

# JAVON SCRUGGS

*evolves into Liberty's 'alpha wolf'*

SPORTS | B1



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**HURRICANE SALLY:** AT LEAST 1 DEAD, HUNDREDS RESCUED, THOUSANDS WITHOUT POWER | A7

# The News & Advance

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Vol. 155, No. 261, Our 153rd Year • Lynchburg, Va.

## Northam considers aid request for K-12

Department of Education seeks \$200M in federal funds to help schools with COVID-19 testing

BY MICHAEL MARTZ  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND — Gov. Ralph Northam is urgently reviewing a request of \$200 million in federal funds to help Virginia public school divisions operate in a school year like no other, after the coronavirus pandemic forced most public schools in Virginia to rely on remote learning.

Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne told legislators Tuesday the governor's office received the request from the Department of Education the previous evening, as the state considers using a big chunk of money it has received under the federal CARES Act to augment other federal emergency relief that has gone directly to the state public education system.

The \$200 million represents an expenditure of \$160 per pupil to help school divisions with testing to detect and control the spread of COVID-19, as well as money for additional staffing, personal protective equipment, transportation and upgrade of technological systems for delivering instruction remotely. Layne said the U.S. Department of Treasury has released guidance that would allow states to provide up to \$500 per pupil to school divisions without the normal documentation required under the CARES Act.

Virginia received \$1.8 billion in CARES Act funding for the state, in addition to \$1.3 billion it has distributed to local governments that have, in turn, used a portion of the money to help public schools reopen in a continuing public health emergency. The state must use the money by Dec. 30 and account for it under strict rules in the law, which Congress passed and President Donald Trump signed in late March.

"We don't intend to give one nickel back," Layne told the Senate Finance &

SEE REQUEST | A5

*Wood chopping, delivery offer*

## A DIFFERENT KIND OF MINISTRY



Keith Updegraff and Susan Layne stack wood for the wood ministry at Main Street United Methodist Church in Bedford on Monday.

PHOTOS BY KENDALL WARNER/THE NEWS & ADVANCE

BY SHANNON KELLY  
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A ministry in Bedford providing free firewood to qualifying individuals anticipates fuel needs will be more urgent this winter because of the coronavirus pandemic's economic effects.

"With the COVID-19 virus, we're thinking we're really going to get hit hard this year, because a lot of people are out of jobs, or have been laid off because of cutbacks. A lot of the rental properties have been delayed on people having to pay their rent for two, three, four months, then all of a sudden this fall, everything is going

SEE MINISTRY | A3



Updegraff cuts a log down to size to be split into usable pieces. Clients are referred to the ministry through Bedford Christian Ministries, Smith Mountain Lake Ministries and the Bedford County Department of Social Services.

SEE LIBERTY | A5

### COVID-19

## Liberty cases jump to 141; more than 1K quarantined

BY RICHARD CHUMNEY  
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Liberty University on Wednesday reported 141 active coronavirus cases among its students and employees, an increase of more than 50 positive cases over the figure reported a week ago.

More than 1,000 students and employees have been

instructed to quarantine, according to Liberty's new COVID-19 dashboard, which launched Wednesday after it initially was delayed by a technical glitch.

The dashboard, an online tool used to disclose the number of COVID-19 cases within the university community, shows 487 on-campus students are in quarantine, and 492 commuter students and 193 em-

ployees have been instructed to quarantine.

The university has expanded the capacity at an off-campus facility used to house quarantining and isolating students from 200 beds to 500, Keith Anderson, executive director of the Health & Wellness Office of Liberty University, said in a news conference

SEE LIBERTY | A5

## New Rustburg Middle School plans unveiled

Current building is slated for demolition, including original 1919 structure

BY SARAH HONOSKY  
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Despite outcries from pockets of the Campbell County community and beyond, plans for a new Rustburg Middle School are moving on as scheduled, with demolition of the entire existing building, including the original 1919 structure, still included.

Blair Construction, the Gretna-based firm selected to spearhead the new middle school project, unveiled its proposed plan to Campbell County supervisors and school board members Tuesday night.

Blair's proposal includes the full demolition of the current middle school, a requirement of the request for proposals issued by Campbell County.

The new structure would sit just behind the footprint of the existing building, with a parking lot and

SEE SCHOOL | A5



Rain in the afternoon  
Weather, B8

69°  
64°

Classifieds..... B6, 7  
Comics..... B4, 5  
Crossword..... B5  
Jumble..... B4

Lottery..... A2  
Markets..... A8  
Nation/World..... A7  
Obituaries..... A4, 5

Opinion..... A6  
Scoreboard..... B2  
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