

Danville Register & Bee

God’s Pit Crew heading to N. Carolina to build 2 homes

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After 7 months, Danville downtown group leader steps down

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VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

Trooper receives valor honor

Officer was involved in deadly exchange of gunfire with suspect

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

A Virginia State Police trooper received an Award for Valor last

week from the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police for a deadly encounter with a suspect on Dec. 29 in Pittsylvania County.

The award identified — for the first time — the law enforcement officer involved and offered details not previously released by authorities.

In all, 26 law enforcement officers

were honored Tuesday at the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke during the ceremony, with Gov. Abigail Spanberger attending.

The Award for Valor is the highest honor presented by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. It honors an officer who in the line of duty “performs an act of extraordinary heroism while engaged with

an adversary at imminent personal risk,” according to a state police statement.

The Dec. 29 ordeal involved a police chase that reached speeds of 136 mph before a fatal shooting.

Jacob Wesley Adkins, 25, of Hurt, was killed when authorities

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PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY JAIL

BUILD NEW OR OUTSOURCE?



CHARLES WILBORN, REGISTER & BEE

A Pittsylvania County Sheriff’s Office vehicle is parked outside of the county jail Aug. 28.

Sheriff proponent of keeping facility, but says board caught in ‘dilemma’

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

CHATHAM — Employees at the Pittsylvania County Jail first learned of the county’s intention to explore outsourcing operations when it appeared on an agenda item for the county board of supervisors’ July meeting.

Sheriff Mike Taylor also wasn’t aware of the vote item until he started receiving calls from workers concerned about it, although he had known of the possibility from prior talks with the board.

“They pulled it off to give us time to talk about it, which I thought was the right thing to do,” Taylor told the Register & Bee in a recent interview.

After waiting a month, the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution Aug. 18 authorizing County Administrator Vince Shorter to “take

necessary steps to negotiate the terms of any agreement” to join the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority, essentially farming out jail operations.

The authority currently consists of the localities of Amherst County, Appomattox County, Bedford County, Campbell County, Halifax County and the city of Lynchburg.

The vote was lumped in with other items in what’s called the consent agenda. Generally, routine matters go on the consent agenda for one vote to speed up the meeting process.

“I know the board is caught in a dilemma,” Taylor said. “They’ve got to make a financial decision plus an emotional decision.”

The emotional part would come with

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ELECTION 2026

Candidate hosts talk on region healthcare

Perriello criticizes stance of opponent on Medicaid

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

The Democratic nominee looking to unseat U.S. Rep. John McGuire, R-5th District, brought his campaign to Danville on Friday to host a discussion on healthcare in rural Southside Virginia.

Tom Perriello listened as people like Gladys Macklin, the mother of an adult daughter with Down syndrome, described the difficulties with Medicaid.

Others in the discussion at Creme & Vine included Dr. Joan Wilson, who specialized in OB/GYN, and Paddy Rassbach, a labor and delivery registered nurse from Clarksville.

Perriello, who in 2008 ousted longtime U.S. Rep. Virgil Goode, R-5th, squeaking out a victory with only 727 votes out of over 317,000 cast, attacked McGuire’s vote on the One Big Beautiful Bill for cuts in Medicaid.

The hopeful said that not only should the cuts to Medicaid be restored, but also the Affordable Care Act tax credits that also were slashed.

“I mean, McGuire lit a ticking time bomb, and that fuse is short,” Perriello told the Register & Bee after the discussion. “And in January, it is going to go off and blow up.”

Perriello said that there’s already a preview of what’s to come. He said three rural clinics have shut down in Augusta County, leaving people to have to take rescue squads to places like Lynchburg or Charlottesville, which means longer wait times for those areas.

In a statement provided to the Register & Bee, McGuire defended his vote on the bill. He said the only changes coming to Medicaid are “cuts in waste, fraud and abuse.”

“House Republicans and President Trump are weeding out people taking advantage of the system ensuring the only folks using the resource, are the ones who actually need it,” McGuire said in the statement. “It is a priority of mine that people of the Fifth have the

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NEWSVU



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Weather

Partly sunny
High: 85 **Low:** 60
Forecast: A8

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