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Pulaski boy, 5 dies after apparent drowning at Y

Patriot Staff Report



5-year-old Auston Wingo was a kindergarten student at Pulaski's Critzer.

Pulaski Police Department is investigating an apparent drowning at the Pulaski County YMCA in Pulaski.

According to a police department press release, on Monday, Dec. 6, 2021 at approximately 2:30 p.m., officers with the Pulaski Police Department, Pulaski Fire Department and Pulaski County Public Safety responded to the YMCA at 615 Oakhurst Avenue in reference to a report of a possible drowning.

A 5-year-old juvenile was found unresponsive. That juvenile was later identified by Pulaski County Public Schools as Auston Wingo, a kindergarten student at Critzer Elementary School.

Wingo was transported to LewisGale Hospital Pulaski and later airlifted to Roanoke Memorial.

He was pronounced deceased at 10:16 p.m.

Pulaski Police officials say the incident is under investigation.

Since Monday and as of press time Thursday, police have not released any new information on the tragedy. However, other things are happening surrounding the incident.

Pulaski County Commonwealth's Attorney Justin L. Griffith has been recused from the case.

See WINGO, page A2

WEEKEND WEATHER

Saturday

Showers. High near 67. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

Saturday Night - A slight chance of showers before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. Chance of precipita-

Sunday

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By MIKE WILLIAMS
The Patriot

The Color Me Cameron 5K Run/Walk will return early next year on April 2 after not being held last year due to COVID.

The event is a fundraiser to benefit the Cameron Fitzwater Memorial Scholarship, provided to students at Pulaski County High School each year.

Cameron's mother, Terri Fitzwater Palmore addressed Pulaski Town Council at its Tuesday evening legislative session, announcing that this year's 5K run/walk event will be scheduled for April 2.

Cameron was known as a good student with a big heart. He was involved in cleanup from the tornado that struck the town in April 2011 where he assisted in getting trees out of the road and volunteered with Samaritan's Purse. He was an active volunteer on many Habitat for Humanity house builds throughout the New River Valley.

He was active in school and extracurricular activities including being an Eagle Scout, captain of his wrestling team at PCHS, captain of the Math MACC Academic Team and participated in the Science and All-Around MACC Academic Teams. He was also involved in track, drama, choir and Young Life. Along with attending PCHS he was a student in the Southwest Virginia Governor's School.

See CAMERON, page A2

Color Me Cameron 5K Run/Walk returns again in Pulaski April 2

Meeting set for Wednesday, Dec. 15 to review skate park plans, get feedback

By MIKE WILLIAMS
The Patriot

The Town of Pulaski's new skatepark will take another step toward completion next week when town officials host a meeting with interested citizens in the skate community and the consultant who has completed design services for the park.

According to Brady Deal, Economic Development Director for the town, the meeting will be held Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 5 p.m. in council chambers on the second floor of the Town Municipal Building.

"We'll have the skate park consultant who completed the design services on zoom to present the design, discuss features of the park for that one pad and then receive comments from the

See SKATE, page A2

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Wreath laying event set at Dublin cemetery Dec. 18

(RICHMOND) The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) and community partners will hold holiday wreath laying events on Saturday, December 18 at the three state veterans cemeteries: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia, the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial

Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. At the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Dublin), the wreath laying is scheduled for 1 p.m. EST, in partnership with the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Volunteers and other community partners. There will be a special ceremony, including an address by VDVS Commissioner John Maxwell and special

guests, and patriotic music. The cemetery is located at 5550 Bagging Plant Road, Dublin, Va. 24084. Parking and shuttles will be available at the Dublin Lions Club across from the cemetery entrance at 100 Lions Club Way.

At the Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia), the wreath laying is scheduled for 12 noon EST,

in partnership with the Virginia Veterans Cemetery Wreath Committee and other community partners. Limited parking for visitors and participants is available within the cemetery grounds. The cemetery is located at 10300 Pridesville Road, Amelia Court House, Va. 23002.

At the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk), the wreath laying is scheduled at 9 a.m. EST, in partnership with the Horton Wreath Society and other community partners. Parking will be available on the cemetery grounds. The cemetery is located at 5310 Milners Road, Suffolk, Va. 23434.

"We are pleased that we can again open our state cemeteries to the public this year and hope everyone will visit the cemeter-

ies over the holidays to honor and pay respects to our veterans – many of whom may be family members and friends," said Michael Henshaw, VDVS Director of Cemetery Services. "We greatly appreciate the dedication and hard work of the wreath committee volunteers in Amelia, Dublin and Suffolk who raise funds and adorn each grave with a holiday wreath."

Wreaths will remain in place at each of the state cemeteries from December 18 until January 5, 2022. For more information about Virginia's state veteran cemeteries including the latest information on visitation and guidelines, please visit <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/cemeteries/cemetery-information> or call the cemetery office directly.

Wingo

Continued from Page A1

Griffith announced his recusal in a statement Tuesday:

"Due to the fact that I have a fiduciary and personal relationship with the Pulaski YMCA because they provide child care for a member of my immediate family, the Pulaski County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office has been recused by a court order and the Bedford County Commonwealth's Attorney will be working in conjunction with the Town of Pulaski Police Department by providing legal advice during the course of the investigation."

School officials report the establishment of a memorial fund to assist the little boy's family.

As of Thursday morning, the amount raised had reached

\$7,100, according to School Superintendent Dr. Kevin Siers.

"Pulaski County Public Schools and Critzer Elementary School have been devastated by the loss of Auston Wingo on December 6, 2021," stated a school system Facebook post. "Auston was a kindhearted kid who exhibited unshakable optimism and an incredible love for his family, especially his older sister Tatiana. He will be missed far beyond what words can convey."

"We have established the Auston Wingo Memorial Fund at Critzer Elementary School to assist his family with expenses during this incredibly difficult time. Anyone interested in donating can do so directly through School Cash On-line at

<https://pcva.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/1240/309/False/True>

or by sending a check made payable to Critzer Elementary School to the address below:

**Critzer Elementary School
100 Critzer Drive
Pulaski, VA 24301**

Please write "Auston Wingo Memorial Fund" on the memo line of the check.

Thank you to everyone who is able to provide assistance to Auston's family. Please keep them and the folks from Critzer in your thoughts and prayers during the coming holiday season."

Funeral services for Wingo will be private. His full obituary is inside this week's edition.

Cameron

Continued from Page A1

Cameron was killed in a tragic motor vehicle accident on I-81 in April 2012 on his way to work after school. He was 18 at the time and two months away from graduation.

His plans were to attend West Virginia University.

The Cameron Fitzwater Memorial

Scholarship was created to celebrate his memory by allowing his life and dreams to live on by helping others pursue their dreams of higher education.

In 2013, Pulaski Town Council adopted a resolution signifying the first Saturday of every April as Cameron Fitzwater Memorial

Day.

According to his mother, the 5K run/walk drew 459 participants in its first year. Two years ago, the event drew 1,451 participants.

Councilman Greg East, who has participated in the event in the past, called it a "great event."

Skate

Continued from Page A1

skate community," Deal said, noting the consultant is located in Missouri.

He said the hope is to keep the meeting brief – 45 minutes to an hour.

"We hope at that time the skate community can see what has been worked on design-wise, what we have in store and give any feedback they'd like to give back to the consultant," he said.

Deal explained the town will take that feedback and see if it needs to make any changes or adjustments in the plans.

"Then we'll move forward with planning out the actual construction for next spring," Deal noted.

The skate park is located at 99 First Street N.E. on property where a former General Chemical facility once stood. A future basketball court is also located on the site.

Town Council recently voted to name the skate park after Matthew Cameron Akers. Akers, who passed away in 2013 at the age of 30, gave much to the youth of the town for many years prior to his death. Akers'

contributions to young people in Pulaski ranged from monetary to hours of work coaching and mentoring kids in town through recreation sports.

The adjoining basketball court will be named for councilman Lane Penn.

The two facilities will keep these names for two years before council chooses two more citizens to honor for their impact on town residents.

When completed, the entire facility will be given a permanent name by council.



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Correction

In an article in last week's Patriot, author Sydney Coffey's name was listed as Sydney Powell Coffey. It should have been listed as Sydney Paul Coffey. Also, Brenna Cox was listed incorrectly as Brienna Cox. The Patriot apologizes for these errors.



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Pulaski PD's new K-9 officer, Juneau 'awesome'

By DANIELLE REID
The Patriot

"Juneau is pretty awesome," exclaims Pulaski Police Chief Jill Neice about the department's new K-9 officer – a 17-month-old German Shepherd.

Sgt. Cody John "CJ" Dickerson purchased Juneau as an eight-week-old German Shepherd pup in June of 2020, from Happy Valley Kennels in Bell Buckle, TN. The kennel specializes in breeding, training and selecting German Shepherds with well-balanced dispositions, temperaments and high drives from solid proven bloodlines.

When Dickerson bought Juneau, the plan was to enhance her socialization and protection skills for his family. Realizing the dog's high level of intelligence, energy and potential, Dickerson began training her at 12-weeks of age for additional tasks. Now, at 17-months of age, Juneau has become the newest Town of Pulaski Police Department K-9 unit.

"Since Juneau is my personal dog, I signed an agreement leasing her to the police department. She is an official K-9 officer, has her own badge and unit number," Dickerson explained.

"I started working with her in Shutzund Sports, which in German means protection. Basically, it's evaluation of the dog and handler in training in the categories of obedience, protection and tracking. I decided to add training in narcotics detection, too," stated Dickerson.

Both Juneau and Dickerson worked with local area trainer Reno Scott, who models the correct way for dog owners to train their dogs – in essence, training

the owner so he can train his dog.

Dickerson says he and Juneau get out on training expeditions about five-times a day because of her high-energy and her desire to work and learn at Dickerson's side. He does not use food as a training tool but entices Juneau with a favorite toy or ball as a reward.

Before actually starting the narcotics training, Juneau had to learn basic obedience commands, such as "sit," "down," "stay." Dickerson also worked on socialization skills using his adult family members and children. She will have a dual role in community outreach and activities. Once she mastered the basic commands, hand signals were introduced.

They began narcotics training using ScentLogix packets placed in a Dutch Box. When the dog properly detects in which box the particular type of narcotic is located and presses its nose on the box, the reward (ball, toy) pops up or is given by the trainer. Dutch Box training helps the dog focus and not react to external stimuli that would distract her.

According to the ScentLogix manufacturer, their products are not actual narcotics, but are manufactured to smell like the narcotic. They are chemically formulated, non-illicit and non-hazardous components that can be handled, transported, deployed and stored in forms that would be impossible for the actual narcotic. Juneau is being trained in the detection of heroine, meth and cocaine.

During a demonstration, with the enthusiasm of a puppy but the focus of a seasoned K-9 veteran, Juneau was able to sniff out the smallest amount of ScentLogix



Danielle Reid/The Patriot

Sgt. Cody John "CJ" Dickerson and K-9 Officer Juneau go through a training exercise.

heroine, placed in two locations. Although she is still in training, she seems to have strong instincts for this type of work and gets exhilarated at the prospects of accomplishing the task.

Juneau gets very excited when she knows she is going out on a search. She is animated, wags her tail, and has a little bounce in her step. They are currently training locally with other officers, but in January, both Juneau and Dickerson will be in a four-week session getting their certification as a team in narcotics detection and tracking (to locate a lost person or suspect). This certification will allow the K-9

team to go out officially on drug detections and tracking assignments. To maintain their certification, the K-9 team will have to do 16-hours minimum of training a month.

In the interim, Juneau and Dickerson have been making the rounds to introduce her at town council meetings, various offices in town and county administration, and meeting the public during the town's Halloween Trunk or Treat event.

At 9 a.m. on December 21st, the

K-9 team will be at a Hot Chocolate and Coffee meet-and-greet at Amazing Grace Boutique and Café, along with Pulaski's new Community Resource Specialist, Sonia Ramsey.

"Juneau is personable and loves interacting with kids at these public events," says Dickerson. "We are planning on introducing her to kids at schools and demonstrating some of the things she can do. We are actively trying to make things better in our community."



Danielle Reid/The Patriot

Pulaski Police Chief Jill Neice takes a moment to talk about Juneau, which she says is "awesome."



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AUSTON SETH WINGO

Auston Seth Wingo, age 5 passed away Monday, December 6, 2021 at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was born September 30, 2016 in Radford, Virginia. He was a student at Critzer Elementary School, Pulaski.

