ride and 5K Run.

A week before the Bauer’s went to Michigan, Dungey announced that if anyone raises \$500 or more, he will send them a signed Ryan Dungey front number plate. Tate raised almost \$560, with a lot of donations coming from people within the community. They will put that number plate in the case with the gear.

“Tate’s super excited to get that,” David Bauer said.

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# SMLCA honors Coit at halftime of their final home game of the regular season

**WILLIAM SEIDEL**  
Smith Mountain Eagle

It was a special night for Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy as they celebrated senior night for both the boys and girls teams Friday, Feb. 4, against King's Christian Academy. However, they didn't just celebrate the seniors at the Osprey's Nest. During halftime of the boys game, they also honored Khaleal Coit, who was a student-athlete at SMLCA who passed away in a vehicle accident in June 2021.

There were attempts to hold the small ceremony earlier in the season, but complications from COVID-19 and weather concerns pushed it back to the last home game of the year.

The crowd was encouraged to wear red at the game, as that was Coit's favorite color. At the ceremony, Coit's aunt and uncle, Stacy and Bryan White, stood at midcourt and were gifted a portrait of Coit signed by students and staff at SMLCA; his junior varsity basketball practice jersey signed by his teammates — mostly the basketball team; two SMLCA baseball hats that have his first, middle and last name initials embroidered on the side; and a dozen red roses. Stacy and Bryan White were then greeted with hugs by the varsity boys basketball team and coaches while still standing at midcourt. It was a moment that left both Coit's aunt and uncle speechless.



William Seidel/Smith Mountain Eagle

Bryan White hugs Dexter Beverly and Stacy White hugs Tommy Jordan while surrounded by the Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy boys varsity team at a ceremony honoring Bryan and Stacy White's nephew Khaleal Coit, who died in a wreck last year.

See **COIT**, Page 11

# Environmental groups defend air permit denial

The Sierra Club and Appalachian Voices, represented by Appalachian Mountain Advocates, moved to intervene in a lawsuit to help defend the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board's denial of an air permit for the proposed Lambert

Compressor station. If built, the station would connect the beleaguered Mountain Valley Pipeline to the proposed "Southgate" extension into North Carolina. The conservation groups filed the motion in response to a lawsuit by the

Mountain Valley Pipeline that seeks to reverse the board's decision.

The Sierra Club claims that the Mountain Valley Pipeline has already subjected nearby communities to "disproportionate health impacts," and if the permit

had been granted, communities would be exposed to additional air emissions of carbon monoxide, fine particulate matter and formaldehyde — substances known to contribute to respiratory problems, heart disease and cancer.

The board's decision reflected two major concerns with the project. First, the board acknowledged that an additional industrial facility would degrade air quality in the region. The board also cited the lack of a thorough environmental justice study,

including identification of and outreach to people of color and/or low income people living within three to five miles of the proposed Lambert Compressor Station site.

See **DENIAL**, Page 7

Responding Fire/Contributed  
  
Company 15 FCPS Westlake, Company 10 Scruggs and Company 11 SML Fire Boats responded to this brush fire Jan. 25 on Coast Guard Court in Franklin County.



# The SML First Responder Report

The Responding Fire online news page, which is managed by area first responders, reported the following emergency calls that crews in the Smith Mountain Lake area answered within the last month.

## Thursday

Bedford County: Company 12 Hardy, Squad 12 Hardy, Squad 13 Stewartsville, Medic 14-8 BCOFR (Moneta) and County 10 BCOFR LT (pedestrian motor vehicle accident), 9000 block of Hardy Road. Both

struck individuals went to hospital.

Franklin County: Company 9 Burnt Chimney, Squad 9 Red Valley Rescue and Med. 15 FCPS (motor vehicle accident), Route 116 Jubal Early Highway and Landmark Road.

## Jan. 31

Franklin County: Company 15 FCPS Westlake, Company 10 Scruggs and Med. 15 FCPS (motor vehicle accident), Route 122

See **REPORT**, Page 9



Scruggs Fire-Rescue/Contributed

Company 10 Scruggs, Squad 10 Scruggs Road and Med. 1-4 FCPS responded to this motor vehicle accident Jan. 14 on Scruggs Road and Bremble Drive in Franklin County. Two vehicles were involved with entrapment.

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# Valentine's Day: Will you be mine?

**SHERRI NOURSE**  
Womack Publishing News Service

Chocolates, candy hearts and red roses are common indicators that Valentine's Day is around the corner. A favorite holiday among young lovers and a despised tradition by the broken-hearted, Valentine's Day is filled with emotions and last-minute buying frenzies.

Whether you are in a long-term relation

See **VALENTINE**, Page 13

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# Coit

Continued from Page 3

"I can't put it into words. I'm just very thankful to be surrounded by such a loving community," Bryan White said.

Head coach Mike Greathouse, decked out in his red Indiana Hoosiers pullover, was relieved to finally have the ceremony and happy that it was in front of a packed gymnasium. He said it speaks volumes to how much Coit was loved during his only year at SMLCA.

"That's special, because Khaleal was a special kid. I mean, he came into this school last year and just won everybody's hearts over," Greathouse said.

Greathouse said he still thinks about Coit to this day and has always wondered the "what if" questions since his passing, which have become more frequent during basketball season. He mentioned that his last memory of Coit came during an open gym, and Greathouse called it the best practice he had ever seen Coit have.

"I was excited; I actually looked at one of my assistant coaches and said, 'I think we're going to make a basketball player out of him,' and then a few days later, he was in that tragic wreck," Greathouse said.

Assistant athletic director and current SMLCA head baseball coach Tanner Holt mentioned that there will be other ways they are honoring Coit, such as retiring his game-day varsity baseball jersey and burying his glove underneath home plate on the new baseball

field when it is constructed. Holt said the reason it will be buried under home plate is so that Coit will be part of every run the Ospreys will score. He said he felt those ideas, along with the gifts given to his aunt and uncle to honor him, were the best options.

"We wanted to make sure that it showed that he (Coit) was a multisport athlete but also, he was so much more to our school than just that," Holt said.

He mentioned that he had some players approach him this year with the possibility of wearing Coit's jersey to honor him, but Holt said he didn't feel right about anyone else wearing it, which led to their decision to retire it.

Bryan and Stacy White said that Coit had moved in with them so he could find some stability in his life and

they, along with many at SMLCA, said that he made the most out of his lone year at the private Christian school. They also remembered how Coit was vocal about how much he enjoyed SMLCA.

"He thrived, and he really enjoyed it. He was thankful for the opportunity he had, and he done really good. I was proud of him," Bryan White said.

Stacy White said the portrait they received of Coit was taken by Ken Webber. On the practice jersey, she pointed out her favorite signature by one of Coit's close friends and teammate, Ashton Richards. He wrote "200%" and a little note that described how much Coit meant to him. Stacy White said the 200 percent means that Richards will be giving 100 percent for him and 100 percent for Coit.



William Seidel/Smith Mountain Eagle  
Bryan and Stacy White share a moment with Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy varsity boys basketball head coach Mike Greathouse at a ceremony honoring Bryan and Stacy White's nephew Khaleal Coit, who died in a wreck last year.

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