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Group forms to fight against solar farm plan

By **MIKE WILLIAMS**
The Patriot

Save Pulaski County Farms – a Facebook group of some 360 people – has formed to fight against efforts by Hecate Energy to obtain a Special Use Permit to build a 2,700-acre solar farm in the county.

The solar farm project would rest on several parcels of agricultural land, most of which are generally located outside and around the Town of Dublin.

The project will cost developers in excess of \$400 million to construct and generate some 130 jobs during construction. Developers estimate the project will generate some \$392,000 annually in additional tax revenue for the county.

However, in order for the project to become a reality, the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors

would have to grant a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow for the solar farm to be constructed on land zoned as agricultural.

The Pulaski County Planning Commission will take up the project first and has scheduled a public hearing on the issue Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Little Theatre in Pulaski County High School.

It is the job of the planners to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors whether or not to approve the SUP.

The Supervisors will hold their own public hearing on Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. – again at PCHS in the Little Theatre. The supervisors can take action on the issue that night.

The Save Pulaski County Farms group is urging local citizens to sign a petition against the solar farm proposal and to attend the two public hearings and let their feelings be known.

The group's members – led by Pulaski County farmer Joe Meek – believe the land targeted by Hecate is agricultural and should stay that way.

Meek said this week the loss of the land as farmland will make it "pretty tough for that future generation of farmers in the county to get a start."

"It's going to hurt the quality of life and the rural character of the county," Meek said, adding the project "will benefit a few folks at the expense of many."

Plans for the project call for Hecate to lease the land for the solar project from present land owners.

Meek said the land is zoned agricultural and the project doesn't do anything to raise livestock or crops or "nurture anything."

See SOLAR, page A2

Supervisors elect Guthrie as chairman of board for 2021

By **MIKE WILLIAMS**
The Patriot

"Honored, delighted and humbled."

That is how Cloyd District Supervisor Joe Guthrie described his feelings Wednesday evening after being selected chairman by his fellow members of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors during the board's annual first-of-the-year re-organizational meeting.

"I want to thank everyone for your continued confidence in me as your chair," Guthrie said after the board voted by acclamation to name him chairman for the second straight year.

"I look forward to working with you in the coming year and for continuing the success we have been having for the people of the county," he said.

"All of us, in my mind, are co-equal members of this board," Guthrie added. "We are each representing people of our district and the entire county and we are

all equal in that regard – representing our constituents."

Robinson District's Charles Bopp was again selected – also by acclamation – as Vice Chairman.

Other appointments included Ashley Edmonds as Clerk of the Board, Natasha Grubb as Deputy Clerk and County Attorney Tim Kirtner as Parliamentarian.

In other action, the board approved a document to be used by each member to evaluate the job done in 2020 by County Administrator Jonathan Sweet.

The document uses a numeric scale for supervisors to grade Sweet's performance in several areas and allows for comments by board members as well.

Sweet said he welcomed helpful criticism and accolades. "It's important for me to get feedback," he said, noting he doesn't take offense to constructive feedback.

The administrator's evaluation is done each year by the board.

The re-organizational meeting concluded with comments from

individual board members.

Draper Supervisor Dirk Compton reflected back on 2020 and commended Sweet and county staff.

"It would have been easy with COVID to shut the door and hibernate. Y'all haven't done that. You've kept pushing and pushing. I appreciate it," Compton said.

He added that some other counties "have just like, 'let's hide out and ride this thing through.'"

"And the school board too. They've made tough decisions to keep these schools open and keep kids going back. Especially elementary school kids and kids with learning disabilities – they need that learning in the classroom. We can't just sit them in front of a computer and expect them to pay attention and learn. I appreciate what you guys have done and the fact that you just kept pushing."

Compton offered special praise

See BOARD, page A2

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**Meredith McGrady
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Solar

Continued from Page A1

“It just captures sun light,” he said.

“If you bought a place in the country and it was zoned agriculture, you might expect your neighbor to build a barn or put up a chicken house. But you wouldn’t expect this to pop up in front of you or a nuclear power plant or something that would cause the value of your own land to decrease,” Meek reasoned.

“I think that’s being overlooked by the county. The energy company says it won’t affect the land values for property around it, but I don’t see how it could keep from it. If some of us right next to it decide to sell our property and we take 10 – 15 percent less for it, it hurts us,” Meek said.

“Looks like to me the county is picking winners and losers on this thing.”

Meek said he understands the “landowners are doing this willingly, but the energy company is offering them large sums of money for the lease or an option to lease.”

“One thing I don’t understand is how you have an option to lease your land when you don’t know how much is going to be put in [solar] panels and what you’re going to be left with,” he added.

“I understand they (Hecate)

Board

Continued from Page A1

for “the guys with trash collection.”

“Every time I show up out there those guys are out there making an effort to help people unload stuff at both collection sites. Little things like that in customer service – it makes a difference,” he said.

Bopp agreed, saying he believes Sweet is “doing great job.”

“When everyone else quit, you and your staff kept going,” he said.

For his part, Sweet said he appreciates the accolades, but it has truly been a team effort.

“I know of countless stories of county staff stepping up and just going so above and beyond the call of duty. They felt led knowing that this is our community and we’re the local government and who else is going to do these things, and how important they were to do. So, I really commend all the staff,” Sweet said.

He had praise, too for the supervisors.

“I look at five elected offi-

can’t use anything on the north slopes and prefers southern slopes. They can’t use anything around a wetland or a creek. Some areas that are wooded, it’s cost prohibitive to remove the trees to put solar panels up. It’s kind of an open-ended thing, once you sign up with them the company gets to do what they want and you’re left to deal with what you’ve got left,” Meek said.

Meek is especially concerned over the fact Board of Supervisors Chairman Joe Guthrie has a personal interest in a piece of property involved in the project.

He believes Guthrie should recuse himself from discussion and voting on the SUP request.

“I really do,” Meek said, adding his family has a farm located right across from a farm Guthrie’s family owns.

“He contacted me personally on participating in the project, and I told him ‘absolutely not,’” Meek said.

According to an opinion by Pulaski County Commonwealth’s Attorney Justin Griffith, Guthrie submitted a formal written request on Dec. 10, 2020 requesting an opinion letter on a potential conflict of interest.

In that opinion, Griffith wrote that “Mr. Guthrie openly and voluntarily disclosed that he has

a personal interest in a piece of property that centers around the Special Use Permit vote and discussions related to the Hecate Energy project in Pulaski County.”

In his opinion, Griffith notes that while Guthrie “openly disclosed that he has a personal interest” in the solar project, “that does not end the analysis.”

“A member of the Board of Supervisors who has a personal interest in votes and discussions is not automatically barred from participating in them,” Griffith writes.

Griffith wrote that, “because the property Mr. Guthrie owns is in a group of more than three other similar situated property owners, as long as he fulfills the declarations requirements of [the State Code] his personal interest does not bar his ability to vote.”

Those requirements, according to Griffith, require Guthrie to make an oral declaration of his interest and his ability to be fair and objective on the issue.

In addition, Griffith recommends Guthrie also sign a written declaration including this information, to be available for inspection upon request.

“Both are not legally required, however, because of the magnitude of the Hecate Energy

project, he should take the extra step in the disclosure process,” Griffith’s opinion states.

Griffith also noted that it could be argued that a second portion of the State Code governing conflict of interest issues would also allow for his vote – being that Guthrie is a member of a group of more than three other landowners involved in the project.

In closing, however, Griffith states it is his legal opinion that Guthrie may participate, if he chooses, on any votes and discussions regarding the solar farm project providing he complies with the written and oral declarations.

“As far as Guthrie is concerned, it might be legal, but I don’t think it’s moral or ethical,” Meek said.

Another issue Meek has with the project is it won’t create any new jobs for the county. “Only temporary jobs while they’re putting it in, and its going to cost agricultural jobs and put a hardship on some of these area companies that support agriculture.”

“Do you won’t cheap energy or food, even though I don’t think we’re going to get the energy off this. What I understand about it is they’re going to try to sell that (energy) to a green company for tax credits or something,” Meek added.

January services canceled at Streets

January 2021 services have been canceled at Taking It To The Streets Ministries.

“Due to the continued rise and outbreaks in COVID cases in the area, God has led us to implement the following changes,” said Pastor Charlie Barbettini.

“With Taking It To The Streets Ministries being largely an out-reach ministry inviting and having speakers, singers and visitors from many different counties and states, God has led us to not have services for the remainder of January 2021,” Barbettini said.

“God has blessed this ministry which comes into contact with so many people and, as far as we know, there has been no COVID cases at the ministry.

“We will continue to monitor the situation as the month progresses.

“The Warming Station will continue to operate without interruption.

“We thank everyone for their understanding and continued support of this ministry,” he said.

State Police probe crash that claimed one life Saturday in Carroll Co.

From Virginia State Police

At 10:27 p.m. on Saturday (Jan. 2), Virginia State Police responded to a single-vehicle crash in the 2100 block of Floyd Pike (Route 221).

A 2008 Ford Focus was traveling north when it crossed the centerline, ran off the left side of the road, overturned and struck several trees.

The driver, Timothy J. Davis, 20, of Dugspur, Va., was transported for treatment of serious injuries.

The passenger, Dakota C. Justice, 21, of Hillsville, Va., died at the scene.

Neither the driver nor passenger were wearing seatbelts and both were ejected from the vehicle.

Charges are pending. The crash remains under investigation.

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Lawmakers mourn death of Ben Chaffin

By TYLER ARNOLD

(The Center Square) – Virginia lawmakers are mourning the death of state Sen. Ben Chafin, R-Lebanon, who died from COVID-19 complications Friday at age 60.

Chafin's family thanked the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center in a statement for providing two weeks of medical services to the senator. His office said he was a strong supporter of the Second Amendment, economic development and providing health coverage to low-income Virginians.

Senate Republican Leader Tommy Norment, R-James City, offered his condolences in a statement on behalf of the entire Senate Republican Caucus.

"It is with profound sadness and sorrow that we learned of the passing of our good friend and colleague, Ben Chafin, (Friday) evening," Norment said. "To us, Ben was more than a dedicated colleague who exemplified the best in public service. He was a treasured friend, unrelentingly cheerful with an infectious smile and gregarious man-ner. ... First as delegate and then senator, Ben relentlessly promoted and fought for the interests and values of Southwest. He put the interests of those he was entrusted to serve first, cherishing the people of the region he proudly called 'home.' "

The Virginia Senate Democratic Caucus also released a statement offering condolences.

"We grieve the loss of our colleague and friend, Senator Ben Chafin," the statement read. "He was a passionate leader who represented his constituents of the 38th District in Southwest Virginia with such compassion, strength, and thoughtfulness. Our thoughts and prayers are with (his wife) Lora, their children, and all of those who knew Senator Chafin. He will be sorely missed by Senate Democrats and all Virginians."

Gov. Ralph Northam ordered Friday night flags to be lowered to half staff until the sun-set on the night of his internment. The governor said he and his wife, Pam, are praying for his family and that the state lost a good man.



Ben Chaffin

"I knew Ben as a lawmaker, an attorney, a banker, and a farmer raising beef cattle in Moccasin Valley, working the land just as generations of his family had done before him," Northam said. "He loved the outdoors, and he loved serving people even more. He pushed hard to bring jobs and investment to his district, and I will always be grateful for his courageous vote to expand health care for people who need it."

Chafin served as a member of the Senate since 2014 and previously served in the House of Delegates for eight months before taking his senate seat.

Because the vacancy occurred while the General Assembly is out of session, the governor is required to schedule a special election to fill the seat.

Tyler Arnold reports on Virginia and West Virginia for The Center Square. He previously worked for the Cause of Action Institute and has been published in Business Insider, USA TODAY College, National Review Online and the Washington Free Beacon.

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Pulaski County 4-H delivered 17 Christmas Dinner Baskets to Randolph Avenue United Methodist Church. L to R: Cynthia Hurst – 4-H Program Assistant, Lindsey Riddle – 4-H Teen Leader, Donny Riddle – 4-H Adult Leader, Chris Lichty – Senior 4-H Extension Agent, Pastor McClain – Randolph Avenue United Methodist Church, Sonya Jennings – 4-H Adult Leader, and Destiny Moran – 4-H Teen Leader. Picture courtesy of Marva Hickman, Randolph Avenue United Methodist Church.



Pulaski County 4-H delivered 15 Christmas Dinner Baskets to New River Valley Community Services. L to R: Cynthia Hurst – 4-H Program Assistant, Lindsey Riddle – 4-H Teen Leader, Donny Riddle – 4-H Adult Leader, Sonya Jennings – 4-H Adult Leader and Chris Lichty – Senior 4-H Extension Agent. Picture courtesy of Mike Wade – New River Valley Community Services.

4-H makes Christmas brighter for 36 families in Pulaski Co.