He is survived by his mom - Contessa Gallimore & Scott Fortune - Pulaski

Sisters - Tatyana Wingo, Santanna Durbin

Brothers - Edward James Fortune, Michael Durbin, Thomas Durbin

Uncle - Jonathan Gallimore, Dakota Fortune & Alyssa Riddle

Aunt - Nicole Long

Grandparents - Michael & Donna Gallimore, Jerry & Joanne Burgess, Ed Fortune & Andrea Duncan

Great Grandmother - Sarah Brabham

Great Grandmother - Nancy Covey

Great Grandfather - Donald Crowder

Numerous other Aunts, Uncle and Cousins

Private funeral services will be private. Burial will follow at the Thornspring UMC Cemetery. To sign Auston's online guestbook, visit www.bowerfuneral.com - Bower Funeral Home, Pulaski is handling the services for the family.



DANNY WAYNE GREGORY

Danny Wayne Gregory, age 61 of Pulaski passed away Saturday, December 4, 2021. Born September 27, 1960 in Pulaski he was the son of the late Thomas Wayne Gregory & Bonnie Wright Gregory. He was also preceded in death by his life partner, Jewell Roop, brothers-in-law, Randy Roberts and Jerry Trail.

He is survived by his

Brothers & Sisters - Tammy (Joe) Cruff - Newbern, Sammy (Gay) Gregory - Pulaski, Janet (Tim) Walker - Pulaski, Cathy Trail - Hiwassee, Tommy Gregory - Pulaski, Samantha (Allen) Simpkins - Snowville

Best Buddy - Madeline Simpkins

Nieces and Nephews - Mackenzie, Tabitha, Beth, Daphine, Jacob, Michael Gregory, David, Bradley, Michael Bowers

Several Great Nieces and Nephews

Special Brothers - Rodney Farmer, Eric Gregory and Larry Gregory

Special Daughter - Sabrina (Shannon) Bishop

Grandkids - Samantha Bishop, Kody Bishop

Many friends

Memorial services will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday, December 10, 2021 at the Bower Funeral Home-Chapel, Pulaski with Pastor Dale Akers and Randall Jones officiating.

The family will receive friends one hour before service time Friday 10:00 a.m. until service time at Bower Funeral Home. To sign Danny's online guestbook, visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com

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



ROSE JEWELL MCCOY SHELOR

Rose Jewell McCoy Shelor, of Dublin, Virginia, was born January 1, 1940 and passed to her rest on Wednesday, December 1, 2021. She was the daughter of the late Harvey Garnet and Annie Pulchney McCoy of Parrott and was also predeceased by her husband, Samuel Thomas Shelor, her son, Samuel Thomas Shelor, Jr., her sister Julia Hodge, brother Pete McCoy, and grandson Joey Dickerson.

She grew up in the New River Valley, but moved to Baltimore when she married Tom Shelor in 1955. In Maryland, they raised five children, and Rose worked in the meat department of several grocery stores. She loved watching Hallmark movies, collecting cookbooks, and shopping at yard sales and thrift stores. She had an artistic streak and took up various crafts over the years, like crochet and plastic canvas needlepoint, sharing her creations with family and friends generously. She loved music, birdwatching, flowers, and Christmas decorations. She was a Bible student, and a believer in the Seventh-day Adventist message since 1971. She and her husband were very active bowling and golfing together for many years. They moved back into the area in 2010, settling in Dublin.

Rose is survived by four daughters: Rose (Jerry) Bowen of Floyd, Jackie Shelor of Florida, Samantha (Slim) Quesenberry of Dublin, and Patty Shelor of Dublin.

Grandchildren: Christopher Dickerson, Jeremy (Renee) Bowen, Jonathan Bowen, Angelina (Jeremy) Yuvanavattana, Joshua (Sarah) Bowen, Sarah Keen, Timothy (Diana) Bowen, Abigail (Luke) Thomas, Elijah (Elza) Bowen, and Simeon Bowen, Kurt Dickerson, Rebecca Shears, John and Jacob Scott

Great-grandchildren: Katelyn

See DEATHS, page A5



RICHARD THOMAS TAYLOR

Richard Thomas Taylor, age 89 of Draper passed away Sunday, December 5, 2021 in the Highland Ridge Rehab Center, Dublin.

Born March 7, 1932 in Draper, he was the son of the late Coy Thomas Taylor and Lizzie Rebecca Kidd Taylor. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Betty Jean Stinson Taylor; infant daughter, Kathy Lynn Taylor; one sister, Joyce Turner, and two brothers, Danny Taylor and Larry Taylor.

Richard was a veteran of the United States Army having served in Korea and Japan during the Korean War.

He retired from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant with 32 years of service. He was a long-time member of the Pulaski Church of God.

He is survived by

Daughter and Son-in-law- Karen and Tony Landreth- Draper

Son and Daughter-in-law- Rick and Rhonda Taylor- Statesville, N.C.

Grandchildren- Tristan Landreth, Sabryn Landreth and Wade Taylor

Great Granddaughter- Kaylee Taylor

Many Nieces, Nephews, & Brothers-in-law and Sisters-in-law

Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 7, 2021 in the Bower Funeral Home Chapel, Pulaski with Tony Eads officiating. Burial followed in the Shiloh Cemetery, Pulaski County with full military honors conducted at the graveside.

GARY LOUIS STAFFORD

Gary Louis Stafford, age 63 of Gatlinburg, TN passed away Saturday, December 4, 2021. Born February 23, 1958 in Cleveland, Ohio, he was the son of Robert Stafford and late Martha Ann Hawkins Welch. In addition to his mother, he was also preceded in death by special dad, J. C. Welch, and brothers, Phil Stafford and Rick Welch.

He is survived by his Father - Robert Stafford Brother - Robbie Stafford and wife, Alyssa

Sister - Karen Welch Baker and husband, Rick

Daughter - Amanda Wilson

Eight Grandchildren, One Great Grandchild

Special Nephew - Drew Baker who was a caregiver for Gary

Nieces and Nephews - Chris Stafford, Chrissy Stafford, Heather Baker & Melanye Potter

Uncles - Roy Hawkins & wife, Phyllis, Ronnie Welch & wife, Carla, Gary Welch & wife, Vickie

Cousins - Rhonda Hawkins Quesenberry & husband, Danny, Dan Stafford & wife, Dana, Eva Hutchenson and Frankie Ridpath, Cliff Bryant

Funeral services were held Thursday, December 9, 2021 in the Bower Funeral Home Chapel, Pulaski with Chaplain Bobby Ward officiating. Burial followed at Thornspring Cemetery, Pulaski.

To sign Gary's online guestbook, visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com - Bower Funeral Home, Pulaski is handling the arrangements for the family.

JULIE (JELAYNE) BROWN

Julie (Jelayne) Brown, age 60 of Dublin passed away Wednesday, December 1, 2021. Born October 22, 1961 in Giles County to the late James Arthur Brown & Cardella Manning Brown. She was also preceded in death by her sister, Jamie Banes, brother, Ronnie Brown and brother-in-law, William Hamlin.

Julie worked 24 years at Pulaski Furniture and 9 years with the Dublin Walmart.

Left to Cherish her memories are

Carol Brown - Dublin, David & Teri Brown - Pulaski, Judy Hamlin - NY, Barbara Kessinger - Vinton, Debbie & Richard Zirbel - WV

Many nieces and nephews

Private family services will be held at a later date. To sign Julie's online guestbook, visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com

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

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In Loving Memory of Maggie Sayers and Edna Alexander

To my sister Maggie Sayers it's been almost a year since you have left us. You have been missed so much. I have missed going places with you and doing things with you too. You have my angel, Porter up there with you and Edna now. You all take care of each other. Thanksgiving has come and gone, and Christmas is getting closer. That doesn't make it any easier. Just know you all are loved and missed so much.

*Till we meet again!
Love, Margaret*

In Loving Memory of Porter Viars

We want to say that we miss our daddy, Porter Viars. He was a loving husband to our mom Margaret. It's getting close to Christmas time. You will be missed even more. Mom's not doing so well since you passed but we are taking care of her, so don't you worry about her. All the grandkids don't understand why you are not with us anymore, but we explained to the best we could. That you are in heaven with Jesus. Till we meet again.

*Love you.
Your wife, children & grandchildren*

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Deaths

Continued from Page A4

and Briana Bowen, Haley, Thai, Natasha, Jasmine, Ryan, Cailey, and Mirrelise Yuvanavattana, Brandon and Alexis Dickerson, Fiona and Bronn Keen, Dahlia Schoof, Lily and Ricky Emery, Michael and Desirae Dickerson, Gabriel Bowen, Eva Bowen, Raven Thomas

Great-great granddaughter: Maia

Brother: Garnet Joe McCoy
Sister: Judy Buchanan
Furbabies Inky and Itty Bit

There will be no viewing or services. In honor of her love for family, make it a point to spend more time with your family and loved ones this holiday season and all through the year. Condolences may be sent to Rose Bowen, PO Box 345, Floyd, VA 24091.

BRENDA FOLEY PACZKOWSKI

Brenda Foley Paczkowski passed away peacefully on November 28, 2021, after a short illness, surrounded by her family. She was born on March 20, 1950, in Pulaski, VA alongside her identical twin sister Linda to Carl and June Foley. After graduating from Pulaski High School, she attended Stuart Hospital School of Nursing in Richmond, VA. This is where she met her husband Steve Paczkowski and were married for 53 years. She would say her greatest accomplishment was her daughter, Christina, who became her best friend and was the pride and joy of her life. She and Steve raised Christina in North Carolina and later moved to Richmond, VA. Brenda worked for a non-profit organization, who helped children all over the world. She traveled to Nairobi, Kenya with her work to see firsthand how the organization was helping the children. One of her most treasured moments was traveling to meet the cousins for girl time in Arizona. There were many after that with all or some of the cousins all around the country. Brenda would say that the dinners and surprises that her daughter, Chistina and Linda's daughters, Valerie and Michelle always sprung on them were the most cherished. Brenda was preceded in death by parents Carl C. and June K. Foley. She is survived by her devoted and beloved husband Steve Paczkowski. Their daughter Christina P. Fitzgibbons, her husband Derek, and his fraternal twins Kaitie and Patrick of Richmond, VA. She leaves behind her identical twin sister, Linda F. Haga, her husband George Haga and their daughters Valerie and Michelle Haga, all of Richmond, VA. Also leaving behind her brother Bob Foley, his wife Diedre of Pulaski, VA. Their son Chuck Foley and his new family of Radford, VA. Many special cousins are left mourning her sudden and unexpected death. Brenda's wish to be cremated was honored. The family has made no decisions on services at this time due to the sudden

loss and concerns of gathering due to the pandemic. Expressions of sympathy can be made to the charity of your choice and condolences can be made at Brenda Paczkowski Obituary (virginia-cremate.com).

SARAH MARIE JOHNSTON

The Lord received a faithful servant, Sarah Marie Johnston, into his presence on December 1, 2021. Marie was born at Trigg on September 6, 1928, the fourth child of Edd Brown and Mabel Parsell Johnston. She was preceded in death by her parents, an infant brother, William Brown Johnston, and sisters, Margaret Faye Johnston and Ruth Gay Johnston.

Marie was raised on the family farm and graduated from Eggleston High School and West Virginia Business College. In 1948, she began working in the Bank of Giles County in Pembroke and her career spanned 45 years until her retirement in the early 1990's at the Pearisburg Office of First Union Bank.

Marie was a quiet, calming presence wherever she was, whether at work, home or Church. She was a lifelong and devoted member of Wesley's Chapel United Methodist Church where she was a Sunday School Teacher and was known for her beautiful voice, and participation in the Church Choir. The most enduring duty she performed for her church was that of the Church Treasurer, which she served as for over 50 years. She performed this duty until her recent illness with the utmost attention to detail and professionalism.

Marie is survived by her faithful cousin and caregiver, Connie Johnston Bane, as well as many other cousins, neighbors and her church family.

The family would like to thank the staff of Carilion Giles Community Hospital, Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Highland Ridge Rehab, Lewis-Gale Pulaski Community Hospital and Medi Home Health and Hospice for their care of Marie in her last several weeks.

Funeral service was held Monday, December 6th at the Birchlawn Abbey with Reverend Pam Sutherland and Pastor Michael Chase officiating.

Memorial donations may be made to Wesley's Chapel United Methodist Church, c/o Connie Bane 4037 Eggleston Rd. Pearisburg, VA 24134.



Mike Williams/The Patriot

Two Officers Promoted Within Pulaski PD

Officers Paula Linkous and Dustin Jones (right) are introduced to Pulaski Town Council by Lt. Mike Hudson who announced both officers had been promoted to Corporal. Linkous has been with the department for four years, while Jones has been with the department for three years.

