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The Farmville Herald

Honor for the past, help for the present, hope for the future

Farmville, Virginia

Friday, May 19, 2023

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Three Roads signs deal to expand operations

Farmville's Three Roads Brewing just got a bit larger. The company announced on Monday, May 15 that it's buying Ballard Brewing, based out of Danville.

"We are committed to being the leading brewery in Southside Virginia, and the addition of Ballard helps us achieve that goal," said Chris Sadler, one of the founders of Three Roads. "This is a beautiful part of the country with strong communities. We mean it when we say 'we brew community.' The Ballard Brewing brand is a big part of Danville and will continue to thrive as a part of the Three Roads Brewing family."

As it stands, Three Roads has two taprooms, its original in Farmville and a second location in Lynchburg. Ballard adds a third taproom in Danville and will help double the brewery's production to roughly 2,000 barrels.

MORE ABOUT BALLAD

Ballad Brewing opened in 2017 in a large taproom/brewhouse along the Dan River. ThreeRoads Brewing will retain the Ballard brand, its catalog of beers, and its River District taproom.

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Jail staff work to avoid budget cuts

BY BRIAN CARLTON
The Farmville Herald

Yes, the U.S. Marshals Service recently decided to pull all federal inmates out of Piedmont Regional Jail. And yes, that decision eliminates 42% of the jail's population. Since the jail receives funding for each federal prisoner that they house, that also translates into a loss of \$2.7 million from the budget. But jail officials say that doesn't mean the budget has to shrink or positions will be eliminated. They see another option.

"It may be that we can pick up some more revenue from (other jails)," said Piedmont Superintendent Jerry Townsend. He pointed

to places like Culpepper, which faces an overcrowding problem. Townsend said over the next month, jail officials will be reaching out to other overcrowded operations, to see if they can take in some of these prisoners.

As a result of that plan, the Piedmont Regional Jail Authority decided to hold off on making any budget cuts right now. During their meeting on Wednesday, May 17, the group tabled a proposal for 20% cuts, to balance things out. That proposal included scaling back on things like food purchases, since they have fewer prisoners now.

"The board decided to go back

See JAIL, Page A2

Commission nears gold mining decision

BY BRIAN CARLTON
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

After several months of discussion and presentations, the Buckingham County planning commission is set to decide what happens next. During next Monday's meeting, group members will determine if they need to hear more testimony from additional sources or if they're ready to make a recommendation to supervisors about a path to take.

"You've got four options, as I see it," said Buckingham County Attorney E.M. Wright. Speaking to the commission during a special Monday, May 15 work session, Wright gave a legal presentation and addressed what exactly the commission could do.

"You could (give a recommendation) to ban mining," Wright said. "You could ban metallic mining. You could make adjustments to current ordinances (or) not change anything at all."

THE COUNTY'S AUTHORITY

The main argument Wright wanted to get across is that Buckingham County can't just do whatever they want. Virginia is what's known as a Dillon Rule state. That means cities, counties and towns only have

the powers expressly granted to them by the state.

"It's called the supremacy clause," Wright said. "It establishes the pecking order. We are not the high man on the pecking order. You can't do anything you want to. It can't be in conflict with what the state and the feds say you can do."

He pointed out that it's been tested before. In 1999, a group of Amelia County farmers sued the county, arguing that a local ordinance against using biosolids (aka sludge) as fertilizer went against state law. They pointed out the state has no ban on the concept, in fact it's been used for more than a century. The farmers argued Amelia County couldn't have rules in place that ban something the state allows. A judge agreed, stating that a local government may not forbid what the legislature has expressly licensed, authorized or required. In other words, a local ordinance may not conflict with state law.

In this case, "the state is really in control," Wright said. "It authorizes what can be done and it's chosen to license and permit

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Are you ready to invest in downtown?

BY RACHEL JUSTIN
The Farmville Herald

FARMVILLE

The Farmville Downtown Partnership is looking for people to invest in their area. Currently, the Farmville Downtown Partnership (FDP) is halfway to its fundraising goal of \$25,000 by the end of May. To reach this goal, the organization is asking individuals to support their downtown and invest \$225 in honor of Farmville be-

ing 225 years old. If 75% of the downtown partners participate in this investment then they will reach their goal.

"There are a number of projects we want to do and we have great support from the Town of Farmville and Prince Edward County but we need funds to match

See INVEST, Page A2

VDH offers new programs to help residents

BY RACHEL JUSTIN
The Farmville Herald

The Piedmont Health District of the Virginia Health Department has two new programs to help community members struggling with COVID-19 or food insecurities.

The Piedmont Health District announced its partnership with Feed More

and Unite Us to launch The COVID-19 Care Kit Program and The Healthy Food Box Program.

The COVID-19 Care Kit Program is funded through the Rural Health Grant to fund a COVID-19-specific project. These kits will provide a reusable grocery bag, at-home COVID test kits, hand sanitizer,

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