Submitted by Chris Lichty, Senior 4-H Extension Agent, Pulaski County

Thanks to the gracious community support from local businesses, 4-H'ers and families and individuals, Pulaski County 4-H in conjunction with the Virginia Cooperative Extension – Pulaski Office, created 36 Christmas Dinner Baskets for families with children as identified by Pulaski County Department of Social Services – working with the T.G. Howard Community Center and Randolph Avenue United Methodist Church, New River Valley Community Services and Pulaski County 4-H. Each basket was filled with a spiral ham along with many other dinner items as well as some breakfast and lunch items. What started as a 4-H Service Project helping one family 12 years ago

for Thanksgiving, has grown into a wonderful 4-H Service Project that has served well over 122 families now for Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners. Thank you to all of our amazing supporters, and Kroger – Fairlawn, for all your help organizing the mass ordering and packaging of items for easy pick-up. And kudos to our Christmas Dinner shoppers Judie Willis, 4-H Adult Leader, and Destiny Moran, 4-H Teen Leader. Thanks also to the group of elves, Sonya Jennings – 4-H Adult Leader, Donny Riddle – 4-H Adult Leader, Lindsey Riddle – 4-H Teen Leader, Cynthia Hurst – 4-H Program, and Chris Lichty – Senior 4-H Extension Agent, for shutting everything and helping sort all the baskets. Pulaski County is...Coming Together, Working Together, To Make The Best Better.

ACCE Program gains \$50,000 grant

From NRCC

New River Community College Educational Foundation was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from the American Electric Power Foundation to support students in the New River Valley. The funds will support NRCC Educational Foundation's Access to Community College Education (ACCE) Program and will serve students from Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski counties and the City of Radford. "ACCE has become a cornerstone of support for higher education and economic growth in our region," said Angie Covey, Executive Director of the NRCC Educational Foundation. "We are so grateful for the continued

generous support of businesses like AEP who find great value in helping our local students get the education and training they need, without the debt they don't." ACCE is an economic development public/private partnership that makes college available debt-free to high school and home-schooled graduates by funding NRCC tuition for two years, making college within reach for students in the New River Valley. With the support of ACCE, students graduate from NRCC prepared to join the workforce or transfer to a four-year university without college debt. ACCE supports as many students as possible based on student need and funds available for the program. While participating in ACCE, students complete at least 80 hours of volunteer service an-

nually in the New River Valley. The American Electric Power Foundation strives to improve the quality of life for people in the communities where AEP and its operating units serve and where AEP employees live and work. **Call Us For Your Advertising Needs. 540-808-3949**

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JULIAN MILTON AKERS

Julian Milton Akers, age 76 of Pulaski passed away Tuesday, January 5, 2020 at his home. Born June 28, 1944 in Wytheville he was the son of the late John Bramlet Aker and Mary Bralley Aker. His brothers, Roy Bramlet Aker and Randolph Mitchell Aker also preceded him in death. He was a veteran of the United States Army, having served in Vietnam.

He is survived by his
Wife – Dorothy Collins Akers – Pulaski

Children – Lloyd Milton (Jennifer) Akers – Pulaski, Sheri Diane Akers – Dublin

Stepsons - Jeffrey Wayne Roberson – Pompano Beach, FL, Johnny Michael Roberson – Pulaski, Robert (Melissa) Haven Carr – Danville

Grandchildren - Michael Lee Roberson, Robert Zachary Carr, Lauren Elizabeth Akers, Arianna Nicole Akers and Jordan Paige Carr

Brothers - John Lucian (Janet) Aker – Draper, Otis Neal Aker – Wytheville, Rudolph Michael (Vicky) Aker – Wytheville, Timothy Bruce (Susie) Aker – Wytheville

Sister – Ethel Buckhout – Wytheville

Funeral services will be held 2:00 PM – Friday, January 8, 2021 at the Bower Funeral Home-Chapel, Pulaski with Rev. Teresa Tolbert officiating. Private interment will follow at the Thornspring UMC Cemetery.

The family will receive friends one hour before service time Friday at the Funeral Home. To sign Julian's online guestbook, please visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com

In lieu of flowers the family suggest memorials be made to the Covenant House www.covenanthouse.org Bower Funeral Homes, Pulaski is handling the arrangements for the family.



CHRISTINE LUCAS O'NEIL MABE

Christine Lucas O'Neil Mabe, age 85 of Bedford passed away Sunday, January 3, 2021 at the Bedford County Nursing Home. Born December 11, 1935 in Radford, Virginia she was the daughter of the late Bentley Lucas and Alice Parrish Lucas. Her husband, Donald LeRoy Mabe (2016) also preceded her in death.

She is survived by her
Daughters – Robin O'Neil (Gary) Tickle – Christiansburg, VA, Tammy (Kurt) Venables – Bedford, VA

Grandchildren – Gage Tickle, Kate Tickle, Samantha Venables and Blaine Venables

Stepson – Wayne (Cindy) Mabe with numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren – Pulaski

Graveside services will be held 11:00 AM – Thursday, January 7, 2021 at the Highland Memory Gardens, Dublin with Pastor Dwight Haynes. The family will receive friends at the Bower Funeral Home-Chapel, Pulaski from 10:00 AM till leaving in procession to the cemetery @ 10:40 AM. To sign Christine's online guestbook, please visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com

Bower Funeral Homes, Pulaski is handling the arrangements for the family.



DELPHIA LUCILLE RIGNEY GOAD

Delphia Lucille Rigney Goad, age 85, a lifelong resident of Pulaski, passed away Saturday, January 2, 2021. She was born on July 7, 1935, to the late Mary Warden Rigney and George Monroe Rigney. Delphia was a member of the Dora Highway Baptist Church in Pulaski.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sisters: Sophia Rigney Lane, Alpha Rigney Bolt, and Mary Rigney Whorley, and a nephew; Jeffrey Lane.

She is survived by a son: Clifford Elray Goad (Kim) of Newport; grandchildren: Scott Goad (Elisha), Bradley Goad, and Dani McCoy (Chris); and Great Grandchildren: Riley, Arabella, Will, Kimmie, Mariah, and Daisy. Also survived by a special brother-in-law Windell Bolt, niece Tammy Rivers, nephews Randall Bolt and James Lane, and her former husband Linford Goad.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions in her memory to a charity of your choice. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.seaglefuneralhome.com

Arrangements by Seagle Funeral Home, Pulaski.



VERA ILENE NESTER DALTON

Vera Ilene Nester Dalton, age 91 of Dublin passed away at her home in Dublin, Virginia after a lengthy illness on Wednesday, December 30, 2020.

Vera was born in Dugspur, Virginia on April 16, 1929 to the late Delmon Lee and Lenora Ettra Moore Nester. She was also preceded in death by her husband of 34 years, Norman Conrad Dalton; five brothers, Archie R., Carlos S., Cody W., Roy H., and J. Hasten Nester; four sisters, Nancy N. Worrell, Laura N. Worrell, Elva N. Webb, and Sylvia N. Goad Banks; and son-in-law, R. Bruce Cauthen.

She is survived by her
Daughter – Sandra Lynne Dalton Cauthen – Radford

Sister – Florence N. McPeak – Dugspur

Sister-in-law – Imogene Goad Nester – Dugspur

Numerous nieces and nephews
Special Friend – Gloria Hale

Funeral services will be held 2:00 PM – Monday, January 4, 2020 at the Bower Funeral Home-Chapel, Pulaski with Elder Don Singleton officiating. Interment will follow at the Highland Memory Gardens, Dublin.

The family will receive friends one hour before service time Monday at the funeral home. Please wear face coverings and practice social distancing.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests the donations be made to the American Lung Association, American Cancer Society or Pulaski County Humane Society.

The family would like to express special thanks to her caretakers, Sharleen Woodyard and Valerie Sellers and Carilion Hospice.

To sign Vera's online guestbook, please visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com

Bower Funeral Homes, Pulaski is handling the arrangements for the family.



DAVID DYER PEAK

David Dyer Peak, age 89 of Pulaski passed away Thursday evening December 31, 2020 at his home. Born May 2, 1931 in Draper, Virginia he was the son of the late Melvin Claude Peak and Ellen Akers Peak. His wife, Ellen Marie Dalton Peak, stepdaughter, Louise Alderman, stepson, William Dalton, granddaughter, Donna Alderman, grandson, Duce Hancock, 7 sisters and 5 brothers also preceded him in death.

David retired from Pulaski Furniture where he worked for 33 years.

He is survived by his
Stepdaughter – Effie (Mark) Hancock – Deltaville, VA

Stepdaughter-in-law – Love-lene Dalton – Pulaski

Stepson-in-law – Everett Alderman – Barren Springs

Grandchildren – Billy (Kim) Dalton, Kim (Stacy) Cregger, Mark (Hope) Dalton

Six Great Grandchildren
Special Friends – Dottie and John Lewis

Graveside funeral services will be held 11:00 AM – Monday, January 4, 2021 at the Memorial Christian Church, Cemetery (Draper) with Pastor Richie Goad officiating. To sign David's online guestbook, please visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com

Bower Funeral Homes, Pulaski is handling the arrangements for the family.

WILBUR DANIEL ROOPE

Wilbur Daniel Roope, 78, of Pulaski died Wednesday morning, December 30, 2020 in the LewisGale Hospital Pulaski. He was born in Lexington, NC and was the son of the late Wilbur Charles Roope and Mary King Roope. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Mary Jane Burris. Mr. Roope was a retired security guard with Volvo Trucking.

Surviving are:

Wife – Nancy Minnick Roope
Son – Terry Carter

Brother and Sister-In-Law – Larry & Patsy Roope

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements by Stevens Funeral Home, Pulaski, VA.

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The Patriot

More
Obituaries
on
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JUDITH "JUDI" CREMEANS SHAVER

Judith "Judi" Cremeans Shaver, 71, of Pulaski, Va., passed away Wednesday, December 30, 2020.

The Shaver family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com

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ALTON EUGENE HAWKS
Alton Eugene Hawks, age 80 of Dublin passed away Thursday, December 31, 2020 at the Lewis-Gale Hospital, Pulaski. Born April 13, 1940 in Carroll County he was the son of the late Troy Washington Hawks and Zella Ruth Harriman Hawks. His brother, James "Jimmy" Hawks and sister, Hallie Delp also preceded him in death.

Alton loved to hunt, fish, trap and travel. Beloved father to his daughters whom he loved very much. He was retired from Hercules with 35 years of service and was a veteran of the United States Army and an avid Civil War buff.

He is survived by his Daughters
Sherry (Kenneth) Tabor – Dublin
Melissa (Frank) Bibb – Max Meadows
8 Great Grandchildren and 5 Great- Great Grandchildren
Sisters
Shirley Nichols – Galax
Kay (Stan) Bennett – Galax
Pat Criner – Galax
Brother-in-law – Gay Delp
Special Nephew – Chad Austin and sons, William and John
Special Nieces – Vicki Delp, Sara and Kara Criner and Diann Delp

Memorial services will be held 10:00 AM – Tuesday, January 5, 2020 at the Southwest Virginia Veteran's Cemetery, Dublin where he will receive full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be sent to the Wounded Warrior Project.

To sign Alton's online guestbook, please visit www.bower-funeralhome.com

Bower Funeral Homes, Pulaski is handling the arrangements for the family.

The Patriot
540-808-3949



ELLEN "ANN" STAFFORD SHOMAKER

Ellen "Ann" Stafford Shomaker, age 90, died Tuesday, January 5, 2021 in Hickory, NC.

Born March 25, 1930 in Pulaski, Virginia, she was the daughter of the late Roy E. Stafford and Sarah Bryant Stafford.

Ellen was a bright, kind, and gentle soul. She had a career with AT&T/Lucent Technologies supervising digital voice telecommunications operations for more than 30 years. She was an active member and deacon of First Christian Church in Pulaski, Va.

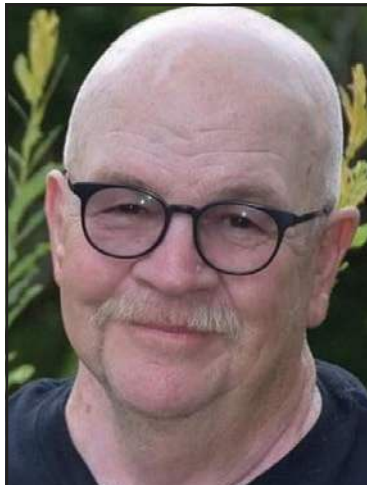
In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her husband, Bill Shomaker; brother Charles "Cannonball" Stafford and sister Crystal "Peggy" Stafford.

She is survived by her daughter and son in law Debbie and Sandy Holston of Hickory NC; granddaughter, Lauren and husband Shaun Cline and their children, Monroe and Palmer of Mooresville NC; granddaughter, Noel and husband Kyle Craver of Tucson AZ.

Also surviving are her nephews, Steve, David and Keith Stafford and Perry Via. Additionally, there are eleven of her husband's surviving nieces and nephews whom she loved.

In light of the pandemic there will be a graveside service on Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 2:00pm in Oakwood Cemetery, Pulaski Va. with Dr. John Dunstan officiating. There will be no formal visitation, however for anyone that would like to pay their respects for Mrs. Shomaker at the funeral home, they may do so on Sunday from 11:30 until 12:00 Noon. Jenkins Funeral Home in Hickory NC and Stevens Funeral Home in Pulaski Va. are serving the family.

The family understands that some folks may be reluctant to attend the service and they ask those who do come to abide by the rules set by the CDC i.e., wear a mask and maintain a social distance of 6 feet.



MARVIN LEE TAYLOR, JR.

Marvin Lee Taylor, Jr. 68 of Allisonia, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at his home. Mr. Taylor was born in Radford, Virginia to the late Marvin Lee Taylor, Sr. and Edith Mae Morris Taylor Wilson.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia Horton Taylor of the home; daughter, Jamie Leann Seagle (Jeremiah) and grandson, Grady Seagle all of Riner, daughter Trista Blair Trail (Kevin) and grandson, Jaxson Trail all of Pulaski; and brothers, Gary Taylor and Randy Taylor both of Allisonia.

