



**Blue Jays make trek to Johnson City following win**  
Sports ▶ B1

# HOKIE BOUND

Mac Osborne verbally commits to Virginia Tech softball program



SPORTS ▶ B1

# Clinch Valley NEWS & PRESS Richlands

Wednesday, July 31, 2019

www.swvatoday.com | Community-driven, fair and balanced

No. 08 \$1.00

WHAT'S INSIDE?

GOLF



Young golfers compete in tournament

» B2

COMMITMENT



Lester commits to play football for the Monarchs via Twitter

» B4

YOU NEED TO KNOW

## Public hearings set for voter precinct changes

Public hearings on changing two voter precincts will be held at the Aug. 6 meeting of the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors. The electoral board is asking the supervisors to move the Paintlick precinct from the VFW post at Claypool Hill to the Jehovah Witness church on Route 19. They are also asking that the Central Absentee precinct be moved from the courthouse to the new registrar's office at Fourway. Eric Young said the change at Paintlick if approved following the hearing would take effect for the Nov. 5 election while the Central Absentee will not move until the registrar's office moves.

► Read more on **Page A3.**

INDEX

The Week Ahead.....A2  
Obituaries.....A3  
Viewpoints.....A4  
Community.....A6  
Sports.....B1  
Faith & Worship.....B3  
Classifieds.....B4-6

Want to subscribe to the News & Press?

Call us at 276-963-1081 to get the latest local news delivered to your door.

# Students offered free tuition

## County partners with Southwest, Sam McCall estate to offer tuition assistance

THE NEWS & PRESS

WARDELL, Va. — Tazewell County students will join a growing number attending Southwest Virginia Community College for free next year.

The college announced last week that an agreement between the county board of supervisors and Priscilla McCall, administrator of the estate of the late Sam McCall, will provide tuition assistance for county students who enroll at the college.

The grants will be available to all graduating seniors from the class of 2019 and forward who graduate with a grade point average of 2.0 or better.

The scholarships will cover any tuition and or fees owed after all federal funding and other financial aid is used.

Students from private schools, home schooled students and GED graduates will also be eligible for the funds.

See **FREE**, Page A2



JIM TALBERT | THE NEWS & PRESS

Students attending Southwest Virginia Community College will have the opportunity to receive tuition assistance.

# Alternative transport program offers privacy

BY JASMINE DENT FRANKS

The News & Press

New vehicles used to transport individuals under temporary detention orders to mental health treatment facilities look like the average vehicle on the outside. The unmarked Dodge SUVs give no indication who is inside and where they are headed and that's part of the appeal.

Until the state-wide alternative transport program was rolled out Monday, those patients were hauled away to a hospital in the back of a police car, sometimes in handcuffs — a practice believed to be both traumatic to patients and burdensome to local law enforcement.

“Not only will this help alleviate the burden on law enforcement, but alternative transportation will help provide privacy and dignity for individuals under temporary detention orders,” said Cynthia McClaskey, director of the Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute in Marion.

McClaskey and Virginia Governor Ralph Northam spoke to a small crowd gathered at the entrance of SWVMHI on Monday, where one of the new vehicles was on display during the rollout.

“These individuals were being transported by our law enforcement agents and they’re doing a wonderful job of doing that, but that’s perhaps not the best way to transport individuals for a couple of reasons,” Northam said.

He pointed out that local law enforcement have enough work on their hands as it is and when they’re out doing a transport, it takes them away from their assigned work. He said the move was also about treating people the way they should be treated.

“Individuals who have behavioral health issues shouldn’t be put in a car, handcuffed in a marked police car,” he said. “We can do better than that and that’s why we’re here.”

While the outside of the alternative transport vehicles are rather inconspicuous, the inside is designed with security in mind. Plexiglas partitions separate the front and back seats, as



# Fun in the Sun

PHOTOS BY JIM TALBERT | THE NEWS & PRESS



This adventurous group of kayakers took advantage of the sunny summer weather over the weekend by taking a float along the Clinch River through the Critterville section of Richlands.

# Two men in custody for Richlands area break-ins

BY JIM TALBERT  
The News & Press

RICHLANDS, Va. — Two men are in custody following a break-in at a local business.

Richlands Police Chief J.W. Gilbert said his department received a call from American Carpet Care in the Brickyard section of town July 17. He said someone entered the building and took tools and equipment.

Officer Dink McGee re-

sponded to the call and after a brief investigation arrested Mark Allen Clevinger, 41, and Lucas McKinley Honaker, 28. Both men are residents of Richlands.

Honaker is charged with entering a structure to commit armed burglary, possession of burglary tools and wearing a mask in public.

He is also charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug

paraphernalia. He was taken before a magistrate and arraigned July 22. He is represented by lawyer Penny Nimmo and is being held at the Southwest Regional Jail in Tazewell.

He is scheduled for a preliminary hearing Jan. 24. Honaker has several previous drug charges that are scheduled for preliminary hearing Dec. 13.



Clevinger



Honaker

See **CUSTODY**, Page A2

See **TRANSPORTS**, Page A5



7 65161 18152 3