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Nelson-based brewery airs Super Bowl ads, A3

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PAIGE DINGLER PHOTOS, NELSON COUNTY TIMES

(Back to front) Ivar Dowell and Walker Bailey take a photo with Aspen Bailey, Ava Dowell, and Willow Dowell during the daddy-daughter dance on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023.



Nelson County Parks and Recreation hosts a daddy-daughter dance on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023.



(From left) Blakeleigh Thompson, Daniel Thompson, Nathan Duff, and Everly Duff dance during the daddy-daughter dance on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023.

Nelson superintendent addresses vape use in schools

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Nelson County Public Schools Superintendent Amanda Hester took time during a recent school board meeting to address a problem she said the division's administration is taking very seriously.

"I do want to acknowledge that we are seeing an uptick in vapes at our schools, our secondary schools are really battling this. And we're starting to see that transition where it's not just tobacco, it's THC," Hester said Feb. 9.

"Our administrators, this is what they're dealing with on a daily basis. This is what monopolizes their time."

E-cigarettes or vapes produce an aerosol by heating a liquid that usually contains nicotine, which users inhale. Vapes can also deliver marijuana or other drugs and can be made to look like regular cigarettes, pens, USB sticks and items.

Through conversations with superintendents across the state, Hester said she's learned vaping in schools is not only a concern in Nelson County or Virginia but nationwide.

In October 2022 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that of 2.55 million U.S.

Please see VAPE, Page A2

Small business grant competition to encourage business growth in Lovingson

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Nelson is launching a new program to encourage small business development in the county seat. Location Lovingson will be an entrepreneurship education competition program, formed from a partnership between the county and the Charlottesville-based nonprofit Central Virginia Small Business Development Center (CVSBDC).

County Director of Economic Development and Tourism

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One county pharmacy closing, another opening

Lovingson Walgreens to close Feb. 23, UVA Health bringing pharmacy to Nellysford

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The Tanbark Plaza Walgreens is slated to close later this month, according to a sign posted on the store's window.

The store will close at 3 p.m. Feb. 23, the sign reads. A spokesperson for Walgreens did not respond to a request for comment about closing the company's Lovingson location.

Meanwhile, UVA Health has

plans to develop a pharmacy in the former Stoney Creek Pharmacy in Nellysford, which closed in 2019.

UVA Health Public Information Officer Eric Swensen emailed a statement to the Nelson County Times in late January.

"UVA Health is working to bring a pharmacy to Nellysford in the former Stoney Creek Pharmacy. We do not yet have a timetable for opening the pharmacy; we hope to have more details to share in the weeks ahead," Swenson wrote.

Shipman resident Bonnie Burnley first found out the Walgreens was closing in mid

Please see PHARMACY, Page A2



PHOTO BY EMMA MARTIN, THE NELSON COUNTY TIMES

The Lovingson Walgreens, pictured Feb. 8, is expected to close by the end of the month.

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Nelson tennis battles Parry McCluer, PAGE B2



Lady Govs in action against James River, PAGE B1

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PAIGE DINGLER, NELSON COUNTY TIMES

Cast members rehearse Charlotte's Web at Mount Rogue Farm on Friday, April 14, 2023.

Board votes to keep tax rates the same

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Nelson County taxpayers will see no increase in the real estate and personal property tax rate in the coming fiscal year that starts July 1.

The Nelson Board of Supervisors recently voted to keep the rate at \$.65 per \$100 of assessed real estate value; \$2.79 per \$100 of assessed personal property value and \$1.25 per \$100 of assessed machinery and tools values.

Supervisors have yet to decide whether to make changes to the transient occupancy tax, levied on hotels, motels, campgrounds, and other short-term rentals.

At current rates, the county is expecting a \$379,846 or 2% increase in real estate tax revenue due to natural growth, and a \$499,216 decrease in personal property tax revenue due to an approximate 12% decline in vehicle values.

At the start of an April 4 budget work session, having already discussed agency and department funding requests, supervisors were left with \$805,437 in unallocated recurring revenue.

Nelson County Public Schools administration has requested an \$18.7 million contribution from

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'A Community Experience'

Charlotte's Web opens at Roseland farm

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Every weekend for the rest of April, Mount Rouge Farm in Roseland becomes "Zuckerman's Farm," the setting for an all-local

cast's production of 'Charlotte's Web.'

It's the fifth show Alabama-native Brian Clowdus has directed in the county, and his first daytime family production. "This show in particular hits

every age demographic," Clowdus said.

Clowdus and the cast were rehearsing on-site April 14, the day before opening weekend. A 360-degree view of the Blue Ridge surrounds the stage, built in front of an original barn on the property. Mount Rouge is a working farm, and real animals

— pigs, geese and a turkey — were going about their business nearby while humans-playing-animals rehearsed.

Clowdus' productions are meant to be fully immersive, placing actors and audiences in accurate outdoor settings.

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Nelson music project gets grant from Dave Matthews Band charity

THE (CHARLOTTESVILLE) DAILY PROGRESS

The Nelson County Historical Society has received a grant of \$7,500 from the Bama Works Fund to celebrate the county's musical heritage.

"The Nelson Music Project" is scheduled to open in early July at the historical society's Oakland Museum. The exhibit will feature county musicians such as musicians Jimmy Fortune, Ral Satterwhite and Curtis Matthews, as well as instrument makers such as George Thomas Fortune and teachers such as Othello Wilson.