A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Farris Mines Christian Church in Allisonia. A guestbook is available online by visiting www.vaughanguynnandmcgrady.com. Vaughan-Guynn-McGrady Chapel is serving the family.

GENE RICHARD "RICHIE" DEEDS, JR.

Gene Richard "Richie" Deeds, Jr., 55, of Fairlawn passed away on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. The Deeds family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com



ELIZABETH HOBACK ANDERSON

Elizabeth Hoback Anderson, 75, of Pulaski, VA died Tuesday morning, January 5, 2021 at her home. She was born in Pulaski on July 12, 1945 and was the daughter of the late Theodore Roosevelt Hoback and Mary Elizabeth Hoback. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Clifton Elton Anderson and by a son, Elton Eugene "Gene" Anderson.

Mrs. Anderson was a retired security guard with Volvo Trucking and a member of Thornspring United Methodist Church, Pulaski.

Surviving are:
Daughter & Son-In-Law – Angie & Frankie Poole
Grandson – Chase Duncan
Great-Grandchildren – Hunter Duncan
Austin Duncan
Briana Duncan
Sisters – Shirley Henley
Kathy Donathan
Brother – Theodore Hoback

A graveside service will be held Saturday, January 9, 2021 at 2:00 PM from the Thornspring Cemetery with Rev. Teresa Tolbert officiating. In lieu of flowers the family wishes memorials be made to the Thornspring United Methodist Church.

Arrangements by Stevens Funeral Home, Pulaski, VA.

JAMES GARFIELD "PEACH FUZZ" MANNS III

James Garfield "Peach Fuzz" Manns III has received his new body. His old one was taken due to complications of Covid-19 on January 1, 2021 at Lewis Gale Hospital, Pulaski. Born February 15, 1952 to the late James G. "Jimbo" Manns and Eliza Lewis Charlton, he was also preceded in death by his grandparents, James G. and Hattie Manns Sr. and Ray and Regina Lewis.

He was a graduate of Dublin High School 1971, received an honorable discharge from the United States Army after a brief enlistment and retired from RAAP (currently known as BAE Systems) with 30 years of service.

Before his illness, he was an avid gardener and continued to raise and breed rabbits.

Upon retirement, he became a daily fixture at the BP Express Stop in Pulaski. He especially enjoyed his morning coffee and chat time to keep up on events. It became his 2nd home and family. Thank you to Mary and her crew for all the kindness and friendship he was shown. "Peach" truly enjoyed the time he spent with you all.

James is survived by his wife of 47 years, Juanita Crosby Manns of Pulaski; daughter, Stacie Nelson of Radford; brothers, Chester Ray (Judy) Manns, and Peter Dominic Manns, all of New River; sisters, Gerri Ann (James) Anderson of Queens, N.Y., Jodie (Charles) Neal of Mitchellville, Md., Tricia Manns of Pulaski, and Dana (Raymond) Dowe of Christiansburg; brother-in-law, John C. Crosby of Charlotte, N.C.; sister-in-law, Robin Crosby (Pam) Brown of Fayetteville, N.C. He was fondly considered to be "Big Brother" to Natalie Manns Taylor and Ava Manns Pope of Greensboro, N.C. He is also survived by numerous uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

With the current restrictions due to the coronavirus, a memorial service will be announced at a later date.

The Manns family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com

Increase in COVID cases prompts Al's On First to close temporarily

Popular Pulaski restaurant Al's On First says it is has closed for now due to COVID-19.

A statement on their website says:

"Due to the recent increase of COVID-19 throughout our area, and for the safety of our guests and staff, Al's on First will remain closed until further notice. We thank you for your patronage and we appreciate your understanding. We look forward to serving you soon!"

According to the New River Valley Public Health Task Force's

COVID-19 update, released today, Pulaski County has reported 1,634 cases of the virus since March.

A month ago, on Dec. 4, Pulaski County reported 772 cases. Since March, 75 Pulaski Countians have been hospitalized and 34 deaths have been re-reported, according to the Task Force.

PULSE

January 12

Sons of Confederate Veterans

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet on Tuesday, January 12, 7pm at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Road. Jonathan McPeak will present the "History of the 24th Virginia Infantry Regiment". Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are also invited to attend.

For further information, please call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

January 25

Good Neighbor Club

The Good Neighbor Club will not meet this month. Plans are to have a meeting on Jan. 25, 2021

at 5 p.m. at Anderson Memorial Presbyterian Church.

On going:

Alcohol Anonymous meet Mondays at 8 p.m. (closed meeting); Wednesday (noon) and Thursday at 8 p.m. (open meetings) at Pulaski Presbyterian Church of America located at 975 Memorial Drive. Contact number is 540-440-0066. Note: At present time masks are required and social distancing observed.

The Radford Clothing Bank is open by appointment only. To qualify for free clothing, you must receive Medicaid or SNAP (Food Stamps). Call the Clothing Bank at 633-5050, Monday – Saturday, from 10 a.m. – 12 a.m. to make an

appointment. Hours for shopping are Thursday, Friday, Saturday, from 10 a.m. – 12 a.m. and Thursday from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. The Clothing Bank is located at 2000 West St., Radford, Va. Donations of clothing, shoes, purses, and linens are being accepted.

Give your family peace of mind.

By preplanning and prefunding your funeral you can ease the burden on your loved ones and choose how you would like your life celebrated and how you want to be remembered.

For a no-obligation explanation, contact:



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415 Jefferson Ave N
Pulaski, VA 24301
Todd Bruce, Manager/Owner
(540) 980-1700
tbruce.seagles@gmail.com
www.seaglefuneralhome.com

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Ashley Williams



Doug Futrell

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Nails By Michelle
Pulaski Va

Operation Warp Speed: A Success Story of 2020

The year 2020 was a difficult one, but as the year draws to a close, I want to highlight something about the year that went right.

Operation Warp Speed accomplished what had been considered nearly impossible: the development, manufacture, and distribution of a safe and effective vaccine to combat COVID-19.

President Trump announced Operation Warp Speed in May. His Administration recognized that meeting the challenge posed by the coronavirus pandemic would require the investment of Federal Government resources, partnership between the public, private, and scientific sectors, and cutting red tape that would impede delivery of a safe and effective vaccine.

This effort was supported by almost \$10 billion in funding included in the CARES Act passed by Congress with my support.

The project focused on six vaccine candidates. Seven months after Operation Warp Speed was launched and less than one year after COVID-19 began spreading widely around the globe, two vaccine candidates were approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use.



Morgan Griffith

9th District Representative

On December 11, the FDA approved for emergency use the first vaccine created by Pfizer. After clinical trials including over 43,000 participants, the vaccine was found to be 95 percent effective.

A vaccine developed by Moderna was subsequently approved for emergency use on December 18. Thirty thousand people participated in its clinical trials, and its efficacy rate is 94.5 percent.

These vaccines are the fastest ever produced for a novel pathogen. In fact, the average development timeline for a vaccine is eight to twelve years. Operation Warp Speed reduced the time needed by maximizing the number of participants in Phase 3 trials and manufacturing vaccine doses while waiting for the FDA's emergency use authorization order.

While bureaucratic hurdles were lowered, the vaccine development process did not skimp on safety.

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over health matters, I was briefed repeatedly throughout the process or involved in hearings featuring public health officials at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, and the FDA, as well as the vaccine manufacturers. I am confident that they maintained high safety standards as they pursued a vaccine.

While the vaccines were under development, the Trump Administration planned ahead for their delivery and administration to Americans. It purchased millions of doses of the prospective vaccines and made agreements with pharmacies that would be able to vaccinate people.

While enough vaccine doses will be manufactured to cover most of the population, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended the priorities for vaccination while supplies remain limited. It suggested health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities be first in line, followed by older adults and frontline essential workers, all groups with a higher susceptibility to the coronavirus than other parts of the population.

The vaccines are broadly safe, but caution is appropriate for people with allergic reactions and certain other conditions. The CDC recommends that you talk to your doctor if you have had a severe allergic reaction to other vaccines or injectable therapies to determine if a COVID vaccine is a safe decision for you. Further, if you have had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient in a COVID vaccine, the CDC recommends not getting that vaccine.

I also believe that vaccinations should not be mandatory. This would be true particularly for people who object to taking it due to their religious principles or as a matter of conscience. I also reject the idea of individuals being required to carry around a vaccination certificate, which is too close to the identification papers of highly restricted societies for my comfort.

Operation Warp Speed is just one component of the Federal Government's efforts to combat the coronavirus. Other therapeutics and treatments have also been developed at a rapid pace and are also being deployed as the pandemic still inflicts widespread sickness.

The United States has long excelled at scientific innovation, but even among our country's long list of achievements, from the light bulb to the first manned landing on the Moon, Operation Warp Speed stands out – for its scale, speed, safety, and ultimately lives saved. Amid all the bad news of 2020, this accomplishment is one worth praising.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. You can call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405 or my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671. To reach my office via email, please visit my website at www.morgangriffith.house.gov. Also on my website is the latest material from my office, including information on votes recently taken on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Political Debacle

"Tonight, while I was in Missouri, Antifa scumbags came to our place in DC and threatened my wife and newborn daughter, who can't travel. They screamed threats through bullhorns, vandalized, and tried to pound open our door. Let me be clear: My family & I will not be intimidated by leftwing violence."

- Josh Hawley, R-MO

Note: Hawley is the first U.S. Senator who broke from the established Republican party and stated he would not approve the 2020 Presidential election until Congress had an opportunity to view the evidence of election fraud.

Did any of you have an older brother or sister while you were growing up? If so, do you remember wanting to be included in the games your sibling and their friends were playing? Sometimes they would include you just to play a trick on you, like changing the rules so you couldn't possibly win. They would laugh at your frustration and then tell you to get out of their faces.

This is how millions of Americans feel about our current political debacle! They feel disenfranchised by perceived election fraud, abandoned by the judicial system, and deceived and misled by the media who are supposed to report the news – not manipulate it. They fear a potential shift from individual freedoms

One Nation Under God

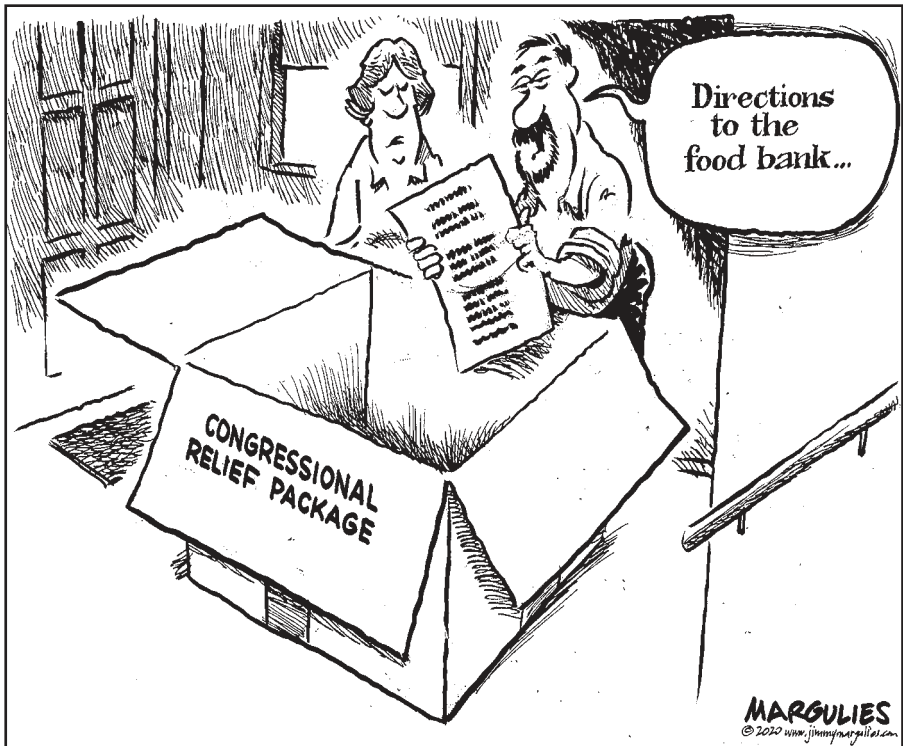
By Danielle Reid

given by God to imposed secular socialism which leads to tyranny.

Our founders were living under tyranny when they wrote the Declaration of Independence. They wanted to ensure their children and grandchildren would remain free and independent from tyrannical despots. To further ensure their freedoms, they laboriously wrote our Constitution, granting the power of government to "We the People." Our Constitution was so brilliantly designed that it has faithfully served American citizens for 234 years, while other nations have had multiple constitutions and governments.

According to Senate.gov The United State Constitution was written in 1787, ratified in 1788, and in operation since 1789. Our Constitution is the world's longest surviving written charter of government. Its first three words — "We the People" — affirm that the government of the United States exists to serve its citizens.

See NATION, page A7



The New 'Know-Nothing' Party

By Cal Thomas
Tribune Content Agency

House Democrats keep coming up with ideas that are bound to sink their already low approval ratings to new depths, possibly giving Republicans a majority in the 2022 election.

A representative body that has been unwilling to fix problems confronting the country has come up with a new set of rules for the 117th Congress that defy logic and further diminishes the value of humankind. I would have said mankind but Speaker Nancy Pelosi's new House rules package, in an effort to "honor all gender identities," will now use pronouns and familial relationships that are "gender neutral." This sounds a lot like a modern version of George Orwell's "Newspeak," which Orwell defined as an effort by his fictional totalitarian regime to limit vocabulary so as "to diminish the range of thought." Apparently, this works for House Democrats.