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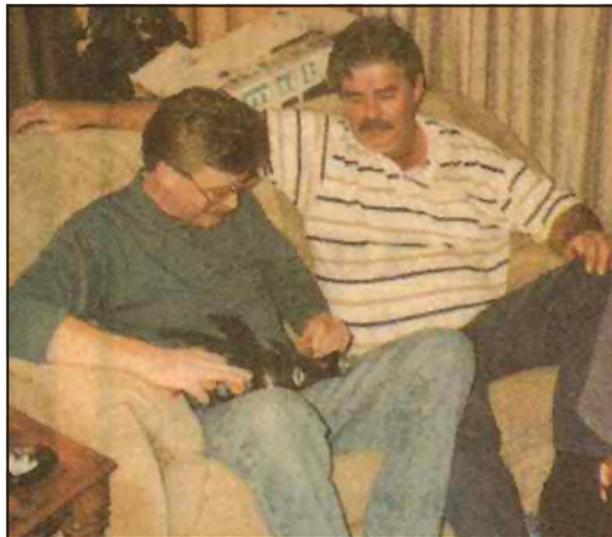
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In Loving Memory Of Duaine & Ricky Hundley



When evening shades are falling and we set in the quiet alone, in our hearts there is a longing, if they could only come home.

Friends may think we have forgotten, when at times they see us smile. But little do they know the heartache our smiles hide all the while.

*Miss you both so much,
Mama and all the family*



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No to Vaccine Mandates

Over the past few months, I have heard clear opposition from many residents of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District to President Biden's coronavirus vaccine mandates.

I share this opposition and have expressed it before in this column. I am vaccinated, and I urge others to consider getting vaccinated themselves if they are not already, but I believe such a decision should be left to an individual based on his or her beliefs and health.

Since President Biden announced his planned mandates on September 9, much has happened.

This announcement was only the first step of the process. He issued executive orders on that date extending the mandate to federal employees and contractors. Two other mandates, however, had to go through more extensive regulatory procedures.

One, issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), required vaccinations or continuous COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated individuals at any private employer with 100 or more employees. The other, issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), imposed vaccine mandates on health care providers participating in Medicare and Medicaid.

Legal and constitutional questions surround these mandates. For example, can a health care provider, such as a hospital, face extensive, burdensome, and onerous new requirements on employees in order to continue its participation in Medicare and Medicaid?

Both of these mandates constitute overreach by the Federal Government, and they skipped the full rulemaking process, which requires notice and comment periods.



Morgan Griffith

9th District Representative

These mandates intrude into the affairs of ordinary Americans and their employers. Further, they are counter-

productive.

We heard testimony to this effect during an October hearing of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health, on which I serve. One of the witnesses was Ballad Health CEO Alan Levine. He noted the challenges faced by rural hospitals in recruiting and retaining staff under normal circumstances, let alone during an ongoing pandemic.

During the time allotted to me for questions, I pointed out that a one size fits all mandate would exacerbate those challenges. At a time when health care workers feel the strain of their continuous efforts against the coronavirus, the last thing the Federal Government should do is put in place more burdens.

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal, Seema Verma, CMS Administrator during the Trump Administration, further spelled out some of the consequences of the mandate for hospitals:

Already-exhausted healthcare workers would have to work longer hours to compensate for the termination of unvaccinated colleagues, leading to more burnout and the postponement of needed healthcare services. If patients put off needed surgeries or preventive services like mammograms that can lead to more diagnoses of advanced diseases, which are more complicated and expensive to treat.

I support using the tools at Congress' disposal to push back against the Biden Administration's overreach. I along with others introduced a Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the OSHA rule, and I spoke at a press conference advocating for it.

Lawsuits have been filed by various parties opposed to the mandates, and they have met with success in some federal courts so far.

The OSHA rule was stayed on November 12 by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, meaning it cannot be enforced at present.

The CMS rule was blocked by two district courts, which found that the agency likely exceeded its authority and that the plaintiffs sufficiently demonstrated that they would suffer irreparable harm if the rule was not prevented from going into effect while litigation continues. In our area, Ballad Health suspended its vaccine requirement as a result.

The final word on these cases has not been pronounced, but I am encouraged that courts have recognized legal and constitutional problems with vaccine mandates.

Opposition to vaccine mandates respects a person's rights. I have talked to people in the district who, like me, are vaccinated but just don't think it is the government's business. We can look after each other and take care of our own health without any more edicts from Washington.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. You can call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405, my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671, or my Washington office at 202-225-3861. 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.

First Christmas At The White House

Many people don't realize that Our first President, George Washington, never resided in The White House in Washington D.C. The seat of the nation's government wasn't established in D.C. until the Residence Act of July 16, 1790. This Act put the nation's capital in current-day Washington as part of a plan to appease pro-slavery states, who feared a northern capital was too sympathetic to abolitionists.

Our second President John Adams, was the first to inhabit the White House – or as it was originally called, “The Presidential Mansion.” He and the First Lady Abigail Adams moved in in early November 1800, along with their family. They had five children who survived infancy. The most well-known was their eldest son, John Quincy Adams, who became the sixth U.S. President, and who would reside in the White House – also for only one 4-year term from 1825 – 1829.

Living in The White House sounds very glamorous today, but when the Adams family moved in, the structure was unfinished and still under construction. The house was said to be damp, cold and drafty with frequent chilly breezes blowing through.

One Nation Under God

By Danielle Reid

Apparently, the only way to try to get comfortable was to light all 13 of the mansion's fireplaces. Additionally, the grounds adjacent to the mansion were at the edge of a swamp.

To make life more miserable for Adams, on Christmas Eve the Washington Adviser Newspaper published a front-page article predicting that Thomas Jefferson would be the most likely winner in the election of 1800. (Controversy over that election reminded political savvy people about our 2020 election and the issue of electoral college votes. The 1800 election was decided by the House of Representatives; and consequently, Jefferson became America's third President.)

Despite the disappointments, Abigail Adams was able to pull together the

See NATION, page A7



Rich Lowery

Editor, National Review

The King of Hypocrisy

Nike's latest TV ad is another slick paean to individual empowerment and prevailing despite the naysayers.

Centered around Memphis Grizzlies star Ja Morant, the commercial features various people doubting that Morant can keep up his stellar play, to which someone always cheekily replies, “Says who?”

Yes, Nike believes anything is possible -- so long as it doesn't involve doing anything to cross one of the world's most hideously repressive regimes.

The grotesque hypocrisy of the Nike-NBA industrial complex and its biggest star, LeBron James, has been underlined in recent weeks by Boston Celtics player Enes Kanter, who has been on a one-man crusade against the Chinese Communist Party and those too cowardly or greedy to take it out.

James -- the holder of four NBA championship rings who has appeared in a jaw-dropping 10 NBA finals -- has views on all sorts of public controversies and doesn't hesitate to air them so long as they are comfortably within the fashionable woke consensus.

On China, though, he's mute. So are his employers. They all portray themselves as champions of social justice and of courage and striving, but their commitment to these causes and values stops at the water's edge -- and at their bottom line.

When a couple of years ago, the Houston Rockets general manager got thrown under the bus by the NBA for tweeting in support of pro-democracy protestors in Hong Kong, King James pronounced him “not educated on the situation.”

The Lakers forward affirmed a right to free speech -- thanks, GOAT! -- but said we have to be careful what we say. “So many people,” he warned, “could have been harmed, not only financially but physically, emotionally, spiritually.”

Never has so much harm been attributed to a small message of public support for plucky idealists about to be steamrolled by a totalitarian government.

During the Kyle Rittenhouse trial, by the way, James mocked Rittenhouse's tears on the stand, doubting they were real -- apparently because he's an expert on what constitutes genuine signs of post-traumatic stress.

If Rittenhouse had control over whether a market would be open to James and the corporations he's affiliated with, the Lakers star surely would have stayed silent.

When Kanter tweeted, “Money over Morals for the ‘King,’” and wore sneakers portraying James bowing down to get crowned by Chinese dictator Xi Jinping for a Celtics-Lakers game, James brushed it off. He accused Kanter of “trying to use my name to create an opportunity for himself.”

Actually, Kanter's activism, calling out his league and a massively influential corporation, is what everyone says they value -- a lonely, unwelcome campaign against well-heeled interests too compromised to defy a powerful entity perpetrating rank injustices.

After Nike got blowback in China for a relatively anodyne

See LOWRY, page A7



Putin Knows Biden is Weak

By Cal Thomas, Tribune Content Agency

President Biden's virtual meeting Tuesday with Russian President Vladimir Putin might be thought of as a final check-up before Russian troops invade Ukraine. Biden has displayed nothing but weakness since taking office. Even his threats of “consequences” sound weak. The president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, sounded bolder than the U.S. president when he threatened to “derail” any invasion of his country by Russian forces.

Look how different the world appears after Donald Trump left office. Biden ordered a precipitous withdrawal from Afghanistan and all the administration could do is brag about what an efficient job it did in moving so many troops out so quickly, despite the 13 U.S. service members killed in the last days and the translators and Americans left behind.

China for the first time is building a naval base in the Atlantic Ocean, off the African coast. Beijing is also ratcheting up military flights over Taiwan and again threatening to invade the democratic island nation. Biden's response is to announce that he will not send government officials to the 2022 Beijing Olympics. That isn't likely to put fear into the heart of President Xi Jinping.

Iran appears to be proceeding with its program to build nuclear weapons. Why shouldn't it, given the belief by the religious regime that Allah wants them to have one in pursuit of the destruction of Israel and eventually the “great Satan,” which would be America.

As a Wall Street Journal editorial accurately put it: “The Biden administration's problem is that it came into office believing that the main threat to world stability was Donald Trump.” The editorial adds: “China is buying Iranian oil in violation of U.S. sanctions, but the U.S. is also doing little

about that. (A) Biden official said that was best handled “diplomatically” and that the President had taken it up directly with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Mr. Biden weakened Mr. Trump's maximum pressure campaign against Iran's nuclear program and has put nothing but diplomatic entreaties in its place.”

Rogue regimes only engage in “diplomacy” if they think they can pick the pocket of their adversary.

The West too often believes everyone wants to be like us. If that were true, wouldn't they already be more like us?

Evil must be opposed, or it grows in nations, as well as in individuals. The crime wave in America is partly the result of soft-on-crime judges, prosecutors, district attorneys and calls to defund the police. Criminals naturally see this weakness as an opportunity to loot and kill, fearing few, if any, consequences.

If Putin invades Ukraine, if China invades Taiwan, if Iran finishes a nuclear bomb, if North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un decides to move against South Korea, all of them may see this as the ideal opportunity to engage in behavior they might think twice about if America had a strong president.

Just as criminals tend to avoid places where there is effective security and bullies prey on people they perceive as unable or unwilling to fight back, so, too, do leaders of “evil empires” feel emboldened when they conclude they will not be effectively opposed by the “strongest nation in the world,” a nation that under President Biden is increasingly seen by our adversaries as feeble.

Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com. Look for Cal Thomas' latest book “America's Expiration Date: The Fall of Empires and Superpowers and the Future of the United States” (Harper-Collins/Zondervan).

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United Way of SWVa introduces Ready SWVA

Abingdon, VA - More than 150 leaders from Southwest Virginia's public, private and social sectors convened Wednesday morning, Dec. 8, to discuss what roles their organizations and communities will play in Ready SWVA, an economic development project specifically targeted toward workforce development.

"Southwest Virginia employers have told us the region is losing the young, talented workforce in the labor ecosystem," said Travis Staton, president and CEO of United Way of Southwest Virginia, which organized the event. "A major barrier to retaining those talented young employees and potential employees is insufficient access to child care."

The Ready SWVA initiative, Staton said, will create a new early childhood system that will expand access to affordable childcare, strengthen the current network of providers, and build a cohort of professional early childhood educators. It is particularly important that this work be done in Southwest Virginia, Staton said, because the gap between available childcare slots and the need is more than twice as great in rural Virginia communities (20.4 percent) than in urban Virginia (9.1 percent).

"This will create a minimum of 324 new slots across Southwest Virginia through the creation of five new facilities, while at the same time supporting the region's network of 206 existing childcare providers," Staton said.

Ready SWVA will:

- Provide quality, accessible child care, allowing current residents who are out of the work-

Nation

Continued from Page A6

first Christmas reception for the congressmen, their wives and families who were staying in Washington. They hosted it around a party for their four-year-old grand-daughter, Susanna, who was staying with them. While the children played games, the adults were entertained by a small orchestra in the grand ballroom and later sang Christmas carols with the guests and staff.

During the children's party, one of the young guests accidentally broke a new doll dish belonging to the guest of honor, Susanna Adams. In apparent retaliation, Susanna bit the nose off the young guest's doll; causing a ruckus, requiring the President to intervene and restore calm to their party.

