

MOONSHINE: Reality TV show star, Culpeper distiller make 'perfect match'

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greet Tim."

Miller became the first person in the country to win approval to make moonshine legally in 1987, and his operation has been featured on television and by other media. Smith invited him to be a guest speaker at his annual Moonshiner's Jamboree, a celebration of moonshine's history near Danville, about 15 years ago. They've been friends ever since.

"Chuck was somebody I looked up to because I always wanted to bring a legal moonshine to the market," said Smith, whose family had been involved in moonshining. "He's the first craft distiller. He started 26 years ago. He sort of broke the ice with the state and federal government."

Miller already makes two types of his own whiskey at Belmont Farm: Kopper Kettle Virginia Whiskey and lines of plain and flavored Virginia Lightning whiskey. The apple pie version includes apple juice and a hint

of cinnamon. The other flavor is cherry.

Smith has been visiting Belmont Farm to work with Miller on his Climax Moonshine and to have his television crew film the operation for episodes of the upcoming fourth season of "Moonshiners." They will air in October.

Moonshine has been made in Virginia for centuries. Even George Washington used to make a version that included rye, corn and barley after his Scottish farm manager told him how profitable the venture could be.

Today, regulations on what has been—and in some places still is—an illegal operation are loosening. Smith said his moonshine is available legally in 13 states and he is about to do some test marketing in Pennsylvania.

He was able to work out deals to have his moonshine produced at Asheville Distillery in Asheville, N.C., and Limestone Branch Distillery in Lebanon, Ky., before he finally won approval to also have it made in Virginia.



Tim Smith, star of the Discovery Channel's 'Moonshiners' show, will soon be selling his Climax Moonshine legally.

"The partnership with Chuck is a perfect match," he said. "I'm from Virginia and he's been doing it and has a

reputation for doing it right—and legally."

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Unionville man facing charge of pointing rifle at three men

BY KEITH EPPS
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

A Unionville man is accused of pointing an assault rifle Tuesday at three men who were visiting the home of a woman with whom he was romantically involved, city police said.

Clarence David Johnson, 22, is charged with brandishing a firearm and possessing a firearm as a convicted felon.

Fredericksburg police spokeswoman Natazia Bledsoe said the incident occurred about 6:45 p.m. at Forest Village in the city.



Johnson

showed up and told them they needed to leave.

Bledsoe said police aren't sure if Johnson is the woman's current or former boyfriend.

An argument ensued that moved outside the apartment off Fall Hill Avenue. The visitors told police that Johnson pointed an AK-47

rifle at them. The men ran back into the woman's home and police were called.

Johnson was still at the scene when officers arrived and was taken into custody without incident. A rifle was found hidden in a duffel bag in the woods beside the building.

Johnson, who was convicted in Spotsylvania County Circuit Court in June 2011 of assaulting a police officer, was placed in the Rappahannock Regional Jail under no bond.

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Federal prosecutors seek state tobacco commission's records

BY ALAN SUDERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND—Federal prosecutors have subpoenaed Virginia tobacco commission records from the past year that involve former Sen. Phil Puckett, whose recent resignation the FBI has been investigating.

The tobacco commission released copies of two subpoenas Wednesday to The Associated Press in response to a public records request.

One ordered the commission's interim director, Tim Pfohl, to appear before a grand jury Tuesday. The second subpoena ordered the commission to hand over documents involving Puckett dating back to June 1, 2013, to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Prosecutors asked for documents that involve "the offer of anything of value" to Puckett as well as any correspondence between Puckett and the commission that mentions his daughter, Martha Ketron.

Puckett shocked Virginia's political world earlier this month by abruptly resigning, a move that flipped control

of the state Senate to Republicans. Puckett was in line for a potential high-level job at the GOP-controlled commission at the time of his resignation, but later withdrew his name for consideration following an uproar over his resignation.

Republican Del. Terry Kilgore, who chairs the tobacco commission, has previously said he had discussed with Puckett a deputy director job at the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission prior to Puckett's resignation. The commission uses bond money from Virginia's share of the \$206 billion national settlement against the tobacco industry to help spur economic growth in southwest and Southside Virginia.

In a statement following his resignation, Puckett said he was resigning so that Ketron could be approved as a state judge. Republicans in the Senate had blocked Ketron's appointment to serve as a juvenile and domestic relations judge in southwest Virginia earlier this year because of a policy

of not appointing lawmakers' immediate relatives to judgeships. Ketron had been temporarily appointed by circuit court judges and is now working as a substitute judge.

