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# AMHERST NEW ERA~PROGRESS

Amherst County's only hometown newspaper | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023 | NewEraProgress.com | Amherst, Va.

AMHERST SHOOTING DEATH INVESTIGATION

## Official: Handling of case an 'injustice'

Supervisor, ex-sheriff pens post about 2019 homicide, wounding; prosecutor responds

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An Amherst County supervisor who formerly served as the county's sheriff recently took to social media to criticize what he called a "serious injustice" in how a 2019 homicide and wounding

case was handled. In a Jan. 30 post on his personal Facebook page, Supervisor Jimmy Ayers shared his thoughts at length regarding the June 2019 slaying of Doris Puleio and wounding of her daughter. In a subsequent interview, Ayers said he made his comments as a citizen, not as a county



**Ayers**

wounding and two counts of using a firearm in commission of a felony in connection with the

supervisor. Justin Jay Sales, who at the time of the homicide lived in Amherst, was arrested in July 2019 and accused of first-degree murder, aggravated malicious

shooting death of Puleio, 92, and wounding of Trudy Ann Goetz, 74. Puleio was found dead in her home on Bobwhite Road in Amherst with gunshot wounds to her torso and left arm, while Goetz suffered two piercing gunshot wounds to the torso and one that grazed her chest, prosecutors have said.

At a Dec. 8, 2021, hearing in Amherst Circuit Court, Commonwealth's Attorney Lyle Carver

moved to drop the charges, citing multiple evidentiary issues, among them a chain-of-custody matter, a cyberattack that affected

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**WATCH:** To see video of an interview with Jimmy Ayers on this matter, point your smartphone at the QR code, then tap the link. **NEWSVU**



**PAIGE DINGLER, NEW ERA-PROGRESS**

Liberty middle schooler Colton Croft, top, wrestles David Wall of Amherst Wrestling at Amherst County High School on Jan. 28.

## Wrestling Club builds talent

Amherst group trains K-5 youth to compete in middle, high school

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In late January, under the shadows of several district, con-

ference and regional wrestling championship banners at Amherst County High School, the future of the sport in Amherst got the opportunity to put its

skills on display. Craig Maddox, the K-5 coach for the Amherst Wrestling Club,

Please see **WRESTLING**, Page A6

**WATCH:** For video of the Amherst Wrestling Club in action point your smartphone at the QR code, then tap the link. **NEWSVU**

## Scleroderma fundraiser walk planned March 4 at Sweet Briar College

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After a two-year hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the "Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma" is returning to Sweet Briar College's Fitness Athletic Center on March 4.

The Amherst Woman's Club, Sweet Briar and the Greater Washington, D.C. chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation sponsored the first walk March 2, 2019 at the college's indoor track, the site of this year's event.

Suzanne Raine, a club member and event organizer, said the March 2019 walk marked the Washington, D.C. chapter's first walk in Virginia. A second walk was held a year later a week prior to the shutdown from COVID-19.

Scleroderma is an often life-threatening inflammatory and vascular disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own tissue. The mission of the walk is to provide support for patients with the disease, to

Please see **FUNDRAISER**, Page A2

## Happy (future) trails: Amherst bike club eyes expansion of land, locations for use

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Nearly three years after receiving Amherst Town Council's approval to establish a trail network

within the L. Barnes Brockman, Sr. Business and Industrial Park on U.S. 60 East, the Amherst Mountain Biking Club has its sights set on expansion efforts. The club held a Jan. 27 meet-

ing at the Amherst Fire Department's fellowship hall that drew just more than 40 people for an evening of food, socializing and conversation. Alex Motley, the club's president,

said the goal of the gathering was to invite the community for input on the potential new trails in the town of Amherst and Amherst County.

Please see **TRAILS**, Page A2

**WATCH:** For video of the Amherst Mountain Biking Club's efforts point your smartphone at the QR code, then tap the link. **NEWSVU**

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**Classifieds**

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