In many of the New England colonies, Christmas in the 1800's was considered a religious holiday, celebrating the Nativity and the birth of Jesus. (Christmas wasn't declared a federal holiday in the U.S. until June 26, 1870.) A few and simple gifts were given, unlike today's traditions of extravagance. Adams' gifts to Abigale were specific books she requested, such as Lady Craven's "A Journey to Constantinople," "Bennett's Stricture on Female Education" and "Letters to a Young Lady."

While their Christmas holiday was more focused on "the reason for the season," the Adams family brought a new tradition to the White House: New Year's Day Open House. Hundreds of people would line up outside the White House, shake hands with the President, and wander through the first floor. It was reported as a grand celebration at which



Travis Staton, president and CEO of United Way of Southwest Virginia

force because of childcare constraints to return to work

- Develop a regional cohort of professional, credentialed early childhood educators
- Support regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies created by each planning district commission to attract new talent, young families and higher-paying jobs
- Support entrepreneurs in Southwest Virginia by developing an emerging industry sector as a sustainable small business with support from a shared services alliance, and
- Provide long-term outcomes of a healthy, appropriately edu-

cated and trained, financially stable workforce through high quality curriculum preparing young students for school success.

Funding the initiative – and the five facilities in a hub-and-spoke arrangement across Southwest Virginia – will require \$16 million in seed money, including \$7 million for facilities and three years of operations at \$3 million per year. United Way of Southwest Virginia is working to get that funding into the Virginia state budget. United Way hopes to eventually braid federal

and state funds with investments from the private sector to further fund the project.

"The big goal of Ready SWVA is to build public-private partnerships to address childcare issues that are preventing folks and families and individuals from re-entering the workforce or remaining gainfully employed," Staton explained. "Over the next three years, this initiative will work across 21 localities to build an effective quality childcare supply that can help address this problem in our region."

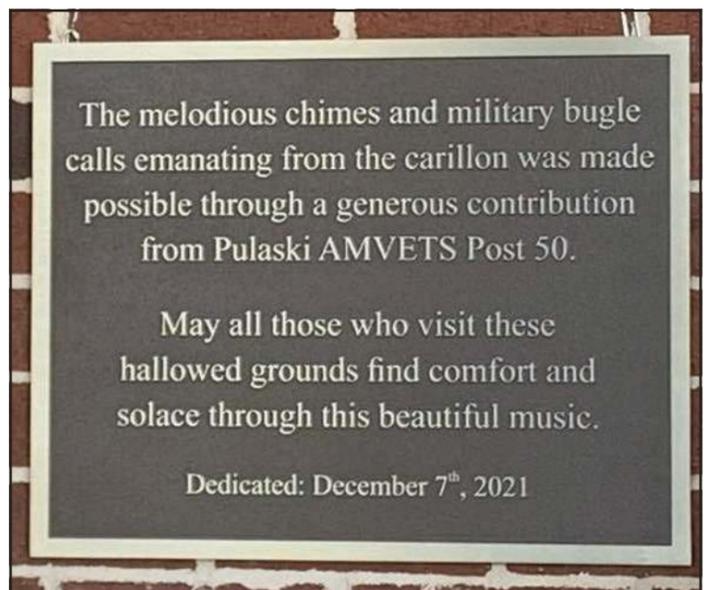
The Dec. 8 event included a panel discussion featuring private sector representatives Whitney Czelusniak from AEP and Todd Norris from Ballad Health, voices from government including Delegate Terry Kilgore and Pulaski County Administrator Jonathan Sweet, and Smyth County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dennis Carter.

Kilgore, in a pre-recorded message, told the crowd he believes the incoming Youngkin administration in Richmond

See **READY**, page A10



Carillon Dedicated At Veterans Cemetery



A carillon, which is a pitched percussion instrument that is played with a keyboard or by an automatic system, was dedicated Tuesday at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin. AMVETS Post 50 in Pulaski donated \$12,000 toward the purchase. According to a plaque unveiled Tuesday, "The melodious chimes and military bugle calls emanating from the carillon was made possible through a generous contribution from Pulaski AMVETS Post 50. May all those who visit these hallowed grounds find comfort and solace through this beautiful music. Dedicated: December 7, 2021." Pictured above are Lonnie Kemp (left), PRO for the AMVETS Post 50 and Larry Tolbert, Finance Officer for the post. Members of the Pulaski American Legion and VFW posts were also in attendance.

AMVETS Post 50 photos

Lowry

Continued from Page A6

statement expressing concern about forced labor in Xinjiang -- the epicenter of the regime's repression of the Uyghurs -- the company's CEO said Nike is "a brand of China and for China."

Nike lobbied Congress to weaken an anti-forced-labor bill, lest a measure aimed at crimping a vast human-rights abuse discomfit the corporate giant too greatly.

"Says who?" the new Nike ad asks. Clearly, the Chinese regime.

"You can't stop us," intoned a viral ad last year. Well, actually you can, provided you are an authoritarian bully with an enormous consumer base.

"Just do it" went the most iconic Nike ad. No, second thought, better to "Just don't" if it might anger a government that disappeared a star athlete for the offense of accusing an official of sexual assault and is preparing to invade a neighboring country.

If China were to take Taiwan,

would the NBA, Nike or LeBron James do anything more than offer vague expressions of concern and piffle about how the situation is complicated?

We certainly know what Enes Kanter would say. Which is why he rightly deserves a Nike ad celebrating his go-it-alone truth-telling, and why, of course, he'll never get one.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

cookies, custards, puddings, pastries and cakes, truffles and tarts were served.

In case you think that you might want to add some of these foods to your Christmas traditions, a friend shared what ingredients go into a plum pudding. Be aware that the calorie count could reach up to 2,750 per serving for the pudding and fruit cake! The author of the recipe adds that "These would make ideal homemade gifts for the present season." You can judge for yourself after reading the first ingredient. And if you think the ingredient list is complicated, you can look up the process at: <https://clickamericana.com/holidays-seasons/christmas/old-fashioned-plum-pudding-recipe-1912>

As for me, I'll stick to my simple traditions created by my esteemed friend, Betty Crocker!

Vintage Plum Pudding ingredients:

- 1/2 pound beef suet taken from the kidney
- 2 cups golden raisins
- 2 cups black raisins
- 2 cups dried currants
- 1/2 pound glace cake mix
- 1/2 pound candied citron
- 2 cups fresh bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon ground mace
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- Grated rind of two lemons
- Salt
- 1/4 cup dark-brown sugar
- 8 eggs, separated
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 cup cognac or rum
- The flour seal: 2 cups flour,
- 1/4 cup water, 1 egg yolk, beaten



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Veterans Christmas Trees On Display At Courthouse



Mike Williams/The Patriot

The Pulaski County Courthouse Exhibits Committee has again put on display the Veterans Christmas Trees in the corridor of the Old Courthouse. The photos on the trees are those of veterans who are Pulaski County citizens who have served our country. There are now over 300 photos on the trees. The only requirement for the acceptance of a photo, is that the veteran must have lived in Pulaski County some

time during their lifetime. Further, photos are accepted yearround and forms to submit a photo may be obtained from the County Treasurer's Office. If at all possible, the photo should be of the veteran in uniform and framed in a frame no larger than a 3" x 4" size.

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December 10

The Richards to be in concert at the Big Red Barn Eddie and Sherry Richards, former cast members of the Biblical Times Dinner Theater in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. who now travel full time as a word and music evangelistic Ministry team. Will be in concert at the Big Red Barn on December 10, 7 p.m. located on Rt. 11 across from the new Pulaski Middle School

December 14

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp to meet The Son of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet on Tuesday, December 14, 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. For further information, please call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

December 18

Live Nativity scene to be hosted by Newbern Church of God Newbern Church of God will host a Live Nativity scene December 18 & 19, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 527 Wilderness Rd. in Newbern. The congregation invites you to a time of reflection while viewing the Nativity. Please make plans to attend the Nativity complete with live animals. Then join the congregation for light refreshments. For more information find Newbern Church of God on Facebook or use the link listed here to visit the website: <https://sites.google.com/view/newbernchurchofgod/welcome>

December 19

Christmas Cantata You are invited to Glory Touching Earth a community Christmas Cantata that will be presented at the Woodlawn PH Church on December 19, 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 3874 Oak Grove Rd., Woodlawn, Va. For more information call 276-728-2088.

Taking It To The Streets

****Big Christmas Celebration****

Saturday Dec. 18, 2021 3pm-5pm

223 N. Washington Ave. Pulaski, VA
(Old Southwest Times Building)

Bring Your Children For A Big Time

Our Big Christmas Celebration will be Saturday December 18th from 3 - 5 pm at our current location. We will have gifts (infant to age 16). Come enjoy an afternoon of fun, fellowship and worship with us. Guest speaker will be Pastor Shawn Burchett.

NOTE: Pre-registration now through Dec. 11th. Forms must be turned in no later than Dec. 11th. Children must be with parent or guardian to receive gifts.

You can sign up at The Street Ministry, Emanuel Bookstore and The Patriot Newspaper.

For more information contact **Charlie Barbettini** (276) 620-4293

PET OF THE WEEK

Cora is a 1 year old lab mix. She can be a little nervous at first, but warms up to new people quickly. She's very sweet and playful. She has a lot of energy, so she'll need a more active home. Cora has tested well with other dogs. She has already been spayed and is up to date on her vaccinations.

Her adoption fee is \$100 and we can microchip her for an additional \$15.

Once your application is approved, you will be contacted and a time will be made available for you to do a meet and greet.

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Pet of the Week
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County's first Winterfest event a success

PULASKI COUNTY, VA – With over 3,000 in attendance, Randolph Park was transformed into a “Winter Wonderland” at Pulaski County’s first-ever Winterfest held on Saturday, Dec. 4.

The event, hosted by Pulaski County Tourism and Pulaski County Parks and Recreation, collected 217 toys with WPSK’s 107.1 Toys for Tots collection and included 30 craft and boutique vendors, local wine and distillery tastings, horse-drawn carriage rides, Santa meet and greet, local food vendors, kid’s activities, live music, s’mores, and a Christmas tree decorating competition.

“Winterfest was the spirit of Pulaski County at the heart of Pulaski County – Randolph Park,” said Peggy White, Pulaski County Tourism Director. “Special thanks to Pulaski County Parks and Recreation for this

great partnership and to all of our vendors and attendees!”

Pulaski County Winterfest brought locals, visitors, businesses, and industry all together to celebrate the season. Phoenix Packaging’s build a bear station donated 1,000 plush toys to kids, and Lowe’s Fairlawn Woodworking Workshop gifted 200 wooden toy kits to Santa’s workshop.

Pulaski County plans to continue and grow Winterfest in the years to come.

“Pulaski County Winterfest was such a joy and seeing everyone of all ages taking part in different activities around the park on Saturday was so neat,” said Shay Dunnigan, Pulaski County Parks and Recreation Director. “A big thank you to Pulaski County Tourism for making this event a reality.”



Horse-drawn carriage rides by Suther’s Carriage Company.



Camden Hite, who put “donating food for others” at the top of his Christmas Wish List as a five-year old. He’s now 15 and a sophomore at PCHS.

Hite still makes helping others a top priority

By DANIELLE REID
The Patriot

When Santa was making his list and checking it twice, he must have stopped in amazement and checked it a third time when he read what five-year-old Camden Hite wanted for Christmas. Santa must have thought, “Wow! That kid is going on the top of my Nice List.”

Camden’s Christmas Wish List contained three items, in this order:

1. Cans of food (non-perishable, shelf-stable items)
2. Madden NFL 14
3. More cans of food

Camden’s wish was that people in his community would have good food on their tables for Christmas. That showed a great depth of compassion from a five-year-old child, when most of his contemporaries had wish lists

filled with requests for toys, high-tech computer games, etc.

Fast forward 10-years and non-perishable food for people in his community is still at the top of Hite’s Christmas wish list. Now a sophomore at PCHS, Camden is still paying it forward but in a bigger way.

Hite’s inspiration for collecting food comes from his influence in growing up in church.

“It’s mainly my church and family – wanting to do good for people,” he said of his desire to help. He attends Fairlawn Baptist Church located at 6758 Oxford Avenue, Fairlawn.

“That first year, we collected 40 cans of food. Last year, people donated 1,400 cans – and that was during COVID. It seems that more people will need food this year because of rising costs; plus, there are people in need who are

See HITE, page A10



Pulaski County Tourism photos

Lowe’s Fairlawn Santa’s Wood Working Toy Shop.