Both Kilgore and Puckett have denied wrongdoing. They have each hired former federal prosecutors to represent them.

Some Republicans have questioned how quickly federal investigators appear to be moving.

"Something's playing out there, probably a little more political than it should be," said Republican Sen. Frank M. Ruff Jr., vice chairman of the tobacco commission.

Ruff added that he does not think the investigation will show any criminal activity.

"I don't think there's anything there," he said.

Brian McGinn, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office, declined to comment.

CHARGES: Man facing attempted capital murder of sheriff's deputy

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headed toward U.S. 17.

Traffic was blocked at U.S. 17, Kennedy said, but the suspect maneuvered his way through and headed south. Staats continued to follow the suspect as he made an abrupt turn onto Olde Forge Drive into Olde Forge subdivision.

Sgt. Bill Walker and Deputy Scott Meyers were involved in the pursuit by then, and Walker tried to get in front of the fleeing vehicle. Kennedy said the driver deliberately struck Walker's cruiser, knocking both vehicles out of control, then struck it a second time.

The impact caused the suspect's vehicle to go over a curb and knock down a street sign.

Kennedy said the suspect ended up at a dead end on Alba Road, where he bailed out of the vehicle and ran. Meyers' police dog, Khaos, caught him a short time later in a backyard.

Two other adults were in the vehicle, along with a small child. Kennedy said they were not charged and were extremely upset with the driver's actions.

Kennedy said the driver told police that he had no idea they were trying to stop him and didn't recall hitting Walker's cruiser.

In addition to attempted capital murder, Dorian Allison Ragland, 40, was charged with felony eluding, felony hit-and-run, driving while intoxicated, driving on a suspended license, reckless driving, possession of marijuana, failure to properly secure a child in a car seat, failure to obey a signal and driving with defective equipment.

Ragland was placed in the Rappahannock Regional Jail under no bond.

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HEDELT: Boys of 12 and 13 were happy to labor all day for a ten-spot

FROM PAGE B1

a farmer, included me in the gaggle of young boys he would collect in the back of a pickup on hay-baling days.

Some of us were white, some black. We were not yet in school together because schools there hadn't integrated. But we all knew each other from baseball games or bouncing around town, and got along just fine.

The hay-baling methodology used in those days consisted of a tractor with a baler that spit rectangular bales out onto the ground as it moved. The job most of us youngsters did was to scamper along behind, grabbing the bales up off the ground to toss them up onto the wagon for stacking.

The really hard work happened when the wagons were unloaded back at the barn. We had to use the twine around the bales to toss them up into the barn loft.

The heat, closed nature of the barn and the considerable challenge of tossing a 40- to 60-pound hay bale up onto a second story loft took its toll on us youngsters, who rotated in and out.

But not on Caledonia.

We didn't know the older guy's real name, or why he rode a bike—sometimes talking to it as he went along—into town on most days even though he was well beyond driving age.

We were typical smart-mouthed kids, and would often make fun of this fellow even though he was well beyond the age when he could have been driving.

That stopped the first day we saw him flinging hay bales up into the barn with one hand, as if they were Frisbees.

In addition to that day's lessons on hard work, we also learned you shouldn't

try to judge a book by its cover.

Looking back, the oddest thing about all my my hay-baling, which I did for a few different farmers, was the fact that I never asked ahead of time what they were paying.

I just agreed to help, got picked up and then was paid at the end of the day.

One thing that did affect our availability was food.

If we were working from morning to late afternoon, some of the farmers would send a son or daughter off for hot dogs or sandwiches to feed us for lunch. If they also came back with a box of cookies for us to share, we were golden.

Like Donnie, I suffered from hay fever, though oddly getting up hay didn't bother me. It must have helped that I was out in the open most of the time.

Serious breathing issues didn't surface until I helped my stepfather thrash wheat.

He sent me up into the truck that held the grain to level it after it was deposited there by the combine. It took about 10 seconds for the dust from that wheat to constrict my throat to the point where I could barely breathe.

While I enjoyed my hay-baling days, I found more steady work in picking and packing tomatoes.

The hardest farm job I ever tackled was pulling Johnson grass from soybeans on my grandparents' farm.

One of my more unusual tasks was joining other agriculture students in planting pine seedlings to reforest timbered land.

I don't remember whether we got paid for that, but I do clearly recall that our teacher brought bags of cookies: chocolate and vanilla cremes.

You never forget the important stuff.

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