While the project highlights music-making from Nelson

Please see **PROJECT**, Page A6



LEE LUTHER JR., FOR THE NELSON COUNTY TIMES

Jimmy Fortune, right, was inducted into the Virginia Music Hall of Fame in 2018 and is one of the musicians planned to be featured in "The Nelson Music Project."

Supervisors discuss agency, department expenditures in budget plan

Will add positions, fund increases to Jaunt, CSA, health department, regional jail

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At recent budget work sessions, the Nelson County Board of Supervisors has decided to add one new part-time and four new full-time department positions to the county budget, and to maintain the county's current public transportation services through Jaunt at a greater cost.

The board won't have to approve a final budget until June and could revisit recent budget

decisions, but so far it has increased funding for many departments and agencies.

Supervisors will fund an anticipated 14% increase in the county's share of Health Department costs, bringing the its total contribution to \$357,527. County Administrator Candy McGarry said that increase is associated with a new facility lease and salary increases. Supervisors have also agreed to fund the county's

Please see **BUDGET**, Page A6

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New sewing business opens in Lovingston, A3



Stop the Bleed program equips bystanders in emergencies, A6



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Two candidates running for South District Supervisor

Independent Mary Kathryn Allen will face Republican Jessica Ligon in the Nov. 7 election

EMMA MARTIN
The Nelson County Times

South District voters will choose between two women for the open board of supervisors seat in November's general election; both are mothers and lifelong Nelson County residents heavily involved in their communities.

Local veterinarian Jessica Ligon

won the Nelson County Republican Committee's nomination for the seat in May and has talked about the successful comeback of the Lovingston Veterinary Hospital under her leadership. Ligon wants to improve transparency and communication between the board and community, curtail spending and make improvements to public schools

"I feel that we need more accountability, more measurable re-



Allen



Ligon

Mary Kathryn Allen, current Nelson County Planning Commission chair and regional director of the Blue Ridge EMS Council. Allen thinks sports teach children important life lessons, and she wants to see the county expand sports

and recreation programs for youth, while maintaining "fiscal responsibility."

"I am very much a youth advocate, whether it's in the schools, or whether it is youth sports and recreation. People say children are our future all the time, but they really are and, as a parent, I feel very passionate about making sure we do our best to set them up for success..." Allen said in an interview.

Current South District Supervisor Skip Barton confirmed he is not seeking re-election for health reasons.

Allen has worked in the emer-

gency medical services field for 26 years and said she started as a volunteer in Nelson and Amherst counties.

"I just have a love for public service, period. I grew up in a public service family..."

She said her father, the late John Dixon, worked in law enforcement for more than 34 years, in Nelson, Amherst and Buckingham counties, and her mother worked as an emergency room nurse and ran the medical department at the Buckingham Correctional Center.

Please see **SUPERVISOR**, Page A2



PAIGE DINGLER PHOTOS, NELSON COUNTY TIMES

Jimmy Fortune is pictured to the right of a bronze statue of himself, commissioned by a longtime fan Lyndon Cook, at the Oakland Museum on Saturday.

Celebrating Nelson greats

Earl Hamner Jr. and Jimmy Fortune statues are unveiled at the Oakland Museum in Arrington

EMMA MARTIN
The Nelson County Times

One of Nelson County's most famous sons, country singer Jimmy Fortune, sang "Elizabeth," "Virginia Dreams" and "How Great Thou Art," to an audience frequently moved to tears, raucous applause and spontaneous standing ovations during a ceremony to unveil statues of Fortune and Earl Hamner Jr., creator of "The Waltons," at the Oakland Museum on Saturday.

Nelson community members filled the shade of a large tent outside the museum in Arrington

that morning, yards from two shrouded larger-than-life statues on a concrete platform.

The bronze statues, commissioned by longtime fan Lyndon Cook, would be unveiled by Fortune and members of the Hamner family later in the day, and are now permanent fixtures along U.S. 29.

Nelson County Historical Society's Woody Greenburg said Fortune told Cook he'd agree to the statue only if sculptor Stan Watts would make a statue of Hamner too.

Please see **STATUES**, Page A2



Statues of country musician Jimmy Fortune (front) and "The Waltons" creator, Earl Hamner Jr. (left), in Nelson County.

Sheriff Hill announces bid for third term

EMMA MARTIN
The Nelson County Times

Nelson County Sheriff David Hill has officially announced his bid for reelection to another four years. He faces former Nelson Patrol Supervisor Mark Embrey in the Nov. 7 election, and both candidates are running as independents.

Hill addressed voters via a live video on his campaign Facebook page Sunday.

"Serving as your sheriff of Nelson County is a continued honor and privilege. Since being elected as your sheriff in 2015 my goal has remained to represent each and every citizen of Nelson County in the best and most professional manner possible," Hill said.

In the 2015 election, Hill won 45% of the vote against another Independent, a Republican and a Democrat. In 2019, Hill garnered 55% of votes against Republican challenger Daniel Jones.

"The sheriff serves each and every citizen and should not be beholden to any political party or other public officials holding office, so I am seeking a third term as a true Independent candidate," Hill said in the video.

Hill grew up in Nelson County and holds a degree in criminal justice from Ferrum College and a master's degree in education



Hill

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