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Tues - 6am - 5:30pm SATURDAY
Wed - Closed 6am - 4pm

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@vaccinatevirginia



READY

Continued from Page A7

will be supportive. "This is transformational. I think it gives us an opportunity to lead," Kilgore said. "It's going to play along Governor-elect Youngkin's plans to make our community colleges more involved with public-private partnerships. Bringing business training, education and childcare all into the same room is going to create a win-win for everybody."

Norris said Ballard Health is enthusiastic about Ready SWVA because it brings together players from multiple sectors to address a dire economic need. "The issue of access to childcare has hit home for every business in our region and every business in America," Norris said, "so it creates a burning platform for us to work together to derive a sustainable solution."

Czelusniak said Ready SWVA has the opportunity not only to keep Southwest Virginians gainfully employed and to keep businesses running at their full potential, but also creates a unique opportunity to attract young talent and young families back to the region. "Access to childcare impacts a lot of different industries and a lot of different occupations. Ready SWVA is a great way for our region to begin to lay a strong foundation to support the early childhood system in a very robust way. Looking to that long-term support network is very important to the SWVA region's overall efforts to attract new business opportunities."

"Utilizing a collective impact



Panelists (L-R) Smyth County Schools Superintendent Dr. Dennis Carter, AEP Manager of Economic and Business Development Whitney Czelusniak, United Way of Southwest Virginia (UWSWVA) President and CEO Travis Staton, Ballard Health Senior Vice President of Community Health and System Advancement Todd Norris and Pulaski County Administrator Jonathan Sweet. UWSWVA's Scott Robertson, far right, served as moderator. Photo courtesy United Way of Southwest Virginia.

model like Ready SWVA, and everyone coming together to address these issues will certainly help alleviate the lack of accessible childcare SWVA parents are facing," Carter added.

"There is a plan and strategy with achievable stratagems, and there is a region with multiple communities and businesses coming together to get behind a solvable challenge," Sweet said. "If we strive to work together to solve the childcare access issue it will benefit everyone including our employers, our education system, each one of us personally."



Camden Hite at a younger age with food donations he collected.

Hite

Continued from Page A9

home-bound," explained Hite. The thought of being home-bound and not able to get out to buy food was a catalyst for Hite to help others.

Hite's mother, Jamie Thompson, helped him post flyers in a few strategic places to alert people about the non-perishable food collection drive, but most of it is through word-of-mouth.

"Camden wanted people to know about the need so they would donate. There are several collection points including the Dublin NBB branch on Rt. 11; another collection box in front of the Fairlawn Baptist Church;

one at the Radford/Fairlawn Daily Bread, and another drop-off box in front of the WPSK radio station on Lee Highway in Fairlawn," she said. PSK had recently interviewed Hite about his shelf-stable food donations.

Hite, who plays tennis at PCHS, said his friends think donating cans of food is a good idea, and that some of the staff at school also donate food.

In case someone wants to make a monetary donation, they can do that at the Dublin NBB branch. All funds will be used to purchase non-perishable food to donate to the cause.



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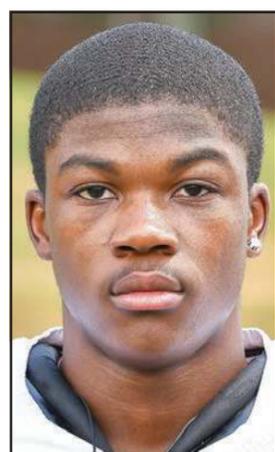
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John Lyman



Alan Fernandez



Diego Turner



Jack Johnson



Trevor Burton



Tyler Underwood

Cougars place six on All-Region, District teams

Patriot Staff Report

Pulaski County's John Lyman and Trevor Burton have landed spots on the All-Region 4D First and Second teams, announced this week.

Lyman, a senior for the Cougars, was selected as one of four first team defensive backs.

Burton, a junior for the Cougars, was one of three running backs selected on the second

team offense.

Salem dominated the All-Region 4D team with five selections on the first team offense and seven on the defense.

Spartan running back Cam Leftwich was named Region 4D Offensive Player of the Year. Danville defensive lineman Ahmad Poole was named Region 4D Defensive Player of the Year.

Capping off the All-Region team was Don Holter of Salem,

selected as the Region 4D Coach of the Year.

Pulaski County made a bigger mark on the All-River Ridge teams.

Lyman was selected as the first team's all-purpose player – a tribute to his all-purpose play as a running back and receiver who also took center snaps in a wildcat formation during the Patrick Henry game late in the season.

Lyman also landed a spot on

the All-River Ridge first team defensive unit as one of four defensive backs selected.

On the second team offense, Alan Fernandez and Diego Turner were selected for two of the four offensive lineman positions.

Burton was selected as one of the second team's three running backs.

Burton also was tapped as one of four second team linebackers on the defensive squad.

Making All-River Ridge Honorable Mention were the Cougars' Jack Johnson at center and Tyler Underwood at linebacker.

Capping off the All-River Ridge team was Leftwich as Offensive Player of the Year and Salem's Noah Collins as All-River Ridge Defensive Player of the Year.

Christiansburg's Alex Wilkens was named the district's top coach.

Pitt Leads ACC's 10-Team Bowl Contingent

GREENSBORO, N.C. (the-ACC.com) – Led by league champion Pitt's first-ever berth in the Chick-fil-A PeachBowl, the Atlantic Coast Conference placed 10 teams in football postseason games on Sunday.

This is the 21st consecutive season in which the ACC earned at least six bowl bids. Not including the pandemic-affected 2020 season, the ACC has sent at least 10 teams to a bowl every year since 2016. Since 2013, the ACC is second among all conferences with 91 postseason appearances.

"We're incredibly proud of our 10 bowl teams, including Pitt, our ACC Champion that will compete in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl as part of the College Football Playoff New Year's Six," said ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips, Ph.D. "Following an extremely competitive ACC football season, we look forward to celebrating the many accomplishments of our student-athletes in the postseason."

Hokies heading to clash vs. Maryland in New Era Pinstripe Bowl

Pitt (11-2), which earned a No. 12 CFP national ranking following its 45-21 win over Wake Forest in Saturday night's Subway ACC Football Championship Game, will face No. 10 Michigan State (10-2) on Thursday, Dec. 30, at Atlanta's Mercedes Benz Stadium (7 p.m., ESPN). Pitt head coach Pat Narduzzi served eight seasons as the Spartans' defensive coordinator before leaving to become the Panthers' head coach in 2015. It will be Pitt's 36th all-time bowl game appearance.

In addition to the Panthers' New Year's Six selection, No. 17 Wake

See BOWLS, page B3



Brian Bishop/The Patriot

JJ Gulley led the Cougars Tuesday night with 21 points.

Cougars beat Floyd

Patriot Staff Report

The Pulaski County Cougars upped their record to 2-0 on the young 2021-22 basketball season Tuesday, beating Floyd County in the Cougar Den, 69-62.

JJ Gulley led the way for the Cougars scoring 21 points on the night. Josh Bourne chipped in 16, Peyton McDaniel added 13 and Lane Nester dropped in 10 to lead the way for PCHS.

Tyler Cannoy's charges had to fight from behind in the game after being outscored in the first quarter, 19-14 as Floyd senior Dylan Bond was hot from outside – hitting three treys in the stanza. He scored 12 of Floyd's first quarter points.

Gulley's three buckets kept the Cougars close heading into the second quarter.

Gulley stayed hot in the second quarter with three buckets as the Cougars rallied to take a 33-

See COUGARS, page B3

Virginia Tech shuts down Cornell in 93-60 victory

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Keve Aluma scored 12 of his 16 points in the first half and seven Hokies hit double figures in a 93-60 win over Cornell on Wednesday night.

Aluma was 8-of-9 shooting and the Hokies (7-3) shot 54%, including 12 of 23 from the arc, in ending the Big Red's four-game

winning streak. Darius Maddox added 14 points, Nahiem Alleyne 13, and Hunter Cattoor and Sean Pedulla 11 each. Justyn Mutts and David N'Guessan had 10 points each.

Cornell (8-2) set a school single-game scoring record in a 122-64 win over Division III Keuka College in its previous

game and was off to its best start in 54 years. But the Big Red's bid for their first win over an Atlantic Coast Conference team in 70 years was sidelined midway through the first half.

The Hokies went on a 20-3 run over eight minutes, the Big Red shooting 1 of 13 and missing nine from the arc. Storm Murphy started the run with two buckets and later added a 3-pointer. Virginia Tech went into the break with a 45-31 lead after the Hokies' highest-scoring first half this season and Cornell's lowest.

The lead expanded to 23 over the first five minutes of the second half and the Hokies cruised, going up by as many as 36.

Cornell came in averaging 91.2 points per game and shooting over 50% but was stifled by the nation's 11th-best scoring defense (56.3 ppg), finishing at 38% and making only 8 of 26 3-point tries.

Cornell freshman Guy Ragland Jr. had a trio of 3-pointers to extend his streak of perfection from the arc to nine before it ended with a miss late in the first half. He finished with 11 points as did Kobe Dickson.

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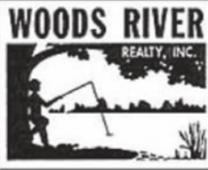
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Woods, Water & Wildlife

W.A. 'Doc' Davis

Country Stores

The planned column for this week was to be on country stores and their demise over the years and some things that have contributed to this. There was a segment on the TV news, a few days ago of a store in Norwich, Vermont that had been in business for 150 years, telling it was going to close as there was no help available. It was rescued from closing after some local citizens came forward and volunteered their time to keep it afloat.

From days past, I recall how during hunting and fishing days there were several stores from the surrounding areas that you could go after times in the woods or fishing where you could gather to get snacks and meet with other fellow hunters or fishing people. As you go about the country roads throughout this county and other outlying ones, there are these buildings that served as stores and/or service stations that are closed or have been converted to living quarters. As you go up Little Creek and cross into Bland County at the near forks of Little Creek and Spur Branch, the building that had several owners and proprietors over the years is now a remodeled residence. Years past, hunters checked in their game of deer, turkey and bear. There was a big turn out the year Spur Branch was stocked with trout. You could get sandwiches made with ham from locally grown stock along with "rat cheese" as Jerry Clower often referred to it.

Places like Stony Creek are like ghost towns where I have hunted and fished over the years. In Giles County on VA 42, there up are many closed country stores. There is still the store turning up Dismal Creek off the Wilderness Road where beyond are good fishing waters as well as good hunting in the vast National Forest.

The reasons are many as why country stores are unable to survive in these modern times, one being as the one in Norwich, VT, i.e. the lack of help. Also, cost of products and competition from big chain stores tend to edge out the "Mom & Pop" ones. The Kroger and Wal Marts etc. produce many of their own products and as a result the cost of stocking a private store may require the owners to pay close to the selling price of these big firms and can not achieve any profit margin. I see these shoppers flocking to the malls these days but missing is the camaraderie of the days as found in these old country stores and where games of checkers or horseshoes took place there as well.

Speaking of change, the Good Lord never changes. Hebrews 13:8 KJV states: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Revelation 21:5b KJV, "Behold. I make all things new," I look forward to that day. How about you?

Until next time

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Bowls

Continued from Page B1

Forest, No. 18 NC State, No. 19 Clemson, Boston College, Louisville, Miami, North Carolina, Virginia and Virginia Tech also received bowl bids on Sunday.

Wake Forest (10-3) earned a trip to the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Florida, and will face No. 25 Texas A&M at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 31. The Demon Deacons concluded the 2017 season with a 55-52 victory over the Aggies in a Belk Bowl game that featured more than 100 total points and 1,200 yards of total offense. Wake Forest will be making its school-record sixth consecutive bowl appearance under head coach Dave Clawson. It will be the 16th overall postseason game for Wake Forest.

NC State (9-3) is headed for the San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl versus UCLA (8-4) on Tuesday, Dec. 28 (8 p.m., FOX). The Wolfpack is making its seventh bowl appearance in the last nine seasons under current head coach Dave Doeren. NC State has made 33 previous bowl appearances overall, posting a 17-15-1 record.

Clemson (9-3) will face Iowa State (7-5) in the 2021 Cheez-It Bowl in Orlando, Florida, on Wednesday, Dec. 29. The contest is slated for a 5:45 p.m. kickoff on ESPN. Clemson will be making a bowl appearance for the 17th consecutive year, adding to its current school record that began in 2005. In total, it will be Clemson's 48th bowl appearance, with the Tigers holding a 25-22 record in bowls.

Boston College accepted an invitation to the Military Bowl presented by Peraton, benefiting the USO. The Eagles (6-6) square off against East Carolina (7-5) on Monday, Dec. 27 at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland. Kickoff is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on ESPN. The Eagles are 14-13 all-time in bowl games. This year's bowl appearance marks the fifth in the last six seasons for BC.