In their unrelenting effort to be "inclusive," the new Democrat rules, promoted by Pelosi, do away with terms such as "man," "woman," "mother," "son," and "daughter." They'd better ban the Bible, too, which includes these words. Genesis tells of how God made "Man" in His image, "male and female." How behind the times was He? The old words, writes Townhall, "will be swapped by words such as "parent, child, sibling, spouse, etc." Henceforth, there will be no more use of terms such as "aunt, uncle, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law."

Shouldn't House Democrats also remove "In God We Trust" from the wall behind the speaker's chair and from our money, too? Atheists don't believe in God. Doesn't inclusion demand their beliefs also be respected?

The House restrooms are bound to be next, along with doing away with gender-specific changing rooms in the House gym. How comfortable will a female member or staffer be when she (oops, sorry again for that pronoun) walks into a restroom and finds several people formerly called men already there? The House leadership doesn't have to worry about such

encounters. They have their own restrooms. It's another instance where leadership imposes rules on others without having to impose any on themselves.

What will Rear Adm. Margaret Grun Kibben, the newly installed female House chaplain, be required to say under these new rules? Instead of praying to "Heavenly Father," perhaps to satisfy gender neutrality, will she have to say, "to whom it may concern"?

A preview of what may be coming occurred last Sunday when Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO) delivered the opening prayer. As The Washington Times reported, Cleaver said: "'in the name of the monotheistic god,' then added what sounded like 'Brahma,' before finishing with 'and god known by many names by many different faiths. Amen and a-woman.'"

Cleaver's first name in Hebrew means "God with us." What were his parents thinking?

House GOP leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA.), mocked the inclusionary mandate as "stupid." Insane might be a more apt description.

The new rules package is 45 pages long. It also includes a promise to continue fighting COVID-19 and allows members to carry firearms at the Capitol (how did that one get through when President-elect Biden wants more gun laws?)

I can hear it now when the House Sergeant at Arms announces the arrival of the president for his (excuse me, "it's") State of the Union address. No more "Madam Speaker," or a future "Mr. Speaker," perhaps just "Speaker," followed by the person's name.

In the mid-19th century there was a political movement dubbed by critics as "The Know-Nothing Party." It would be a fitting title for today's House leadership and their ridiculous rules.

Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaditors@tribpub.com. Look for Cal Thomas' new book "America's Expiration Date: The Fall of Empires and Superpowers and the Future of the United States" (HarperCollins/Zondervan).



Rich Lowery

Editor, National Review

Behold, the Delivery Revolution

It's been a terrible year for the American worker, with a notable bright spot courtesy of one of the tech firms in the crosshairs of regulators and lawmakers.

If someone had said early in 2020, "A company is going to hire hundreds of thousands of non-college-educated workers during the pandemic at well above the minimum wage," you'd think there'd be huzzahs all around.

That's what the online retailer Amazon has done, but it still gets brickbats for how it pays and treats its workers. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez said the other day that Amazon jobs are a "scam."

If so, a swath of the American workforce is falling for the grift. Since July, the online retailer has hired 350,000 workers, and now employs 1.2 million people globally. This is a historic hiring binge. According to The New York Times, "the closest comparisons are the hiring that entire industries carried out in wartime, such as shipbuilding during the early years of World War II."

On top of this, the company provides work for roughly half a million truck drivers.

It overwhelmingly hires high school graduates. It doesn't ask for a resume, gives its workers about a day of training, and then puts them on the job in its fulfillment centers.

The difficulty of the work shouldn't be underestimated -- it is taxing, repetitive and highly regimented. Yet, we've long complained about losing assembly line jobs for non-college-educated workers. Amazon is hiring people for what is the 21st-century equivalent of such jobs.

Amazon began paying its workers \$15 an hour in 2018. If that rate rings a bell, it's the number for the federal minimum wage that Sen. Bernie Sanders and AOC have long been lobbying for, to little effect (it remains \$7.25 an hour).

It's hard to review what Amazon has done over the last year and consider it the work of a corporate monster. The company had an unlimited unpaid time off policy for its workers when the pandemic began.

It hired temporary workers to replace them and deal with the surge of business, then kept most of them on and began hiring on top of that.

It's been offering signing bonuses of up to \$3,000, and hiring in places in the country where no one else is.

According to the research of Michael Mandel at the center-left Progressive Policy Institute, Amazon fulfillment center jobs pay 31% more than retail jobs at brick-and-mortar stores, where pay has basically been stagnant for three decades.

Mandel points out that it's wrong to simplistically think of Amazon and other e-commerce outfits as replacing brick-and-mortar stores.

What they are really replacing is the labor that consumers undertake on their own to shop

See LOWRY, page A7

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Bissell: Vaccines light at end of long tunnel

From Virginia Tech

The COVID-19 vaccine is making its rounds across hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other health care settings in the New River Valley.

When it will be available to the wider community is hard to predict, said Noelle Bissell, health direc-tor of the New River Health District during a Wednesday virtual meeting with members of the news media.

Though the district is working on plans to administer the vaccine in a large-scale way, it must follow state and federal guidelines that direct the order in which different groups receive the vaccine.

“There is a light at the end of the tunnel, but it’s a long tunnel,” Bissell said, explaining that people must continue to be cautious and follow public health guidelines to prevent the spread of the coro-navirus, despite an exciting nationwide vaccine rollout.

The next group of people in line for COVID-19 vaccinations are those in phase 1B, which includes a large group of nonhealth care frontline workers and those 75 and older, she said.

In the meantime, the commu-

nity needs to remain patient.

“I am asking that people give each other a little bit of grace,” Bissell said. “It’s a very ambitious ef-fort, and there are multiple parallel avenues by which people are getting vaccinated. We are working through health care providers according to the guidance that’s been set.”

Long-term care facilities are receiving vaccines through CVS and Walgreens, and Bissell said there are efforts starting to involve other pharmacies in distribution once the vaccine is available to the wider public.

The health district received its first shipment of the Moderna vaccine on Dec. 23, while New River Valley hospitals received the Pfizer vaccine in mid-December.

Currently, hospitals are giving second doses of the vaccine, and in two weeks, Bissell said, the health district will administer its second dose of the Moderna vaccine.

Both vaccines are administered in two doses, taken approximately three to four weeks apart. People must receive the same vaccine for both doses.

Some who have received the second dose have reported having

side effects, but that is a positive sign that the immune system is working, Bissell said.

“That first dose is a primer of the immune system,” she said. “The second dose is when the immune system kicks in.”

Each vaccine vial contains 10 doses, and once the vial is opened, the vaccine must be administered within six hours because of cold temperature requirements. If there are people who do not show up for a scheduled vaccination appointment, there is a standby list of health care workers that the dis-trict will call, Bissell said.

During the virtual meeting, she

stressed the need for ongoing vigilance in following public health guidelines. The district continues to offer COVID-19 testing, and it has seen an increase in positive cases following the holiday season and compared to levels before Thanksgiving.

Also, she addressed decisions by Virginia Tech and Radford University to begin classes in mid-January, rather than delaying opening dates. Bissell said she does not expect to see the same large surge in COVID-19 cases when students return from the winter break as happened at the start of school in the fall. Largely,

college students have been following public health guidelines, she said.

Bissell reiterated that significant coronavirus transmissions in the district have not been linked to university or K-12 classroom settings. That’s because mitigation efforts, such as universal masking and physical distancing, are working, she said.

“Our community transmission right now is community members. It’s not our students,” Bissell said. “I do want to get away from blaming our students for bringing it [COVID-19] or exacerbating it.”

New laws go into effect

By TYLER ARNOLD

(The Center Square) – Several new laws went into effect in Virginia with the arrival of a new year, including stricter regulations on concealed carry permit classes, a ban on surprise medical billing and financial relief for insulin.

Virginia law requires people to obtain a concealed carry permit to carry a concealed weapon in the commonwealth and to complete a state-approved class before submitting the application. Under previous law, an applicant could satisfy the requirement with online classes, but a new law that went into effect Friday now mandates in-person classes before applying for a permit.

Lawmakers who supported the new law expressed concern that the old process was too quick and easy, but opponents said the new law will make the process more complicated. The Senate passed legislation that would have delayed the enactment of the new until May to avoid increasing difficulty during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the bill did not pass the House.

“This change in the law is solely an effort by the anti-gun crazies in Richmond to limit the right to carry and the ability to protect oneself,” Erich Pratt, the senior vice president of gun-rights organization Gun Owners of America, told The Center Square.

“They truly don’t care about gun safety,” Pratt said. “After all, fatal gun accidents have fallen almost 50 percent during this century. Gun owners are responsible and seek out training on their own. But this new law is all about setting up hurdles to discourage gun owners from carrying firearms.”

Virginia is a shall-issue state, which means the state must issue a license to any person who can legally possess it and fulfills the

state’s requirements. State authorities have no other discretion when granting the permits. A person must be at least 21 years old to obtain a permit. The commonwealth also is an open carry state, which means a person who can own a firearm legally can carry a weapon without a permit as long as it is visible and not concealed.

Another law that went into effect was the state’s ban on surprise medical billing. The new law will prohibit out-of-network medical providers from sending bills for more than their plans’ cost-sharing amounts, such as deductibles, coinsurance and copays. Medical providers and insurers will be required to resolve disputes on additional costs, and the insurer will have to pay a commercially reasonable amount to the medical provider.

Legislation that caps insulin copayments at \$50 per month also went into effect Friday.

Some legislation that was initially scheduled to go into effect Friday was delayed until later in the year, including a law to increase the state’s minimum wage, which was de-layed until May to prevent additional costs to busi-

nesses as they try to recover from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A bill that allows public-sector collective bargaining if a locality passes an ordinance permitting it also was delayed until May. The law is expected to raise costs for governments that approve collective bargaining.

Tyler Arnold reports on Virginia and West Virginia for The Center Square. He previously worked for the Cause of Action Institute and has been published in Business Insider, USA TODAY College, National Review Online and the Washington Free Beacon.

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*"... His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness."
Lamentations 3:22-23*



Nation

Continued from Page A6

So, how is our government effectively serving “We the People” when they allow our most sacred trust – our vote – to be invalidated on the altar of power and greed? The election of 2020 is no longer only about who will be the President for the next four years. It’s no longer about who will sit at the Congressional desk formerly occupied by John Adams or Thomas Jefferson or Frederick Muhlenberg, who by the way was a Lutheran minister and the first Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. (So much for the misinterpretation of “separation of church and state.”)

No, this election is an epic contest between upholding the U.S. Constitution and freedoms won by millions of Americans who gave their lives, fortunes and honor to secure our blessings; or whether America will abandon our Judeo-Christian foundations and the wisdom of our founders and follow other civilizations down the slippery slope of obscurity. It is demonstrative proof that we have lost our sense of decency, fairness, and collective

Lowry

Continued from Page A6

for goods -- driving to a store, walking up and down the aisles, making the selection, loading it, and taking it home. Someone making a purchase through Amazon essentially hires a network of workers to do all of that for him.

What Amazon, and e-commerce more broadly, is doing is selling goods to consumers at low prices, while giving them more convenience than ever before (rapid delivery to their doorsteps, with the possibility of easy returns) and creating new jobs in the process.

By all means, jawbone the company to treat workers better, but don’t lose sight of the scale of its achievement -- and how many Americans are employed because of it.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



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NRV manufacturers persevere through pandemic, sector outlook positive

By Onward New River Valley

New River Valley, VA – In September 2020, Onward New River Valley conducted a survey of manufacturing companies in Virginia’s New River Valley. The goal of the Industry Competitive-ness Survey was to better understand how local manufacturing companies were operating and adapting in the wake of COVID-19. The survey was intended to identify common challenges among local companies and expose best practices that would support the overall competitiveness and continued growth of the local manufacturing industry.

Survey responses were collected during a two-week period in September 2020. The survey was sent to 35 manufacturers in Virginia’s New River Valley (NRV) with 48% responding. The survey results, along with individual interviews, revealed several insights about the manufacturing industry in the region; these insights are described below.

Operating Status

Overall, manufacturers in the NRV have persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic with varying impacts on their operations. The vast majority (76%) of respondents reported operating at or above pre-pandemic capacity, while 24% indicated operating at about half capacity. Roughly half of re-spondents indicated a decrease in their sales pipeline (43%) and overall revenue (52%).

Survey respondents seemed to signal that their supply chains had only been moderately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Less than one-third of respondents reported increased costs for either inputs/raw materials (29%) or freight (27%). Almost half of respondents reported experiencing an increase in supplier lead times (48%) and a reduction in the availability of inputs/raw materials (43%).

However, these changes in the supply chain do not seem to be affecting production levels for NRV manufacturers. Two-thirds (66%) of respondents reported stable or increasing production levels.

Employment

Employment through manufacturing companies in the NRV has remained mostly stable during the pandemic. The majority (62%) of respondents said their number of employees remained the same or increased since the beginning of the pandemic. Of the 38% of respondents that reported a reduction in employees since the beginning of the pandemic, the majority (63%) anticipated rehiring eliminated positions within a year of the survey date.

Over half (62%) of respondents reported having unfilled job openings. The types of unfilled positions varied among respondents, but a need for both production workers and engineers was a consistent theme. There is clearly a continuing need for talent recruitment and retention efforts across the manufacturing industry in NRV.

