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Community rallies to help county first responder after house fire

KARIN ROBERTSON
Times Virginian

Many residents of Appomattox County know Jeannie O'Brien as a fun-loving, goofy paramedic that has dedicated her life to being there in the time of need.

As a member of Delta Response Team (DRT) for almost eight years as a licensed paramedic, and Appomattox County Volunteer Rescue Squad as part of the career crew, O'Brien has spent endless hours saving lives, and in her time of need, Appomattox County is there to help her.

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, while O'Brien was at work, the unthinkable happened. She and her family lost their home to a house fire. It has been reported that she, her husband and two adult children and their pets made it out without injury.

The Appomattox County community and local groups have stepped up to help the family. DRT has set up a drop off point at their main building at 175 West Ridge Lane, Appomattox. Residents can drop off clothing, shoes, small household needs as well as monetary donations that will go di-

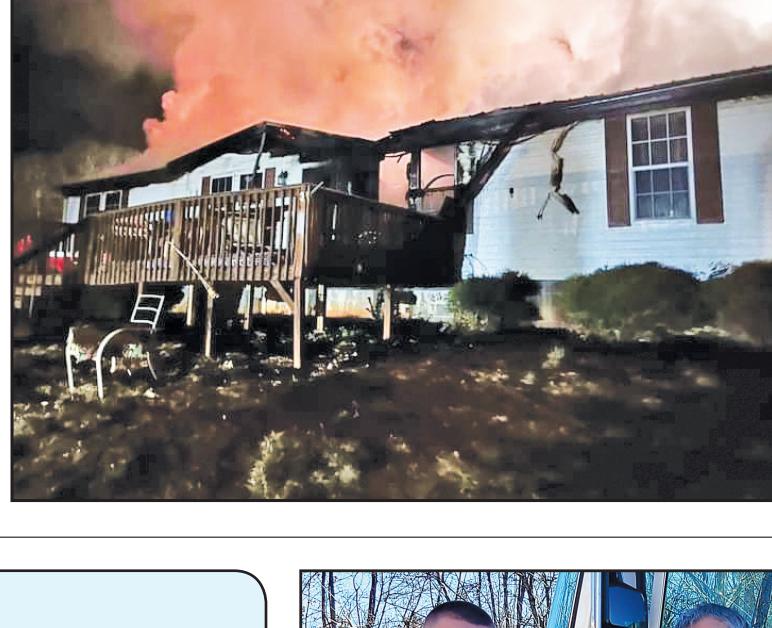
rectly to the O'Briens.

Tom Walton with DRT stated that they were currently staying in a camper to which the ambulance service was working to have electricity connected.

"Right now, the biggest need is clothing and money," Walton said.

The most current list of needs includes men's pants sizes 30x32, 30x30 and 40x30. Women's pants sizes are 5-6 and 16. Men's shirts are medium and extra large, and women's shirts are medium and extra large. Shoe

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Contributed
Shown is Delta Response Team member Jeannie O'Brien's home on fire Wednesday, Dec. 22.

Jeffries wins the Times Virginian Scavenger Hunt

CHARLES CONRAD
Times Virginian

Appomattox Middle School sixth grader Haleigh Jeffries was the winner of the 2021 Times Virginian Scavenger Hunt contest that focused on various historical clues that had to be solved on location at the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and the Civil War Museum. The Carver-Price Museum was initially involved but has been under reconstruction.

Jeffries, a self-described lover of scavenger hunts, completed the project with her mother, Chasity.

"It was really fun learning the history of everything and the experience of finding clues. It was really fun doing it together with my mom," Haleigh said.

One of the most interesting, and most challenging, parts of the day for Haleigh was interacting with 19th century character actors at the National Historical Park.

"All the houses were separated, and you had to figure out which house represented which thing, and they had characters there that acted as if they were back in those days," Chasity said.

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Lisa Coleman/Times Virginian

Appomattox Middle School sixth grader Haleigh Jeffries holds a gift certificate and bag of souvenirs she received after winning the 2021 Times Virginian scavenger hunt contest. The gifts were provided by the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and the Civil War Museum.



Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department/Contributed
Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) Chief Jonathan Garrett and Samburg-Reelfoot Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ken Hogg stand in front of the 1990 Pierce Fire Engine that AVFD donated.

AVFD donates old fire truck

KARIN ROBERTSON
Times Virginian

The Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) took ownership of its new engine in December. The next decision that needed to be made was what to do with the one they retired.

Several members offered up the idea to donate the

engine to a department that needed it. It didn't take long for the entire department to agree that a brother department in Tennessee was in the most need.

The Samburg-Reelfoot Volunteer Fire Department, located in Hornbeak, Tennessee, was in the direct

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Contributed

Shown is a work van for R&R Heating and Cooling LLC.

Contributed



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian
A tractor-trailer slid off the road on U.S. 460 East on Monday afternoon in Appomattox County near Spout Spring.

Volunteer Fire Department reported five accidents in the county, one with multiple vehicles at one location on U.S. 460 at Mountain Cut Road.

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Small Business Spotlight

R&R Heating and Cooling serving county for 5 years

KARIN ROBERTSON
Times Virginian

If you have ever been in a bind and needed a new heating or cooling system, you may have come across R&R Heating and

Cooling LLC.

Craig Bryant, the owner of R&R Heating and Cooling, has been in operation since 2017 and has 15 years of experience. The company provides heating and cooling ser-

vices to Appomattox and the surrounding area.

R&R Heating and Cooling offers heating and cooling, duct blaster testing, new construction

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CHARLES CONRAD
Times Virginian

Winter has officially arrived in Appomattox County as five-to-six inches of snow dumped itself on the area and resulted in

a number of traffic accidents in the process.

Appomattox Fire Chief Jonathan Garrett said that the fire department had been busy since snow began to fall overnight Sunday. Appomattox Vol-

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