Louisville (6-6) will play in the SERVPRO First Responder Bowl versus Air Force (9-3) in Dallas

on Tuesday, Dec. 28 at 3:15 p.m. (ESPN). This will be Louisville's first appearance in the First Responder Bowl and the 24th bowl appearance in school history. Cardinals head coach Scott Satterfield will lead a team to a bowl game for the sixth time in his career.

Miami (7-5) landed a bid to the Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl and will take on Washington State in El Paso, Texas on Dec. 31 at 12:30 p.m. (CBS). Miami's appearance marks the ninth straight year and 45th time in school history the Hurricanes have competed in a bowl game. Miami owns a 20-24 overall record in previous bowl appearances.

North Carolina (6-6) is set for the Duke's Mayo Bowl versus South Carolina (6-6) at Charlotte's Bank of America Stadium on Thursday, Dec. 30, at 11:30 a.m. (ESPN). The Tar Heels earned the program's 36th bowl appearance and the third straight under current head coach Mack Brown. UNC owns a 15-20 record in postseason bowl appearances, including a 1-3 mark in Charlotte.

Virginia (6-6) will play SMU (8-4) in the inaugural Wasabi Fenway Bowl played at Boston's Fenway Park on Wednesday, Dec. 29. The game is scheduled to kick off at 11 a.m. and will be televised on ESPN. It will be UVA's 22nd overall bowl appearance and fifth in six years under head coach Bronco Mendenhall, who earlier this week announced his decision to step down after this year's postseason game.

Virginia Tech accepted its first-ever invitation to the New Era Pinstripe Bowl in New York City. The Hokies (6-6) will square off against Maryland (6-6) at 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 29 at Yankee Stadium (ESPN). The game will mark Virginia Tech's 34th all-time bowl berth. The Hokies have achieved bowl eligibility for 29 straight seasons and will return to postseason action after opting out of the 2020 bowl season due to COVID-19.

Cougars

Continued from Page B1

31 lead into intermission.

In the second half, Bourne hit two from three-point range, Guley added two more buckets and McDaniel, Nester and Kyle O'Neal all hit one each from three-point land to pace the Cougars in the third quarter.

Nester added three of four from the charity stripe as Pulaski County took control of the game with the 22-point quarter, and led Floyd County, 55-44.

Kaiden Swortzel led the Buffaloes on a bit of a rally in the final stanza, hitting four buckets and going 6-for-6 from the line to finish with a game-high 23 points on the night.

But it wasn't enough, as the Cougars iced the win going 10-of-14 from the line themselves in the fourth to hold onto the 69-62 victory.

Also scoring for the Cou-

gars were O'Neal with 6, Caleb Underwood with 2, and Tyler Sutherland adding 1.

For the Buffaloes, behind Swortzel's 23 came Bond with 18, A.J. Cantrell, 9; Ashton Agnew, 7; Gavin Herrington, 3, and Rylan Swortzel added 2.

The Cougars will be back in action Saturday.

Saturday is double-header day, with both the boys and girls teams hosting Carroll County.

The Lady Cougars junior varsity lead things off at noon, followed by the boys JV at 1:30.

The varsity girls then tip off at 3 p.m. following the boys' varsity tilt at 4:30.

The varsity boys will be looking to make it two in a row against Carroll County, while the girls are seeking revenge for last week's blowout loss at the hands of the Lady Cavaliers.

JOBS



PULASKI COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY Heavy Equipment Operator

The Pulaski County Public Service Authority is seeking to fill a full time position as a Water/Wastewater Department Heavy Equipment Operator. The primary responsibilities are performing routine skilled mechanical work in the installation and maintenance of the water distribution and sewer collection systems. The employee shall perform responsible skilled work in the operation of, but not limited to, a backhoe, trench machine, bush hog and other heavy equipment as required. A Class A CDL is required.

This is a full-time position with extensive benefits that include health, dental, vision and life insurance, state retirement program, optional 457-retirement program, sick and vacation leave, paid holidays and more. The salary range for this position is \$27,040 - \$46,217. Salary is commensurate upon education and experience.

Interested individuals may apply at the appropriate Virginia Employment Commission or may download an application from www.pulaskicounty.org and submit to Tammy Nichols, Human Resources Director, tnichols@pulaskicounty.org.

Position is open until filled.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Pickett, No. 13 Pitt headline AP All-ACC honors for 2021

(AP) - Newly crowned Atlantic Coast Conference champion Pittsburgh headlines The Associated Press All-ACC teams and individual awards for the 2021 season.

The 13th-ranked Panthers had a league-best seven selections in results released Monday after voting by 14 sports writers who cover the conference. That list included quarterback Kenny Pickett as the unanimous choice for offensive player of the year, as well as national receiving touchdown leader Jordan Addison being an unanimous first-team pick at receiver.

Pittsburgh won the program's first ACC championship on Saturday night by beating No. 20 Wake Forest 45-21 in Charlotte. Demon Deacons coach Dave Clawson was voted as league coach of the year, while Florida State defensive end Jermaine Johnson II was named top defensive player and Miami freshman quarterback Tyler Van Dyke was chosen top newcomer.

Syracuse running back Sean Tucker, North Carolina State offensive lineman Ikem Ekwonu and Wake Forest kicker Nick Sciba joined Pickett, Addison and Johnson as unanimous picks to the 51-player squad. Clemson tied Pittsburgh with seven selections, while Wake Forest and N.C. State each had six picks.

The 2021 Associated Press All-Atlantic Coast Conference

team, as selected by a panel of 14 sports writers who regularly cover the league for newspapers or broadcast outlets. Players at all positions are listed alphabetically with name, school, height, weight, class and hometown; "u-" denotes unanimous selections:

First team

Offense

u-QB — Kenny Pickett, Pittsburgh, 6-3, 220, r-sr., Oakhurst, New Jersey

u-RB — Sean Tucker, Syracuse, 5-10, 210, fr.(asterisk), Owings Mills, Maryland

RB — Mataeo Durant, Duke, 6-1, 195, sr., Plum Branch, South Carolina

u-WR — Jordan Addison, Pittsburgh, 6-0, 175, so., Frederick, Maryland

WR — Josh Downs, North Carolina, 5-10, 180, so., Suwanee, Georgia

TE — Jelani Woods, Virginia, 6-7, 265, gr., Ellenwood, Georgia

u-OT — Ikem Ekwonu, North Carolina State, 6-4, 320, so., Charlotte, North Carolina

OT — Zach Tom, Wake Forest, 6-5, 295, r-jr., Prairieville, Louisiana

OG — Zion Johnson, Boston College, 6-3, 316, gr., Bowie, Maryland

OG — Caleb Chandler, Lou-

See ACC, page B4

LEGAL NOTICE



Board of Supervisors Public Notice

The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors intends to hold two (2) sequential Public Hearings beginning at 7:00 p.m., or soon thereafter as can be heard, on Monday, December 20, 2021, in the Supervisors Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, N.W., Suite 1 in the Town of Pulaski to receive citizens' comments on the following matters:

1. Adoption of a proposed ordinance approving the creation of a joint entity to be known as the New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority and authorizing execution of an agreement setting forth rights and obligations of authority members as provided by law. This proposed action is in accordance with Chapter 38 of title 33.2 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.
2. Adoption of a proposed Pulaski County Election Redistricting Ordinance.

Comments may be presented orally or in writing via mail to above address, fax (540-980-7717), or e-mail to bos@pulaskicounty.org. A copy of the draft ordinances is available for public inspection from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, NW, in the Town of Pulaski or by phoning (540) 980-7705.

If you are a disabled individual and would like special auxiliary aids or services, please 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.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

LEGAL NOTICE



Public Hearing Town of Pulaski Town Council

The Town Council of the Town of Pulaski, Virginia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Pulaski Municipal Building, 42 First Street, NW and take action on the following:

1. A request from Bimmerworld Properties, LLC for a Special Exception at property located at 1000 Memorial Drive [tax parcel(s) 072-140-48 & 072-140-48A] for the Light Industrial Use, Industry Type 1.

All persons desiring to comment on the proposed requests should submit their remarks to Brady Deal, Planner/Economic Developer, by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, to 42 First Street, NW/PO Box 660, Pulaski, VA or via email to bdeal@pulaskitown.org. A copy of the application and other pertinent materials are available for public review in the Planner/Economic Developer's office, Pulaski Municipal Building, 42 First Street, NW from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For disabled individuals who may require special auxiliary aids or services, reasonable accommodations will be made by the Town upon request. Please contact the Town Manager's Office at (540) 994-8600 prior to the above meeting date. For persons with hearing or visual difficulties, contact Virginia Relay at 711 to arrange contact with the Town.

Let's meet the Most Valuable Cougar nominees

By DAVID GRAVELY
**Pulaski County Public Schools
 Public Relations Specialist**

Pulaski County High School officially announced their nominees for the annual Most Valuable Cougar Award during a recent ceremony at the Little Theatre.

The Most Valuable Cougar Award is the most prestigious award bestowed upon a member of the Pulaski County High School senior class. The nominees are chosen by their fellow classmates and each nominee is an outstanding representative of the Class of 2022. These students will serve as ambassadors for the student body during their senior year.

To be eligible for the Most Valuable Cougar Award, students must meet certain criteria and qualifications. First, they must value education and strive to reach his/her potential. They must set goals and work to accomplish them. They must participate in activities and enhance them through his/her involvement.

Candidates must maintain good school attendance, exhibit strong character, integrity and loyalty, and turn setbacks into victories. They should recognize their teachers, peers and family as valuable human beings. They will take risks and share new experiences with others, as well as valuing friendships. They will take pride in their accomplishments and celebrate the accomplishments of others, and they must represent their school well at extra-curricular and community events.

The first nominee, Kimberly Lyons has maintained straight A's since kindergarten. This nominee has been a DECA member for three years, National Honor Society for two, and is a certified Scuba diver. This nominee has participated in competition cheer

for four years and sideline cheer for three years here at PCHS. She has been accepted to Virginia Tech for 2022 with a BioChem major and pre-med focus. This first nominee likes to spend her spare time baking and cooking with a little Crossfit added in. She is the daughter of Dustin and Faye Lyons.

The second nominee, Sky Semones is a member of the National Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America. They have an immense amount of love for the arts - including singing, dancing, acting, drawing, playing and composing music on four different instruments, three of which are self-taught, plus has competed and placed in talent shows, participated in theatre, band and choir since middle school. This Cougar grew up in Pulaski and has been passionate about school and his community since he was a Critzer Critter. He recently spoke at the VSBA Conference, is president of Red Cross and GSA and is a student representative of the School Board and the Equity Team. He is the son of Barry Semones and Swana Coffey.

The third nominee, Ms. Arushi Arora is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, fluent in four languages, dual enrolled at NRCC and is the reporter for our Red Cross Club. This nominee was recently accepted to Virginia Tech as a Bio major and is currently working to earn her Pharmacy Tech license. She also serves as the Science MACC team captain and is parliamentarian for the National Honor Society. The next nominee is a governor's school student and will earn her associates degree by next summer. She is the daughter of Amit and Monika Arora.

The fourth nominee, Allen Queen is a member of the National Honor Society and the International Thespian Society. He has participated with the PCHS

Theater Arts department since he was in the first grade. He is an active member of the First United Methodist Church. This nominee has also represented the Class of 2022 as a senior of the month for our district's school board meeting. You might find this nominee volunteering for The Daily Bread or the Color Me Cameron Run/Walk. He is the son of Brian Queen and Leslie Queen.

The fifth nominee, Brooke Arnold has participated in DECA this school year, served on the CTE advisory team and Equity Team, and has been a member of the National Honor Society since her tenth-grade year. This nominee is currently serving as the National Honor Society president and Senior Class President. She is the daughter of Marvin and Stacy Arnold.

The sixth nominee, Gwendolyn Puckett is a member of the National Honor Society, a member of Skills USA, Red Cross and FCA. This nominee is a member of Phi Beta Kappa at NRCC and has attended Southwest Virginia Governor's School. This nominee has been a member of the softball team and choir during her time at PCHS. The final nominee is a member of Jordan's Chapel United Methodist Church and has made NRCC Dean's list. She is the daughter of Matthew and Brenda Puckett.

The seventh nominee, Carrie Blankenship is a member of the National Honor Society, a class officer for two years, and a member of the Golden Cougar Marching band for two years. This nominee has been performing with the PCHS Theater Arts department

since first grade, and has held roles in many productions. This seventh nominee is also a member of the PCHS Advanced Choir and takes dance classes in her free time. She is the daughter of Bryant and Bridget Blankenship.