Health & Safety Concerns

In late September, over three-fourths of respondents indicated that at least 90% of their employees were physically working on-site. With most employees in the NRV manufacturing industry working in person amid the pandemic, it is no surprise that a large majority (81%) of respondents reported that health and safety was one of their current top three concerns for their business. Manufacturers have devoted significant

attention to implementing new public health policies and technologies to keep their employees safe and their operations running during the pandemic.

NRV manufacturers have increased the number of employees that are working remotely to help mitigate these health and safety concerns. Pre-pandemic, only one respondent (5) reported having more than 5% of their employees working remotely, which increased to 62% of respondents by late September. This increase in remote work for some employees could be designed to offset the increased needs for physical space to comply with regulations and distancing requirements. One survey respondent stated that “physical distancing mandates are only feasible with a partial remote workforce.”

Overall Industry Outlook

Manufacturing leaders signaled an overall positive outlook for the coming year. Almost three-fourths (71%) of respondents anticipated that the remaining duration of COVID-19 impacts on their business would resolve within one year from the survey date.

Respondents were asked to give their overall outlook on the status of their company over the next 6-12 months. The vast majority

(90%) of respondents reported that they had a steady or positive outlook for their company during that time period.

Leaders were also asked to forecast how many employees they anticipated having within six months to one year. Almost two-thirds (62%) of respondents expected a modest or significant increase in employment levels within a year, with no one anticipating a reduction in employees.

Virginia’s New River Valley: Virginia’s New River Valley is an eclectic mix of interconnected small towns that each offer their own unique vibe and appeal. The region provides an abundance of cultural and social offerings due to the presence of three world-class universities, while retaining the charm and benefits of small town living. The NRV is home to a diverse and innovative business community with companies that range from high-tech startups to foreign-based corporations to specialty agribusiness. These organizations benefit from the collaborative spirit of our region and a loyal, highly-skilled, and educated workforce. The scenic beauty of the region also fosters a deep connection to nature, which is deepened by access to outdoor recreation and the preservation of our natural environment.

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Winter storm safety

Kim Butterfield, MPH

Family and Consumer Science Agent, Roanoke/Salem

With the roughest months of winter ahead, now is the times to think about winter storm prepared-ness. There’s more to being prepared than your typical stop for milk and bread. To be truly prepared, you’ll need several important items in an easily accessible location.

According to the National Weather Service, your primary concerns at home or work during a winter storm are loss of heat, power and telephone service and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day. You should also review generator safety instructions, if you have one, and make sure your carbon dioxide and fire detectors are in working order.

Key item to have on hand, at home and in the workplace, include:

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and portable radio to receive emergency information
- Extra food and water such as dried fruit, nuts and granola bars and other food requiring no cooking or refrigeration.
- Extra prescription medicine
- Baby items such as diapers and formula
- First-aid supplies
- Heating fuel: refuel before you are empty; fuel carriers may not reach you for days after a winter storm
- Emergency heat source: fireplace, wood stove or space heater, properly ventilated to prevent a fire
- Fire extinguisher, smoke alarm; test smoke alarms once a month to ensure they work properly
- Extra pet food and warm shelter for pets

With these few simple steps, you can feel confident that you and your family will have the things you could need should a winter storm emergency occur.

Burcham named to President’s List at Bob Jones University

GREENVILLE, S.C. -- Rose Burcham, a Sophomore English major from Pulaski, was among approximately 600 Bob Jones University students named to the Fall 2020 President’s List.

The President’s List recognizes students who earn a 3.75 or higher grade point average for the semester.

Located in Greenville, South Carolina, Bob Jones University provides an outstanding regionally accredited Christian liberal arts education purposely designed to inspire a lifelong pursuit of learning, loving and leading.

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Lady Bobcats Roll

Laney Cline (40) shoots a jump shot during the first half of a game Wednesday evening against James River. Cline scored 17 points and Radford defeated James River 51-3. At right, Makenzie Page lays it in to score in the Bobcats' rout.



Brian Bishop/PC Patriot

No. 19 Hokies fall to Louisville

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — David Johnson felt relief as Louisville emerged with a tension-filled victory over No. 19 Virginia Tech.

Johnson scored 17 points, including a crucial free throw with five seconds left, and Louisville withstood a missed 3-point try at the buzzer, holding off No. 19 Virginia Tech 73-71 Wednesday night in a match-up of unbeaten Atlantic Coast Conference teams.

The Cardinals (8-1, 3-0) led 47-33 early in the second half before Tech closed within 72-71 on Keve Aluma's two free throws with 6.6 seconds left. Johnson was fouled on the ensuing in-bounds play and missed the second of two free throws, giving the Hokies (8-2, 2—1) a final chance. Tech quickly pushed the ball upcourt to Hunter Cattoor on the left side, but his long 3-point attempt bounced off the rim as time expired, allowing Louisville to escape with first place.

"I was thinking, do not foul, and someone's got to stop the ball," Johnson said of the final seconds. "He got the shot off, too close. We've got to work on things like that."

Said Virginia Tech Mike Young, "Johnson is a really good player and gave us a break missing that second foul down two. (Jalen) Cone was running in front of me, he came off a little rub action at the top with Keve (Aluma) not contested. He (Cattoor) missed the shot. Move on."

Johnson made 5 of 10 shots from the field and 5 of 6 from the line. Carlik Jones scored 17 points and Jae'Lyn Withers finished with 16 points and a career-high 12 rebounds for Louisville, which won its fourth consecutive game overall and 17th in a row against the Hokies.

This one was a lot harder than Cardinals coach Chris Mack wanted.

"We beat a really good team that I thought played well," he said. "Mike (Young) may disagree, but I thought they played well. They didn't lay an egg. I think we're growing up."

Cone made six 3-pointers on the way to 23 points and Nahiem Alleyne added 15 points for the Hokies, who had their four-game winning streak snapped.

DOUBLE THE FUN
Withers recorded his first career double-double and was on pace to top his career scoring high of 20 points, set against Prairie View A&M. He was 6 of 12 from the field with two steals and a block.

"Right off the tip, I was in attack mode," said Withers, who helped Louisville win the boards 37-30 and paint points 30-20. "It starts in practice, maybe from the initial drill or first play of the game. Just men-tally more in tune, I guess you could say."

POLL IMPLICATIONS
Virginia Tech rallied impressively, but might need to beat Notre Dame to avoid falling out of the rank-ings.

BIG PICTURE
The Hokies started quickly before soon having to catch up to Louisville's faster tempo on both ends. Tech started 1 of 11 in the second half before Cone's perimeter shooting helped close the gap. Shooting ultimately made the difference as the Hokies finished 9 of 30 from long range and shot 43% overall.

UP NEXT
Virginia Tech hosts Notre Dame on Sunday night in the first of two games in three days. No. 21 Duke visits on Tuesday. Louisville plays next Wednesday (Jan. 13) at Wake Forest after the ACC postponed Saturday's scheduled home game against Georgia Tech following positive tests and quarantining within the Yellow Jackets' program.

'Bama, OSU travel different paths to big game

(AP) - Alabama breezed through the regular season and college football's semifinals, surviving a solitary scare in the Southeastern Conference championship game to reach its expected destination.

Ohio State wasn't exactly a shoo-in with its abbreviated schedule but resoundingly proved it belonged in the College Football Playoffs with a semifinal thrashing of Clemson.

The Buckeyes and Crimson Tide traveled different paths to get to Monday's title game at Hard Rock Stadium in South Florida, but both had to navigate the challenges of a pandemic-altered season

"I know this has been a little bit of a trying year for a lot of folks," Nick Saban, the top-ranked Crimson Tide's coach, said Monday.

It's not a finale that could be taken for granted.

No. 3 Ohio State's odyssey included an abbreviated Big Ten season with three games canceled because of COVID-19 issues, including the Buckeyes' own outbreak.

"This team, this program, we persevered through so much," Ohio State running back Trey Sermon said Monday. "To have the opportunity to play on such a big stage, it means a lot to us."

"We've been through a lot. I mean, we fought to just play, and just to be able to get the job done, to make it to this level, it just means a lot to us."

The Tide (12-0) advanced with a 31-14 win over Notre Dame in the Rose Bowl, played in Arlington, Texas not southern California in yet another example of just how different this season has been.

Before that Alabama navigated 11 straight SEC games, including wins over three teams currently ranked among the top 11 before

facing Notre Dame.

The Tide also won the Iron Bowl against Auburn with offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian — who takes over the Texas Longhorns program following the game — running the show while Saban was sidelined by COVID-19.

In addition to Sarkisian's imminent departure, Alabama has to take care of some Heisman Trophy business while preparing for the matchup with Ohio State. Both wide receiver DeVonta Smith and quarterback Mac Jones are among the four Heisman finalists, along with quarterbacks Trevor Lawrence of Clemson and Kyle Trask of Florida.

Smith isn't interested in talking about the award being handed out virtually on Tues-day, saying his focus is on preparing for the Buckeyes.

"Right now I'm not really worried about the Heisman Trophy," he said.

Monday's game is a rematch of

a semifinal game in the first College Football Playoffs six years ago. Ohio State (7-0) won that meeting en route to the national title.

There were questions whether this Buckeyes team deserved to be in CFP, but Ohio State routed favored Clemson, erasing sentiments that another Tigers-Crimson Tide title showdown was all but inevitable.

If Smith shared those expectations, the Alabama wide receiver kept them to himself.

"I mean, I'm not part of the committee, so I have no say-so in who they put in and who they wanted to put in," Smith said. "At the end of the day, we just show up here, practice, and get ready for whoever the next opponent is."

The big question for Ohio State Monday was the health of quarterback Justin Fields, who took a vicious shot to the side in the first half against Clemson.

Buckeyes coach Ryan Day
See GAME, page B3

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Two antique washstands with pitcher and bowl, \$200; Curio Cabinet with dolls included, \$200; 180 Cookie Jars, \$30 each; Antique child's red wagon (56 yrs. old) \$50; Metal detector, \$50; Office refrigerator, 27 in. high, 17 in. wide, \$50; Antique white kitchen cabinet, \$200. Call 540-980-2943.

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LEGAL NOTICES**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Pulaski County Planning Commission will convene to review a Special Use Permit application and a 15.2-2232 Comprehensive Plan Review application for the same project. A Public Hearing will be held at 7PM on TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021 at the Pulaski County High School Auditorium, 5414 Cougar Trail Rd., Dublin, Virginia, 24084 to receive public comment about the project. The Planning Commission will consider the matter and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding this Special Use Permit application. The Board of Supervisors will make the final decision.

The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors will convene to review the same Special Use Permit application, host a Public Hearing to receive public comments and take action on the matter. The meeting will be held at 7PM on MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021, at the Pulaski County High School Auditorium, 5414 Cougar Trail Rd., Dublin, Virginia 24084.

The inclement weather date for both of these meetings is the Thursday following each meeting date, at the same location and time. In the event of inclement weather, visit pulaskicounty.org for information. The application under review is described below;

Project Applicant: Hecate Energy Pulaski LLC
Purpose: Special Use Permit to operate a Solar Farm Use in Agriculture Zone District
Property tax map numbers for the subject parcels: Forty (40) parcels under separate ownership (#026-1-9)(#026-2-1,2,4,5,7,7A,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,24,25)(#027-1-40)(#027-2-3)(#036-1-3A,9,10)(#036-2-20, 21, 22, 23) (#036-4-1)(#037-1-5,6,11,31,32)(#038-1-6)(#047-1-13)(#047-50-9,16)(#056-35-17,18,19,20,21)

The agenda items are available at the Board Docs platform which is available at <https://go.boarddocs.com/va/copva/Board.nsf/Public> and linked from the pulaskicounty.org home page. Please ensure that either the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors dropdown tab is chosen for the meeting you are interested in.

The public can request information and/or submit comments as part of the public hearing process. Send comments or questions to Elaine Holeton, Planning & Zoning Director E-mail: eholeton@pulaskicounty.org Phone: 540-980-7877 or 540-980-7710 Regular Mail: Planning & Zoning Department, County of Pulaski, 143 Third Street, NW, Suite 1, Pulaski, VA 24301. In Person: By attending the meetings at the location listed. For disabled individuals who may require special auxiliary aids or services, the County upon request will make reasonable accommodations available. Contact the County's ADA Compliance Officer at (540) 980-7800 (TDD accessible) or (540) 980-7705, ten (10) days prior to the above meeting date to arrange for these special accommodations.

COVID-19 Message: Pulaski County is committed to safely serving the public during this Covid-19 pandemic. In consideration of the public health guidelines, we encourage you to wear a mask, and maintain social distance at the meetings.

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NCAA to play all 67 March Madness men's games in Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)— The NCAA announced Monday that all 67 men's basketball tournament games including the Final Four will be played entirely in Indiana in a bid to keep the marquee event from being called off for a second consecutive year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Games will be played on two courts inside Lucas Oil Stadium as well as at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Hinkle Fieldhouse, Indiana Farmers Coliseum, Mackey Arena at Purdue and Assembly Hall in Bloomington. Only one game at a time will be played at Lucas Oil Stadium.

Championship weekend is still scheduled for April 3 and April 5 but preliminary round dates have not yet been determined.

Ball State, Butler, Indiana, IUPUI, Purdue and the Horizon League will co-host the tournament and NCAA officials say most games will be played in Indianapolis. The NCAA also will partner with a local health provider to administer COVID-19 testing for players, coaches, school administrators and officials.

CBS Sports and Turner Sports will continue to distribute all 67 games of the tournament across TBS, CBS, TNT and truTV and

their digital platforms.