The eighth nominee, Elaja Rollins is a lifelong Cougar who radiates positivity and energy into our cougar community on a daily basis. This nominee has participated in dual enrollment CTE courses and has completed all levels of electricity and makers lab. This student was our first Senior of the Month for this senior class. He is the son of Marissa Rollins and Anthony Mcalone.

The Most Valuable Cougar Award will be presented as a part of the senior awards assembly in the spring.

Northam proposes 10% teacher raise and record K-12 funding

By Tyler Arnold

(The Center Square) – Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam plans to propose a 10% teacher raise and record funding for pre-K-12 public education in his budget proposal for next year, according to a Monday announcement.

Teacher salaries would increase by 5% in the first year of the two-year budget and by another 5% in the second year, which will provide a 10.25% increase from current salaries. This will put the commonwealth's teachers' salaries above the national average. The plan also includes a \$2.4 billion increase in public education funding, which includes the costs of the higher salaries.

"Paying teachers is the right thing to do, and a wise investment," Northam said in a statement. "Virginia has invested in teachers in a big way over these past four years, and now it's time to do much more. Our country has asked teachers to carry a heavy load, especially during the pandem-

ic. They have delivered, and they deserve to be rewarded. This raise is possible because of strong, steady fiscal stewardship. Virginia's strong economy has delivered booming revenues. What we've been doing these four years is working, and Virginia should continue it."

Although Northam will present his budget proposal to the General Assembly before leaving office in mid-January, the legislation will be taken up by the new lawmakers elected in 2020 and will need approval from the incoming Governor-elect Glenn Youngkin. During the election, Republicans took control of the House of Delegates and the governor will be a Republican, rather than a Democrat. Youngkin has said his education funding plan would increase money for schools and he is also a proponent of school choice and stronger parental influence in public education.

Democrats will maintain control of the Senate where there were no elections in 2020.

ACC

Continued from Page B7

isville, 6-4, 313, r-jr., Jefferson, Georgia

C — Alec Lindstrom, Boston College, 6-3, 298, gr., Dudley, Massachusetts

All-purpose player — Jahmyr Gibbs, Georgia Tech, 5-11, 200, fr.(asterisk), Dalton, Georgia

u-K — Nick Sciba, Wake Forest, 5-9, 191, jr., Clover, South Carolina

Defense

u-DE — Jermaine Johnson II, Florida State, 6-5, 262, r-sr., Eden Prairie, Minnesota

DE — Cody Roscoe, Syracuse, 6-1, 275, sr., Houston

DT — Calijah Kancey, Pittsburgh, 6-0, 275, r-so., Miami

DT — Cory Durden, North Carolina State, 6-4, 310, gr., Newberry, Florida

LB — Mikel Jones, Syracuse, 6-1, 220, so., Miami

LB — James Skalski, Clemson, 6-0, 240, gr., Sharpsburg, Georgia

LB — Drake Thomas, North Carolina State, 6-0, 238, so., Wake Forest, North Carolina

CB — Mario Goodrich, Clemson, 6-0, 190, sr., Kansas City, Missouri

CB — Andrew Booth Jr., Clemson, 6-0, 200, jr., Dacula, Georgia

S — Jammie Robinson, Florida State, 5-11, 193, r-so., Cordele, Georgia

S — Tanner Ingle, North Carolina State, 5-10, 182, jr., Orlando, Florida

P — Trenton Gill, North Caro-

lina State, 6-4, 219, r-jr., Hillsborough, North Carolina

Second team

Offense

QB — Brennan Armstrong, Virginia (tie), 6-2, 215, jr., Shelby, Ohio

QB — Sam Hartman, Wake Forest (tie), 6-1, 208, r-so., Charlotte, North Carolina

RB — Ty Chandler, North Carolina, 6-0, 210, gr., Nashville, Tennessee

RB — Pat Garwo III, Boston College, 5-8, 214, r-so., Levittown, Pennsylvania

WR — A.T. Perry, Wake Forest, 6-5, 206, r-so., Lake Worth, Florida

WR — Dontayvion Wicks, Virginia, 6-1, 205, so., Plaquemine, Louisiana

TE — Marshon Ford, Louisville, 6-2, 240, r-so., Louisville, Kentucky

OT — Jordan McFadden, Clemson, 6-2, 310, jr.(asterisk), Spartanburg, South Carolina

OT — Carter Warren, Pittsburgh, 6-5, 315, r-sr., Paterson, New Jersey

OG — Christian Mahogany, Boston College, 6-3, 318, r-so., Elmwood Park, New Jersey

OG — D.J. Scaife Jr., Miami, 6-3, 306, jr., Miami

C — Olusegun Oluwatimi, Virginia, 6-3, 310, sr., Upper Marlboro, Maryland

All-purpose player — Zonovan Knight, North Carolina State,

5-11, 210, so., Bailey, North Carolina

K — B.T. Potter, Clemson, 5-10, 190, sr., Rock Hill, South Carolina

Defense

DE — Myles Murphy, Clemson, 6-5, 275, so., Marietta, Georgia

DE — Habakkuk Baldonado, Pittsburgh, 6-5, 260, r-jr., Rome, Italy

DT — Tyler Davis, Clemson, 6-2, 300, jr., Apopka, Florida

DT — Miles Fox, Wake Forest, 6-1, 297, r-sr., Lawrenceville, Georgia

LB — Yasir Abdullah, Louisville, 6-1, 235, jr., Miramar, Florida

LB — Nick Jackson, Virginia, 6-1, 240, jr., Atlanta

LB — SirVocea Dennis, Pittsburgh, 6-1, 230, jr., Syracuse, New York

CB — Josh DeBerry, Boston College, 5-11, 176, jr., Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

CB — Jermaine Waller, Virginia Tech, 6-1, 180, jr., Washington, District of Columbia

S — Traveon Redd, Wake Forest, 6-0, 201, r-sr., Martinsville, Virginia

S — Brandon Hill, Pittsburgh, 5-11, 195, r-so., Apopka, Florida

P — Lou Hedley, Miami, 6-4, 225, r-jr., Mandurah, Australia

Coach of the year — Dave Clawson, Wake Forest

Offensive player of the year — Kenny Pickett, Pittsburgh

Defensive player of the year — Jermaine Johnson II, Florida State

Newcomer of the year — Tyler Van Dyke, QB, Miami

Voting panel: Mike Barber, The Richmond (Virginia) Times-Dispatch; Rick Bozich, WDRB-TV, Louisville, Kentucky; Lauren Brownlow, WRAL.com, Raleigh, North Carolina; Alexis Cubit, The State of Columbia, South Carolina; Tom D'Angelo, Palm Beach (Florida) Post; Jerry DiPaola, (Pittsburgh) Tribune Total Media; Trevor Hass, Boston.com; Ethan Joyce, The Winston-Salem (North Carolina) Journal; Nate Mink, The Post-Standard of Syracuse, New York; Jonas Pope, The News & Observer of Raleigh, North Carolina/The Herald-Sun of Durham, North Carolina; Ken Sugiura, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution; David Teel, The Richmond (Virginia) Times-Dispatch; Curt Weiler, Tallahassee (Florida) Democrat; Steve Wiseman, The News & Observer of Raleigh, North Carolina/The Herald-Sun of Durham, North Carolina.



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Governor-elect to emphasize togetherness

RICHMOND, VA - The Youngkin Inaugural Committee today announced the theme for Virginia's 74th Inauguration and the schedule of events for inauguration weekend.

"The theme for inauguration weekend celebrates Virginia's spirit—one linked to a rich history, but an even more exciting future as Virginians come together to make Virginia the best place to live, work, and raise a family," said Governor-elect Glenn and Suzanne Youngkin.

The theme, "Strengthen the Spirit of Virginia Together," reflects not only the spirit of America's founding fathers, but also the liberty, freedom, and unity that will put Virginia first and change the trajectory of the Commonwealth's future.

Each of the inauguration's events is reflective of the Virginia spirit. These events include:

Spirit of Sisterhood Tea
Virginia's next First Lady, Suzanne Youngkin, will host a women's tea at The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on Friday, January 14, 2022. The event pays tribute to the strength, talents,

vibrancy, and determination of Virginia women past and present, and toasts their role in shaping the personality and uniqueness of the Commonwealth. (Ticket Required)

Spirit of Virginia Welcome Reception
Since America's colonial days, Virginia has been synonymous with warm hospitality. The Inaugural Committee will share Virginia's welcoming spirit with a welcome reception on Friday, January 14, 2022. (Ticket Required)

Spirit of Imagination Dinner
Governor-elect Glenn and Suzanne Youngkin will host a dinner at The Science Museum of Virginia on Friday, January 14, 2022. The Science Museum was

chosen because of its role in inspiring Virginians to imagine and innovate, two important actions needed in changing the trajectory of the Commonwealth. (Ticket Required)

Spirit of Faith Prayer Breakfast
Faith has been a guiding force and source of strength in the Youngkins' lives since their engagement. As Governor-elect Youngkin prepares to be sworn-in, he and Suzanne will host a prayer breakfast on Saturday, January 15, 2022. (Ticket Required)

Inaugural Ceremony
On Saturday, January 15, 2022, Governor-elect Glenn Youngkin will be sworn-in along with Lieu-

tenant Governor-elect Winsome Sears and Attorney General-elect Jason Miyares. (Open to the public)

Spirit of Community Inaugural Parade
The Inaugural Parade will take place following the Swearing-In Ceremony and will reflect Virginia's spirit of community and will showcase groups from all corners of the Commonwealth. Parade participants will march through Capitol Square, and attendees will have a front-row seat to witness

the great people that embody the Spirit of Virginia. (Open to the public)

Spirit of Celebration
Choosing boots over ball gowns, Governor Glenn and First Lady Suzanne Youngkin will host a uniquely casual and welcoming gathering at Main Street Station featuring live music and foods from different regions of the Commonwealth. (Ticket Required)

Spirit of Togetherness Open House
The Governor and First Lady will open the doors of the Executive Mansion for an open house on Sunday, January 16, 2022. (Open to the public)

More details about the events, including media credentials, parade participants, and the open house are forthcoming.

THE INAUGURATION OF GLENN YOUNGKIN

VIRGINIA'S 74TH GOVERNOR

Christmas safety tips

With Christmas fast approaching, decorating and shopping, it's easy to get so busy that we forget some simple facts and tips to remember this Christmas.

If using a real tree this year, find one that is really green with strong limbs. Shake the tree to see if needles begin falling off. If they fall off like a 'Charlie Brown Christmas tree' find one that is fresher. It is best if you can cut your own, but not everyone can do that so remember to shake it. When you get it home, cut the bottom of the tree in a 45 degree angle and place the tree in water. Give the tree fresh water every day. A dry tree is a fire hazard. As soon as Christmas is over, remove the tree from your house or sooner if it is drying out (remember the shake test).

Did you know that 1 in 4 of every Christmas tree fires was because the tree was too close to a heat source such as heater, fireplace, candles, etc...? Keep all sources of heat, including candles at least three feet from the tree. A good rule to live by concerning heaters and other heat sources is "Three Feet from the

Heat." Keep all flammable materials away from heaters, including clothes, draperies and the tree.

Candles are a popular decoration at Christmas. Let's not forget that candles are an 'open flame' heat source and cause 2 out of 5 decoration fires each year. Make sure that candles are away from trees, wreaths, paper, curtains, etc... Candles should always be placed in sturdy fire resistant holders that won't tip over and are large enough to collect dripping wax. The candle holder needs to be on a sturdy and uncluttered surface, away from children and pets. NEVER leave home or go to bed with candles burning.

And speaking of decorations, check that wiring on all Christmas lights before wrapping your tree. If the wire is frayed, knotted or has deep bends in the wire, replace it. Don't run Christmas lights and extension cords through windows or doors. Outside lights should always be plugged into an approved outdoor outlet. 1 in 3 Christmas tree fires are started by electrical problems.

An artificial tree needs to be kept from heat and take the same

precautions as the real tree. Okay, do not water and no need to shake it to see if needles fall off, but still be safe.

It is my hope that everyone has a very Merry Christmas and New Year. If you have questions regarding fire prevention this Christmas or would like more information, you can call the Pulaski Fire Marshal's Office at 540-994-8664 or the Pulaski Fire Department at 540-994-8662.

Todd Garwood
Fire Marshal - Town of Pulaski

Winter Awareness

Laura Reasor
Associate Family and Consumer Science Agent, Pulaski/Giles
lreasor@vt.edu; 540-980-7761

As winter storms and cold temperatures are upon us, it is important to stay safe and healthy by being prepared and having a plan. Winterizing your home and checking your heating systems can save you time, worry, and money in the long run. Have your heating system serviced professionally and make sure that it is clean, working properly, and ventilated to the outside. It is good to have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available in case something goes wrong with your primary heating source. In the event of a power outage, stock food that needs no cooking or refrigeration and potable water.