The NCAA had said it intended to play the entire tourney in one locale and that Indianapolis, where the governing body is headquartered, would be the likely place. The Final Four had already been scheduled to take place at Lucas Oil Stadium in April.

Plus, there are dozens of hotels and restaurants within walking distance of multiple basketball venues with additional practice facilities and courts just a short drive away from downtown Indianapolis.

What's still to be determined is how many fans will be allowed inside the venues. NCAA officials said a limited number of family members of players and coaches could attend games but decisions about expanding attendance or conducting fan events will be announced later.

"The 2021 version of March Madness will be one to remember, if for no other reason than the uniqueness of the event," NCAA senior vice president of basketball Dan Gavitt said in a statement. "We are making the most of the circumstances the (COVID-19) global pandemic has presented. ... This is going to be complicated and difficult; there's no question about that."

To Trap Or Not



Woods, Water & Wildlife

W.A. "Doc" Davis

years would reel in a great fish and then release it.

When I was growing up, I made a little spending money into my teenage years. It did not cost too much to purchase some traps and other related needs. Today, traps and all other related expenses are a lot more than those bygone days. It would take a long period of time to break even if one did not already have these needs beforehand. Trapping done to-day as a hobby or on a part-time basis is not like the time when I was a lad on Little Creek. The environment has changed so much. There are more of the animals in abundance today versus the times back then. Animals such as muskrats, minks, skunks and foxes back then were sparse in numbers. Nowadays, you are may encounter the horrendous smell of one of them, i.e. the skunk along most highway dead as road kills.

Another animal that has upset the balance of nature is the wily coyote and the open sea-son on them. The catch in this is the

more of them you eliminate, the more so they repro-duce. This figures in the old proverbial term of the "Law of Supply and Demand." I was at a fur sale a few years ago at the Wytheville Stock Auction. A group of guys had several coy-ote hides and after running them through the auction process, would not sell them at the bided price hoping to do better at another market place.

Times have changed in that the fur market is in many ways a losing situation. The women fashions of today no longer see fur being worn in hats, coats etc., especially in America. Old movies from the roaring twenties up into the sixties depict ladies of class clad in mink, fox etc. Even racoon coats for men were the fad then but no longer.

I have touched on a few of the reasons I would not enjoy the art of trapping today, but there are those who may. To them, I wish them the best into this New Year of 2021.

To all reading this, there are not too many who wear as in days past. In the game of life, I recommend trusting in Christ to go with you in your daily life if you do not know Him. Then you should do as Ephesians 6:11KJV states, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Until next time

AP Poll: VT 19, UVa 22; Gonzaga No. 1

(AP) - Gonzaga and Baylor remained atop The Associated Press men's college basketball poll, while fourth-ranked Texas has climbed to its highest perch in nearly a decade.

Mark Few's Bulldogs earned 63 of 64 first-place votes in Mon-

day's latest Top 25, while Scott Drew's Bears earned the other vote. Gonzaga and Baylor have been 1-2 at the top in all seven polls so far this season.

Villanova climbed one spot to No. 3, followed by the Longhorns, who jumped four spots after handing Kansas a lopsided weekend home loss. That marked the program's highest ranking under sixth-year coach Shaka Smart and its first top-5 ranking since February 2011.

Iowa, Kansas, Creighton, Wis-

consin, Tennessee and Michigan rounded out the top 10, with the Wolverines climbing six spots for the biggest jump of the week. No. 11 Houston and No. 14 West Virginia slid out from that top tier from last week.

No. 19 Clemson was back in the poll for the second time this season, while the other new addition was St. Louis. The Billikens, tied with Michigan State at No. 23, made their first AP Top 25 appearance since the 2013-14

See POLL, page A8

Game

Continued from Page B1

didn't give details on the nature of provide any detailed up-dates Monday on the QB's injury but said: "I definitely expect him to play."

Here's a look at each team's path to the Monday's showdown: **ALABAMA**

Overview: Has mostly coasted into the title game with few challenges, outscoring opponents by an average of 48-19 points. The Tide ranks second nationally in scoring offense, behind only Kent State, fifth in scoring and sixth in total offense.

Best regular season win: While the win over No. 5 Texas A&M looms largest now, then-No. 2 Alabama rallied from a halftime deficit against third-ranked Georgia with 21 unanswered points in a 41-24 win.

Toughest hurdle: Florida. The Tide withstood a second-half

rally attempt to beat the Gators 52-46 in the SEC championship game. Najee Harris scored five touchdowns, three receiving and two rushing.

Best player: Smith has shattered Alabama and SEC receiving records with a season that has made him a leading Heisman Trophy candidate. Smith caught three touch-down passes against Notre Dame.

OHIO STATE

Overview: Like many teams, Ohio State faced major obstacles during the pandemic. First the Big Ten canceled fall football. After an about-face, an abbreviated scheduled led to questions about Ohio State's inclusion in the final four. The Buckeyes validated the decision, going up three touchdowns by halftime against Clemson in the semi-finals.

Best regular season win: 42-35

win over No. 7 Indiana, a victory that lost some of its luster after the Hoosiers fell to Mississippi in the Outback Bowl. The Buckeyes withstood a challenge after giving up two touchdowns early in the fourth quarter.

Toughest hurdle: The Buckeyes silenced the naysayers with a 49-28 win over Clemson and Lawrence.

Best Player: Fields looked like a Heisman contender much of the season, before a lackluster performance in the Big Ten championship game against Northwestern. Then he outshined Lawrence with an impressive, 22-of-28, 385-yard performance when he set a Sugar Bowl record with six touchdown passes.

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Richard Stuart
Owner/Manager

PH: 540.980.2563
Fax: 540.980.2634
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LEGAL NOTICES

PULASKI
WHERE YOUR NEW PATH BEGINS

Invitation to Bid
Emergency Generators
FEMA-DR-4401-VA-005

This report was funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, via Grant Agreement Number FEMA-DR-4401-VA-005 for \$103,530.

The Town of Pulaski (Owner) is requesting sealed bids for Special Services related to the installation of Emergency Generators. The contractor's license or certificate number must be printed on the outside of the sealed bid envelope. The project involves furnishing and installing emergency generators according to AEP peak demand as well as service entrance rated automatic transfer switches and all necessary conduit, cabling, and fasteners at the following water pump stations: Ridge Avenue (25 KW), Pierce Avenue (40KW), and Calfee (40KW). The Town Engineering Department will receive sealed bids at Pulaski Municipal Building, P.O. Box 660 / 42 First Street NW Room 223, Pulaski VA, 24301 until 2:00pm on January 29, 2021. Any bids or unsealed bids received after 2:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

The **Town of Pulaski** facilitate the participation of small businesses, businesses owned by women, minorities, service disabled veterans, and employment services organizations in Invitation to Bid transactions. No public body shall discriminate against a bidder or offeror because of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, status as a service disabled veteran, or any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment § 2.2-4310.

Upon request Owner will provide full scope of service and access to the point of destination and the site where Goods are to be installed or Special Services are to be provided so that the bidder may conduct such investigations, examinations, tests, and studies as Bidder deems necessary so that the Bidder may accurately submit bid. Such information shall be coordinated through the office of the Engineering Department, by contacting Nathan Smythers by phone at (540)994-8617 or by email at

A bid may be withdrawn in accordance with the Code of Virginia § 2.2-4330 by giving notice in writing of Bidder's claim of right to withdraw Bid within two business days after the conclusion of the bid opening procedure and submitting original work papers with such notice. The Buyer reserves the full unconditional right to waive irregularities and to reject any and all Bids.

Amber Waves

Comic strip by Dave T. Phipps. Characters: A boy building a snow fort, his father, and a friend. Dialogue: "MY SNOW FORT IS FINALLY STOCKED AND READY TO GO.", "MY OL' DAD WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT HIM, I MADE THESE SNOWBALLS PERFECTLY.", "OK, STOP!! I SURRENDER!! I SURRENDER ALREADY!!", "CAN SOMEONE TELL FATHER TO START ACTING HIS AGE?"

Out on a Limb

Comic strip by Gary Kopervas. A mayor presents a key fob to a family. Dialogue: "AS MAYOR, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME OUR DISTINGUISHED GUEST BY PRESENTING HIM WITH THE KEY FOB TO THE CITY..."

R.F.D.

Comic strip by Mike Marland. A man reflects on his New Year's resolution. Dialogue: "I USED THE SAME NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR YEARS: GO OUT AND GRAB LIFE BY THE HORNS!", "BUT AFTER THE YEAR WE'VE JUST HAD I'M LOWERING MY EXPECTATIONS.", "THIS YEAR I'M JUST GONNA GO WITH TRY NOT TO GET TRAMPLED BY THE STAMPEDE OF LIFE!"

The Spats

Comic strip by Jeff Pickering. A man reads a newspaper while his wife talks. Dialogue: "MY WIFE SAYS THAT I NEVER LISTEN TO HER.", "AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT SHE SAID."

Popeye comic strip. Dialogue: "POPEYE", "HEY CEFMAN", "AVAST DERE, Y' LUBBER!!", "AH... SEASON'S GREETINGS, OLD CHUM!", "WOT TH' IZZIT?", "I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIST IDEA!"

Popeye comic strip. Dialogue: "THE JOLLY SEASON ENDS ALL TOO SOON...", "I SEE YOU RECEIVED MY GIFT!", "YER DERN TOOTIN' I DID!", "I SENT YA A GIF 'CERTIFERGIT AN' Y' SENT ME THIS!"

Popeye comic strip. Dialogue: "BUT THE NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW HOPE!", "YES! ISN'T IT INTERESTING?", "I SENT YA A GIF 'CERTIFERGIT AN' Y' SENT ME THIS!"

Popeye comic strip. Dialogue: "WOT TH' IZZIT?", "I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIST IDEA!", "WHERE'D Y' BUY IT?", "I FOUND IT IN A DUMPSTER!"

Popeye comic strip. Dialogue: "I SENT YA A GIF 'CERTIFERGIT AN' Y' SENT ME THIS!", "YES! ISN'T IT INTERESTING?", "I SENT YA A GIF 'CERTIFERGIT AN' Y' SENT ME THIS!"

Popeye comic strip. Dialogue: "WHATEVER HAPPENED TO... IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS?"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

Comic strip by Dave T. Phipps. A dog and a cat talk. Dialogue: "YOU NEED TO APPRECIATE THE GRACE AND ELEGANCE OF FOOTBALL. THIS SPORT... WOW, DID YOU SEE THAT GUY'S LEG SNAP!!"

Comic strip by Bo Brannen. A man listens to a recording. Dialogue: "LAFF-A-DAY", "He's listening to a recording of our neighbor shoveling snow."

Perfume advertisement. Dialogue: "I don't think so. I have to be home by..."

SCRAMBLERS. Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

TODAY'S WORD. A box for the daily word.

by Dave T. Phipps

by Gary Kopervas

by Mike Marland

by Jeff Pickering

King Crossword

ACROSS and DOWN crossword clues. Includes a crossword grid and a list of answers.

top ten Most-Landed-On Monopoly Squares. List of squares: 1. Jail, 2. Illinois Ave., 3. New York Ave., 4. Go, 5. B&O Railroad, 6. Pennsylvania R.R., 7. Reading Railroad, 8. Tennessee Ave., 9. Kentucky Ave., 10. Free Parking.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 10 questions on U.S. Presidents, General Knowledge, Movies, Television, Science, Animal Kingdom, Geography, Food & Drink, Literature, and Measurements.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Answers to Trivia test. 1. Abraham Lincoln, 2. 0.2 ounces, 3. Nakatomi Plaza, 4. Boulder, Colorado, 5. Philosophy, 6. Jimmies, 7. Mount Fuji, 8. South America, 9. A.A. Milne, 10. One ten-billionth of a meter, used to measure very small distances.

CryptoQuip. A simple substitution cipher puzzle. Clue: K equals O.

Americanisms. "A year from now, you're gonna weigh more or less than what you do right now." — Dr. Phil McGraw.

SCRAMBLERS. Today's Word: ELEVEN. Clue: Today's Word.

Cryptoquip. When a cartoonist gives a character way too many details, one might call it overdrawn.

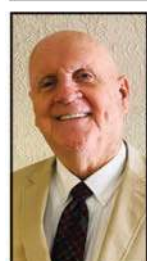
TUCK'S COLLISION. THANK YOU! To All The First Responders and Front Line Workers. A Direct Repair Facility • All Insurances Accepted! 1001 East Main Street, Pulaski, VA (Adjoining Duncan Suzuki) (540) 980-1922

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Church Directory

Worship Each Week In The Church Of Your Choice



Teach Me Your Word O Lord

Terry McCraw

Be an Encourager, not a Discourager

Barnabas was an encourager of the brethren and a good role model for us. We as Christians should always be about the business of encouraging the discouraged. Barnabas was recognized by the titles “the Son of Consolation, the Son of Encouragement and the Son of Comfort.”

Barnabas was a Jew (A Levite) from the Island of Cyprus just off the coast of Israel. He accepted Christ as his Savior and became an Apostle.

Acts 14:14 says, “Which when the Apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out.”

An Apostle is one who has been personally called to be an Apostle by Christ Jesus and divinely sent out on a mission with messages from God.”

Paul and Barnabas traveled together on missionary journeys winning many souls to Christ. Their ministries were mainly focused on leading Gentiles to Christ to be saved. Christian tradition holds that Barnabas was martyred at Salamis, Cyprus, in AD 61.

Verses 33-35. “And Joses, who by the Apostles was surnamed Barnabas, which is, being interpreted, the Son of Consolation, a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus. Having land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the Apostle’s feet.” He didn’t withhold part of the price he received as Ananias and Sapphira did after promising to give the whole amount to the Church.

Encouragement is something that is desperately needed in the Church today. One of the best and most helpful things we can do for our brothers and sisters in the Lord who have become discouraged, is to encourage them in the Lord. To lift them up when they are down in the dumps or down in the valley of despair and to pray for them. It cost nothing to encourage someone and does the most good of anything else we can do.

Not everyone in the Church can become a Preacher of the gospel, or the Pastor of a Church, or an Evangelist, but we can all be Encouragers in the Lord.

Willie Mays joined the Giants and when he was a very young man. He got into a tremendous slump in hitting the ball. He had only one hit in 26 times at bat. He felt so discouraged that he went to the manager, Leo Durocher, and asked that he be benched. Durocher draped a fatherly arm around his shoulders and said, “Don’t you worry about it Son, you are my center fielder, even if you don’t get another hit all season.” Soon afterwards Willy Mays broke out of his slump and began hitting the ball again. And became one of baseball’s all-time immortals. Willy’s batting average is .302. And it all came to pass because of a word of encouragement. Willy Mays was ready to quit baseball but a word of encouragement caused him to stay in the game and achieve outstanding success. In 1979 he entered into the baseball hall of fame.

Acts 9:26. “And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the Dis-

Draper Valley Baptist Church

3200 Lee Highway
Draper, Va. 24324
Pastor: Alan Pearce
Service Times:
Bible Study Sunday, 5 p.m.
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening, 6 p.m.
Prayer Service, Wed. 6:30 p.m.
Phone: 980-1028
www.drapervalleybaptist.org

Grace Baptist Church

552 E. Main Street
Dublin, Va. 24084
Pastor: Doug Testerman
674-1762
Primary Services:
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Sunday worship
Sunday Night Power Hour, 6 to 7 p.m.
Wednesday Night 7 to 8 p.m.
Grace Kids and Teens Bible Study

Open Door Baptist Church

4576 Miller Lane
Pulaski, VA 24301
Pastor: Rev. N.K. Howlett
Primary Services:
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11 a.m.
Wednesday Night, 7 p.m.
Phone: 980-2046

Draper United Methodist Church

3080 Greenbriar Road
Draper, VA 24324
Pastor: Mark Asbury
Primary Service Times:
Sunday School, 10 a.m.
Worship, 11 a.m.
Phone: 276-477-3835

Newbern Christian Church

Disciples of Christ
5183 Wilderness Road, Newbern
Rev. Denise and Ken Walker
540-440-8733

Christ Episcopal Church

144 North Washington Ave., Pulaski
Service: 10 a.m. every Sunday
Phone: 980-2413
Email: christ24301@gmail.com
www.christpulaski.dioswva.org

Jordan's Chapel UMC

Pastor: Rev. Becky Wheeler
Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Cecil's Chapel United Methodist Church

5801 Cecil's Chapel Road,
Hiwassee, VA 24347
Pastor Mark Asbury
Worship service is 8:45am-9:45am
Sunday School is 10 - 10:45am
Ricky Dishon, 540 239 6360, www.facebook.com/cecilschapel.umd

Newbern United Methodist Church

5155 Wilderness Road
Exit 98 off I-81 Newbern
Rev. Paige Wimberly
674-6111
Worship Services: 9:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 11 a.m.

Valley Harvest Ministries

1 Harvest Place
P.O. Box 458
Dublin, VA 24084
Senior Pastor Steve Willis
Associate Pastors:
Perry Slaughter, Elaine Wood, Derick Burton
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Wednesday School 7 p.m.
www.vhmdublin.org
540-674-4729

Mountain View United Methodist Church

6648 Wilderness Road
Dublin, VA 24084
Phone: 540-674-6111
mountainviewumc.yolasite.com/
Pastor: Paige Wimberly
Adult Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Morning Worship with Children's Church at 11 a.m.

Dublin Baptist Church

100 Hawkins Street
Dublin, VA 24084
540-674-6061
secretary@dublinbaptistva.org
Website: dublinbaptistva.org
Pastor: Dennis Jones
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11 a.m.
Children's Church and Nursery
Evening Service: 6 p.m.
Tuesday: Women's Bible Study, 10 a.m.
Wednesday, Adult Bible Study 7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

301 N. Jefferson Ave. - Pulaski
(physical address)
135 Fourth St., NW - Pulaski
(mailing address)
Pastor's Name: Will Shelton
Associate Pastor:
Sebastian Ruiz, Hispanic Pastor
Sunday Services
9:00 AM - Hispanic Worship
9:00AM - Contemporary Worship
10:00AM - Sunday School
11:00AM - Traditional Worship
Contact Info.
Phone: 540.980.3331
e-mail: office@fumcpulask.org
website: www.fumcpulask.org

Belspring Baptist Church

6887 Depot Street
Belspring, VA 24058
Pastor Darrell Linkous
Service Times:
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study and
Youth Group: 7 p.m.
Darrell Linkous: 353-0081
belspringbaptistchurch@gmail.com

Memorial Baptist Church

995 Peppers Ferry Road
Pulaski, VA 24301
Pastor: Michael S. Jones
Sunday
9:45 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Worship
Wednesday
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting
(540) 980-4731
Email: dfarley3@verizon.net

River of Life Church

5311 Black Hollow Road, Dublin, Va. 24084
Shawn Burchett, Pastor
Sunday School 9:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Wednesday Evening Life
Building Service 7:00 PM
www.rolcdublin.com 540-674-4500

Delton Church of God of Prophecy

4570 Boyd Road, Draper, VA 24324
Pastor Vickie Lee Viars
deltoncogop@gmail.com (276) 620-3191
Sunday mornings - 11 AM to 12 PM
Sunday evenings-Facebook live services
announced on Facebook
Wednesday evenings- To be announced at
later future time until COVID-19 ceases
Delton COGOP is following all COVID-19
safety guidelines of social distancing, masks,
cleaning, and disinfection.

Heritage Church

6195 Cleburne Boulevard, Dublin
Pastor Mike Pierce
Service Times:
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.;
Sundays, 10 a.m.
(540) 674-9220
Website: www.heritagechurch.net
Facebook.com/
HeritageChurchDublinVA

Fairlawn Baptist

6758 Oxford Avenue
Fairlawn, VA 24141

First Missionary Baptist Church

7318 Manns Drive / P.O. Box 90
New River, Virginia 24129
(540) 639-5331
email: fmbcl872@verizon.net
Pastor: Rev. Richard A. Goodman, Sr.
Associate Minister:
Rev. Annette Cheek
Clerk: Mrs. Carlotta Lewis
Sundays:
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
The Lord's Supper - Each First Sunday
Wednesdays: Prayer Meeting &
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Dublin United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 577
424 East Main Street
Pastors Don Hanshew & Don Shelor
(540) 674-5128
office@dublinumc.com
Early Worship - 8:45 am
Sunday School - 9:45 am
Praise & Worship Small Group - 10:00 am
Worship - 10:55 am

Freedom Fellowship Church

1730 West Street
Radford, VA 24141
Sr. Pastor: Jerry W. Collins
540-577-5780
jcollinsfreedomfellowship@yahoo.com
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
11 a.m. Children's Church
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Service
7 p.m. Youth Service

Draper's Valley Presbyterian (PCA)

2755 Old Baltimore Road, Draper, VA 24324
Mailing address: Same as above
Pastor's Name: Rev. Robert E. Davis
Associate Pastor: Rev. Roland Mathews
Primary Service Times:
Sunday Morning Worship Service
8:30 and 11:00
Sunday Evening Worship Service 6:15 p.m.
Wednesday Evening (5:45 Supper in the
Fellowship Hall (Sept thru May) - Youth Groups
and Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.)
Contact Info:
Phone - 540-994-9015
e-mail - drapers.valley@dvpca.org
website - www.dvpca.org

Trinity Lutheran Church ELCA

2 Fifth Street, N.W., Pulaski
540-980-3624
The Rev. Terrie Sternberg
trinitypulaski@gmail.com
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
(Sept. - May)
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
(June - Aug.)
Bible Study: Wednesday, 12:30
www.trinitypulaski.org

Trinity United Methodist

Pastor: Judy Yonce
Sunday Worship - 9:45 a.m.
Bible Study - Wednesday, 7 p.m.
528 5th Street, S.E.
Pulaski, Va.
Phone - 980-0820

Snowville Baptist Church

3238 Gum Log Road, Hiwassee
Pastor: Rev. Tony Hart
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Services: 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday Night Service: 7 p.m.

Fairlawn United Methodist Church

7584 Brandon Road, Fairlawn, Va. 24141
Pastor Mark A. Miller
markmiller.psalm1@gmail.com
Cell) 540-320-2431
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship (with children's message):
11 a.m.
Bible Study, Wednesday: 7 p.m.
Youth Ministry
Facebook.com/Fairlawn-United-Method-
ist-Church

Grace Ministries

Church of God of Prophecy

1021 Macgill Street
Pulaski, VA 24301
Church: 540-980-2118
Cell: 276-233-8083
Bus Ministry: 540-385-9972
www.pulaskigracemin.com
Email: pulaskigracemin@hotmail.com
Pastor Mike Williams
Children's Ministry
Aaron & Becky Sampson
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church 10:30 a.m.
Children's Free Breakfast 10:30 a.m.
Ages 5-12
Men's & Women's Ministry Wed. 6:30

Faith Bible Church

110 LaGrange Street, Pulaski, VA 24301
Pastor: Jim Linkous
Associate Pastor: T.J. Cox
540-980-5433
www.facebook.com/faithbiblechurch
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday Children's Church: 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening: 6 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Children's Meal: 6:30 p.m.
Children's and Youth's Group Classes: 7 p.m.

Dublin Christian Church

5605 Dunlap Road
P.O. Box 1330
Dublin, VA 24084
(540) 674-8434
www.dublinchristianchurch.com
Richard R. Goad, Jr.
Senior Minister
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship and
Youth Meeting, 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study and Children's Bible
Classes, 7 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

408 N. Jefferson Avenue, Pulaski
Pastor Melissa McNair-King
(540) 980-2132
firstprespulaskiva@gmail.com
www.firstpresbyterianpulaski.org
Sunday Services:
Sept.-May: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.,
Service 11 a.m.
June-Labor Day: Service 10 a.m.
Wednesday Family Night, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Thornspring United Methodist Church
5670 Thornspring Church Rd.
Dublin, VA 24084
Pastor: Rev. Teresa Tolbert
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Worship Service: 11 a.m.
Phone: (540) 980-2927

First Baptist Church
5473 Baskerville Street
Dublin, VA 24084
Pastor Wallis Brown
540-674-2677
Service: 11 a.m.

New Dublin Presbyterian Church
5331 New Dublin Church Road
Dublin, VA 24084
Pastor: Sara Jane Nixon
Website: newdublinpres.org
540-674-6147
Services 11:00 AM Sundays

Community Christian Church
5382 Grace Street, Dublin VA, 24084
540-674-4308
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

First Dublin Presbyterian Church (ECO)
409 Church Street, Dublin, Va. 24084
P.O. Box 2027, Dublin, Va. 24084
first-dublin-presbyterian-church-eco.com
Minister:
The Rev. Dr. Olin Marsh Whitener, Jr.

Max Creek Baptist Church
3000 Old Route 100 Road, Draper, Va. 24324
www.maxcreek.org
www.facebook.com/maxcreekbaptist
Senior Pastor: Mike Coleman
Youth Minister: Charlie Prince
Director of Visitation: Ersel Alderman
Sunday Services
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11 a.m.
Teen Social and Class: 5 p.m.
Evening Worship: 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Classes: 7 p.m.

Pulaski Church of God
1621 Bob White Boulevard
Pulaski, VA 24301
Pastor Donald Jones
540-980-8880
www.pulaskicog.church
Sunday Services
Sunday Life Groups: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays Midweek Connect: 7 p.m.

Showers of Blessing Church of God in Christ
305 Newbern Road, Dublin
Pastor Elder Stephen Muse
Come and Worship With Us!
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday Night Bible Study: 7-8 p.m.

Randolph Avenue United Methodist Church
1607 Randolph Avenue
Pulaski, VA 24301
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Elston McLain
Worship Service: 11 a.m.
Phone: (540) 980-8775

Pulaski Christian Church, Inc.
4531 Brookmont Road, Pulaski, VA 24301
www.pulaskichristianchurch.com/
Rev. Kathy Warden, Pastor,
(540) 250-2974
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Worship 7 p.m.
Monday Bible Study
7 to 9 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study
7 p.m.

Aldersgate United Methodist
1946 Medallion Drive
Pulaski, VA 24301
(540) 980-1349
Pastor Becky Wheeler
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

First Baptist Church
220 Magazine Street
Pulaski, VA 24301
540-980-3336
Email: firstbaptist220@gmail.com
Pastor: Rev, Douglas Patterson
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Monday's Child Youth Group, Monday
Evening 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Pulaski Presbyterian Church (PCA)
975 Memorial Drive
Pulaski, VA 24301
Office Phone: 980-2631
Email: pastor@pulaskipca.org
Website: www.pulaskipca.org
Stated Supply: Rev. John Gess
Sunday School: 10:00am
Worship Service: 11:00am

Sure Foundation Christian Fellowship
6598 Annie Akers Road
Radford, VA 24141
(540) 639-3443
Pastor Steve Phillips
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 am
Sunday Night Prayer: 5:30 pm
Wednesday Night
Prophetic Teaching: 6:30 pm

New Hope Chapel
1555 Case Knife Road
Pulaski, VA 24301
Pastor Darrell Gray
(276) 733-6080
Pastor Gray and congregation invite you to
New Hope Chapel.
Service Times:
10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Sunday Service

Family Worship Center First Pentecostal Holiness
955 Memorial Drive, Pulaski
540-980-7287
Jeff Willhoite, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
KidsZone 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.
www.fwcpulaski.church

Pulaski First Church of the Brethren
1749 Newbern Road
Pulaski, VA 24301
Pastor Frank Peters
Sunday School: 9:45
Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
980-3798

Abundant Life Ministries
3050 Lee Highway
Pulaski, VA 24301 (540) 980-5506
(Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m.-1 p.m.)
Pastor Randall K. Lawrence Sr.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evenings 6 p.m. by announcement
Wednesday Evenings (Family Night) 6:30-7
pm children fed, 7:15 pm Bible Classes all ages
Adult Bible Class
THRIVE Teen Class
Children's Bible Class and
Special Activitiy Classes

New Life Church of the Nazarene
45 S. Jefferson Avenue
Pulaski, VA 24301
540-980-2001
www.newlifepulaski.com
email: pastorjuls@verizon.net
Pastor: Julie Armbrister
Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m.
Sunday worship: 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 6 p.m.

Trinity Baptist Church
4008 Robinson Tract Road
Pulaski, VA 24301
Telephone: 980-8186
Pastor Johnny Howlett
Minister of Education Rev. Steve Taylor
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study - 6 p.m.
Wednesday - Adult Bible Study and Youth
Group - 7 p.m.

Grace Fellowship Baptist Church
2640 Max Creek Road
P.O. Box 326
Hiwassee, VA 24347
Pastor: Jason N. Aker
Phone: 276-699-3176
pastorjasonaker@gmail.com
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service: 11 a.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7 p.m.

St. Edwards Catholic Church
Corner of N. Washington Ave. and
7th Street N.W., Pulaski
Phone: 980-6511
Fax: 980-6511
Priest: Fr. Bernie Ramirez
Mass: 11 a.m. Sunday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

Warriors for Christ II
Bishop Sherman Buckner
600 Skyline Circle
Pulaski, VA
540-315-2317
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Worship: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Thursday: 7 p.m. Service

Bob White Boulevard Baptist Church
3826 Bob White Boulevard
Pulaski, VA.
Pastor: Allen Harman
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Preaching: 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening: 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7:30 p.m.
FUNDAMENTAL

McCraw

Continued from Page B6
ciples; but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a Disciple. But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the Apostles, and declared unto them how Saul had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he preached boldly at Damascus in the Name of Jesus.” Barnabas encouraged Paul by believing in him when no one else did.

Barnabas spoke up for Paul and encouraged the Leaders at the Church at Jerusalem to accept him into the Church as a fellow believer. He convinced them that Saul was the Real Deal, not a wolf in sheep's clothing. He encouraged and convinced them that Paul was called by the Lord and to accept him as a fellow Christian. Which they did and all because of Barnabas.

Because of the persecution, many Christians left Jerusalem discouraged and ready to give up on serving Christ. When the mother Church at Jerusalem heard of these things, they sent Barnabas to check it out. Barnabas checked it out and found the news to be true. He didn't scold those who had become weak in the faith. Rather, he encouraged those who had been led to Christ to stand steadfast in the Lord. He encouraged those who had been saved to remain faithful to the Lord. He encouraged them not to quit on God. He encouraged them to live their lives for God no matter what. He encouraged them to hold fast to the doctrines of truth that had been presented to them through the preaching of the Gospel. He lived up to the definition of his name. The Son of Encouragement.

There are so many ways we can encourage the discouraged and do more good for them than any other thing we can possibly do.

We can remind them of the promises of the Lord. The Apostle Peter wrote, “I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have.” 2 Peter 1:12

No matter what another person is going through, we can encourage them by showing interest in them; by showing them our love; by standing beside them; by telling them truthfully that we are praying to God for them and for their situation; and by encouraging them to trust God and that God will help them solve their problem.

“Today will never come again. Be a friend. Encourage someone. Take time to care. Let your words heal and not wound.” Pinterest.

“If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours.” Dolly Parton.

Trust in God to bring you through every problem you face in life. God said “I am He who will sustain you; I have made you; I will care for you; I will carry you and I will rescue you.” Isaiah 46:4.

Bible Trivia

1. Is the book of Ruth in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From 2 Kings 13, what prophet ordered a king to shoot arrows out of a window? Paul, Job, Elisha, David
3. How many books of the Bible (KJV) are three letters long when spelled? 0, 1, 2, 3
4. What prophet saw “the tents of Cushan in affliction”? Japheth, Noah, Hezekiah, Habakkuk
5. Who said unto the Lord, “Increase our faith”? Jonah, Apostles, Moses, Thieves
6. From Joel 2:6, what shall all fates gather? Sunlight, Blackness, Fear, Warmth

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Elisha; 3) 1 (Job); 4) Habakkuk 3:7; 5) Apostles (Luke 17:5); 6) Blackness

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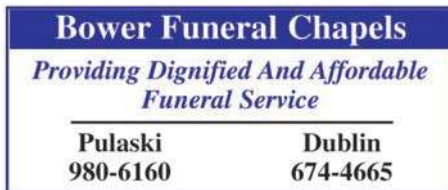
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Bible teaches that God’s love for us never fails

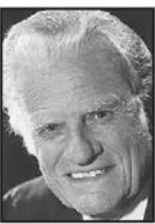
From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: For years I have been in top leadership of a Fortune 500 company and during the pandemic, as though that was not bad enough, my corporate position was eliminated. While I know there are worse things that could happen, this has crushed me and my family, not to mention the embarrassment. How does one recover from this devastation? -- C.P.

A: Tom Landry, legendary coach of the Dallas Cowboys, encouraged many people with his

testimony of how God strengthened him throughout his career, but particularly when he was fired while trying to bring his football team back to greatness. One of his biographers wrote: “There would be shaky times, frustrating times that would follow, some of which would have deeply scarred [Landry].” He went on to say how hard it would have been for the coach to recover had his faith in God been weak.

What guided a man like Tom Landry -- his faith in God -- is the same that has guided many people throughout the centuries



My Answer

Billy Graham

who have gone from great highs to great lows. Landry stored up for the storms that are sure to come in life.

Coach Landry was used of God in his post-football career. We

shouldn't be bound by the past and its failures, but neither should we forget its lessons. While disappointment and failure aren't identical, they often occur together, and both can hold us back from God's best for our lives. Unless we learn to deal with life's disappointments, it will rob of us joy and poison our souls. We must also remember that nothing pleases Satan more than when he can convince people that God no longer cares. This is yet another lie from Satan because the Bible teaches that God's love for us never fails (Lamentations 3:22).

Parks & Rec accepting youth hoops signups

Pulaski County Parks and Recreation started accepting online registrations for youth league basketball Saturday, January 2, 2021, with registration deadline being Saturday, January 16, 2021 at 5pm.

To register your child please visit our new online platform at www.pulaskiountyparksandrec.org. When on the website use the "register" tab to begin creating your account and register. When registering you will also have to accept all terms and conditions and the COVID-19 waiver. Note/reminder: There will not be any late sign ups nor a wait list for this years 2021 youth basketball season. Each player must be registered by the January 16th 2021 deadline to be eligible to participate in this years program.

Registration will be open to all divisions (5-6 co-ed, 7-8 co-ed, 8-10 boys, 8-11 girls, 11-12 boys, 12-16 girls, 13-16 boys). If you are unable to register online or encounter an issue please contact one of our coordinators. The number of sign-ups in each division will determine when they may begin. Information regarding when each division will start will be provided once registrations are complete and processed. We anticipate first practices beginning the week of January 18th.

Pulaski County Parks and Recreation's main priority is the safety of the youth and all parties involved while offering such activities. Therefore, we will have strict measures in place to be able to offer youth basketball this season. Pulaski County Parks and Recreation will follow all CDC and VHSL guidelines once we begin practices/games. Some of our general guidelines are:

- Temperature checks- each person entering the facility must have their temperature taken. Those that have a temperature of

100 degrees or above will not be granted entry.

- Mask must be worn at all times by players/coaches/spectators/staff/officials. (Other than when a child/official is actively playing on the court)
 - o Coaches-must wear a mask at all times
 - o Players- must have a mask on while entering facility and while on the bench
 - o Spectators- must wear a mask at all times
- Failure to comply with Pulaski County Parks and Recreation's regulations will result in dismissal from the facility.
- All water fountains will be unavailable. Players must bring their own drink
 - o During practices each participant will be allowed 1 parent or guardian to enter
 - o During games each participant will be allowed 2 parents or guardians to enter.
 - o Teams will be limited to 8 player's max
 - o Each team will be allowed 2 coaches
- Teams will only be allowed to enter facility during their scheduled practice/game time
 - A notification will be sent to each team's coach to notify when they may enter for their designated practice or game. Therefore, please do not arrive any sooner than 10 minutes prior to assigned practice or game time.
- At the conclusion of each practice/game all individuals must exit through designated doorway

• Pulaski County Parks and Rec staff will thoroughly sanitize each facility before and after each practice/game.

For a complete list of Pulaski County Parks and Recreation's Youth Basketball Regulations and Guidelines please visit pulaskiountyparksandrec.org.

Game

Continued from Page B3

season.			
Northwestern and Ohio State fell out of the poll.			
AP Top 25			
1 Gonzaga (63) 10-0	1,599	1	
2 Baylor (1) 9-0	1,537	2	
3 Villanova 8-1	1,453	4	
4 Texas 8-1	1,415	8	
5 Iowa 9-2	1,298	10	

6 Kansas 8-2	1,224	3	
7 Creighton 8-2	1,140	11	
8 Wisconsin 9-2	1,085	6	
9 Tennessee 7-1	1,076	7	
10 Michigan 9-0	1,039	16	
11 Houston 8-1	977	5	
12 Illinois 8-3	878	15	
13 Missouri 7-1	747	12	
14 West Virginia 8-3	706	9	
15 Rutgers 7-2	703	14	
16 Minnesota 10-2	559	21	
17 Oregon 8-1	545	21	
18 Texas Tech 8-3	445	13	
T-19 Clemson 8-1	411	NR	
T-19 Virginia Tech 8-1411		24	
21 Duke 3-2	280	20	
22 Virginia 5-2	258	23	
T-23 Saint Louis 7-1	133	NR	
T-23 Michigan State 7-3	133	17	
25 Florida State 5-2	120	18	

Others receiving votes: Florida 110, Louisville 103, Ohio State 96, Northwestern 86, Oklahoma State 68, Arizona 25, Colorado 19, BYU 18, Drake 17, North Carolina State 16, Oklahoma 15, Arkansas 14, Seton Hall 11, UCLA 6, Xavier 5, San Diego State 4, Connecticut 4, LSU 3, Boise State 3, Indiana 2, Alabama 2, Syracuse 1

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

9	4	5	1	8	7	6	2	3
8	1	6	2	5	3	9	7	4
3	2	7	9	6	4	8	5	1
1	5	8	7	4	2	3	9	6
4	9	2	6	3	1	5	8	7
7	6	3	5	9	8	4	1	2
2	8	4	3	1	5	7	6	9
5	7	9	4	2	6	1	3	8
6	3	1	8	7	9	2	4	5

There are other ways

Dear Dave,
I really don't have any established credit, because I've never taken out a loan or had a credit card. What will happen when I'm ready to get a mortgage loan and buy a home?

Jillian

Dear Jillian,

There are basically two ways to be in a position to get a home loan. One is to have credit at lots of places and a huge FICO score. This is kind of dumb when you really think about it, but it will get you a home loan almost instantly.

When you have no credit, a lender has to do what's called a manual underwriting. It's something lots of banks did back in the day, when they actually used common sense when it came to making loans.

Fortunately, a few places will still work with you in this manner. They take a look at your work history to see if you have a stable job and a good income. They want proof you pay your bills on time, too. This can be as simple as showing them several utility bills, rent statements, and other receipts. They're basically looking for a long history of proof that you honor your financial commitments.

Remember, buying a house with cash is always the best



Dave Says

Dave Ramsey

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way to own a home. But I don't beat people up over having a mortgage, as long as it's on a 15-year, fixed rate note. Do your very best to save up for a down payment of at least 20 percent, too. That way, you'll avoid the added expense of PMI (private mortgage insurance).

Great question, Jillian!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

What is your advice when it comes to investing a one-time, lump sum of \$4,000 for a long period of time? I recently received an inheritance from an uncle who passed away, and I want to make the money work

for me. I'm 33 and my home is paid for, plus I have no debt and an emergency fund of six months of expenses. I am also maxing out my 401(k) at work. Thank you for your advice.

Pat

Dear Pat,

I'm sorry to hear about your uncle, but I'm sure he was proud of the responsible young man you've become. You've made some very mature decisions where your finances are concerned, and as a result you're at a great spot in life.

When it comes to investing, I consider a "long period of time" to be 10 years or more. If this is the case with you, I'd suggest a good mutual fund with a solid track record of between 15 and 20 years.

I know some folks like to take chances and play single stocks on a one-time investment like this, but I don't think that's a good idea. Single stocks just don't consistently generate the kinds of returns a good mutual fund will over time.

— Dave

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