Do not forget your car! Check your tire tread, keep your gas tank full, and prepare an emergency kit to keep in case you become stranded. Ideas for your kit include blankets, food and water, booster cables, flares, a tire pump, and a bag of sand or cat litter for traction. It is recommended to carry a flashlight, extra batteries, and a first-aid kit.

Above all, be ready to check on family and neighbors who are especially at risk from cold weather hazards: young children, older adults, and the chronically ill. If you have pets, bring them inside. If you cannot bring them inside, provide adequate, warm shelter and unfrozen water to drink.

No one can stop winter from coming. However, you can prepare yourself to handle it more efficiently!

More information can be found online, and at cdc.org.

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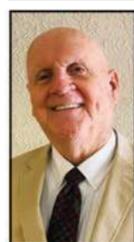
- Valid ID
- Internet connection

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Teach Me Your Word O Lord

Terry McCraw

God The Son

In Genesis 1.1 the bible says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Elohim is used in that scripture which is the plural name for God. Then the bible in Genesis continued to use plural pronouns to describe God. For example, Let US make man in OUR Image.

Each person in the Triune Godhead was present and took part in the Creation of all things. God the Father was there in the beginning. He spoke the creation into existence. God the Son, then God the Word, was there also in the beginning. God the Holy Ghost was also there, in the beginning. Moses wrote that the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. God is eternal. And since all three persons of the Godhead were present, in the beginning, and are eternal, all three persons are God.

The incarnation is when God the second person of the Triune Godhead became a human being to redeem us and save us from our sins. Jesus' mission was to seek and to save, that which was lost. He came to this earth as the Messiah, the Christ, the anointed One, at a time when the people were expecting a King who would set up a literal Kingdom and deliver them from Roman Oppression. He didn't fit into the mold that they had prepared for Him. And so, even though many did accept Him as being the Messiah, with His kingdom being set up in the hearts of men, many, sad to say did not. They crucified their own Messiah.

However God in His infinite wisdom knew that this would happen and God used it to formulate His great plan of Salvation to save us from our sins. When Jesus, the Sinless Savior, gave up His life to die on Calvary, He became the sinless substitute for our sins, your sins, my sins and the sins of the whole world and died shedding his blood on the old rugged cross to wash away all the sins of those who would and will accept His sacrifice and believe in Him unto salvation.

Jesus is coming back again. As Jesus was being caught up and ascended back into heaven, an angel said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come again in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1:1. John 3:13 says, "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven."

And as we, as born again, blood washed, children of God, live our lives, it is comforting and encouraging to know that Jesus is coming to this earth again, first to resurrect those who have died in Christ and then to catch away the saints who are still living at the time of His coming at the event that is called the Rapture of the Saints.

Matthew 16:13: "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples saying, "Whom do men say that I the son of man am? And they said, some say that thou art John the Baptist; Some, Elias, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But Whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father Which is in Heaven."

See MCCRAW, page B7

Church Directory

Draper Valley Baptist Church

3200 Lee Highway
Draper, Va. 24324
Pastor: Alan Pearce
Service Times:
Bible Study Sunday, 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening, 5 p.m.
email: drapervalleybc@gmail.com
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: Rev. Jason Crandall
423-716-2570
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: Jim Goddard
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,
Walter Gueste, Derick Burton
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Hispanic Ministry Service- Sunday 6 p.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

Dublin Baptist Church
100 Hawkins Street, Dublin, VA 24084
540-674-6061
secretary@dublinbaptistva.org
Website: dublinbaptistva.org
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesday Youth Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Allisonia Pentecostal Holiness Church

1560 Julia Simpkins Road
Allisonia, VA
Pastor Justin Phillips
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship: 6 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
Hispanic Lay Pastor: Sebastian Ruiz
Sunday Service: 10:00 AM
Hispanic Worship: 11:00AM
Contact Info. Phone: 540.980.3331
e-mail: office@fumcpulask.org website: www.fumcpulask.org
FACEBOOK@FirstUMCPulaski and WBLB 10:00am

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: fmbc1872@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
Pastor Don Shelor
(540) 674-5128
office@dublinumc.com
Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 11:00am
Sunday School - 10:00am

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

Grace Episcopal Church

210 4th Street, Radford, 24141
639-3494
Service: 10:30AM Sundays
Email: office@graceradford.org
http://www.graceradford.org
Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church

Draper's Valley Presbyterian (PCA)

2755 Old Baltimore Road,
Draper, VA 24324
Senior Pastor: Rev. Robert E. Davis
Associate Pastor: Rev. Roland Mathews
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship Service 6:15 p.m.
Wednesday Youth Groups and Adult Prayer & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Phone - 540-994-9015
e-mail - drapers.valley@dvpca.org website - www.dvpca.org
Sunday Morning Worship Live-Stream • 10:30 a.m. (or anytime on YouTube)

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.psalml@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-Methodist-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.

McCraw

Continued from Page B6

The first name that came up was John the Baptist. Some speculated that Jesus was John the Baptist, risen from the dead. Others thought Jesus was Elijah, come back from heaven. Still others speculated that Jesus was Jeremiah or one of the other great prophets. But Jesus was none of these. Jesus was God the Son, the Christ, the Redeemer, and the Savior of the world.

Then Jesus asked the second and more important question. "But whom say YE that I am?" And old outspoken Peter hit the nail right on the head. He said "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." I'm sure the other disciples heard it and also believed.

Sometimes we have the tendency to ignore what some who talk a lot have to say. And we shut them out because frankly we get tired of listening to their constant speaking. But every once in a while, they have something to say that is worth listening to like Peter did on this occasion.

The biggest compliment we can ever give to others is to listen to what they have to say.

A lot of times, when we are discussing a matter with someone else, while they are speaking to us, we are so busy thinking about what we are going to say next, we don't even hear what they have to say.

So if you want to improve yourselves, as most of us do, why not try becoming more of a listener, and less of a talker. My dad said to me one time, "Son when you are in a group of people who are talking back and forth, you stay quiet and listen to what they are saying, and when it's over, you'll know more than they do, because you'll know what you know and you'll know what they know too." And I found out that that bit of wisdom has helped me to become a better listener. We all need to listen more and talk less.

"Jesus Christ is God in human flesh, and the story of His life, death, and resurrection is the only Good News the world will ever hear." Billy Graham.

Col. 2: 9,10. "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power."

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

9. John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Bible Trivia

1. Is the book of Luke in the Old Testament or New Testament or neither?
2. From Matthew 1:18, when Mary became pregnant, she and Joseph were ...? Married, Engaged, Just friends, Strangers
3. How many times is "nativity" mentioned in the Bible (KJV)? Zero, 1, 2, 7
4. At the birth of Jesus, who was king of Judaea? Solomon, Herod, Balak, Belshazzar
5. What was the home city of Mary and Joseph? Capernaum, Nazareth, Apeh, Shechem
6. Which of these wasn't a gift from the wise men (Magi)? Silver, Myrrh, Gold, Frankincense

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Engaged; 3) 7 (4 times in Ezekiel); 4) Herod; 5) Nazareth; 6) Silver

Looking for a great holiday gift? Wilson Casey's Golf Trivia 2022 daily calendar will challenge and entertain golfers of all skill levels. Available in stores and online.

The Patriot
www.pcpatriot.com
540-808-3949

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
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 Jim Goddard
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

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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.
Wednesday Evenings (Family Night) 7 pm
Bible Classes all ages
Adult Bible Class
THRIVE Teen Class
Children's Special Activity 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 Worship - 10 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. Francis Boateng
Mass: 11 a.m. Sunday

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

First Baptist Church
325 Randolph Avenue
Pulaski, Va.
Pastor: Dr. Henry Fiske
Phone: 980-6565
fbcpulaskiva@gmail.com
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.

Pathway to Heaven Worship Center
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 434
Dublin, VA 24084
Physical Address: 7889 Cleburne Blvd.
Dublin, VA 24084
Pastor Winfred Keene - Phone 540-239-8092
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship: 6 p.m.
Tuesday Evening Bible Study: 6 p.m.

Amazing Grace Ministries
4892 Veterans Hill Road
Pulaski, VA
Pastor Todd Garwood
(540) 250-3741
ttgarwood674@gmail.com

Seagle Funeral Home
Todd Bruce, Manager
415 N. Jefferson Ave., Pulaski, 980-1700

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Jamie Bentley
516 East Main Street
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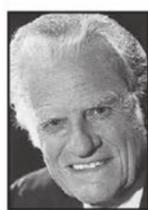
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Christmas is a real thing

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham
Q: The war on Christmas is a real thing and it is hard to understand in America, a nation that once respected the message of this holiday. I am a music teacher and was teaching my students about the classic Handel's Messiah. A few kids were offended and I have been forbidden by the principal, who claims to be a Christian, to teach anything having to do with Jesus, yet He is the reason for the season. How can she be a Christian and deny history? - D.T.
A: True Christianity does not

deny any part of the Bible. For more than 270 years, audiences have listened to the magnificent composition performed by great choirs and symphonies, especially during holidays. The text for Handel's Messiah was chosen by Charles Jennens, friend of the brilliant composer George Frideric Handel, lifted from 1 Timothy 3:16 for the epigraph: "God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up to glory."
When the oratorio was first



My Answer

Billy Graham

performed in 1742, a member of the audience expressed gratitude to Handel for "producing such a wonderful piece of 'entertainment.'" "Entertainment!" Handel replied. "My purpose was not to entertain, but to teach them something." And for centuries now,

Handel's message has resonated in hearts, proclaiming that Jesus is the Lord who died and rose again. A soaring soprano solo in the Messiah masterpiece combines Job 19 and 1 Corinthians 15 to proclaim: I know that my Redeemer liveth... for now is Christ risen from the dead."

For those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, stand faithful in the proclamation of truth and remember Titus 1:9: "Holding fast the faithful word... that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict."

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



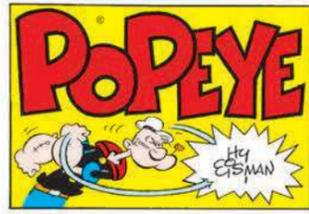
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF-A-DAY



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!

Heed **GRADER**

Blend **LEMING**

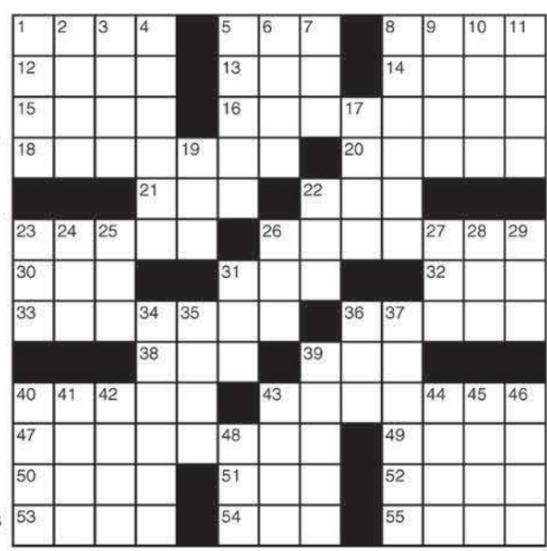
Pad **BATTLE**

Corrected **TREES**

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Alum
 - 5 Spell-off
 - 8 Pit
 - 12 Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"
 - 13 Approves
 - 14 Satan's forte
 - 15 Leading man?
 - 16 Landlocked Mideast territory
 - 18 Disney's Ariel, for one
 - 20 Van Gogh venue
 - 21 CBS logo
 - 22 Mimic
 - 23 Wedding VIP
 - 26 "I'm No Angel" actress
 - 30 '60s chic
 - 31 Green shade
 - 32 Cattle call
 - 33 "The Great Gatsby" setting
 - 36 Self-reproach
 - 38 Stop — dime
 - 39 "— voyage!"
 - 40 Skater Ohno
 - 43 Within earshot
 - 47 Oater setting
 - 49 Author Bellow
 - 50 Within (Pref.)
 - 51 "Shoo!"
 - 52 Exile isle
 - 53 Beheld
 - 54 Sugary suffix
- DOWN**
- 1 Glitz partner
 - 2 Carousel, for one
 - 3 Winged
 - 4 Darkened
 - 5 "Let's Dance" singer
 - 6 Scratched (out)
 - 7 Curved letter
 - 8 Semitic language
 - 9 Cameo shape



- 10 Queue
- 11 BPOE members
- 17 Carton sealer
- 19 Nay undoer
- 22 Motorist's org.
- 23 Upscale auto
- 24 Shad product
- 25 Egos' counterparts
- 26 Jo's sister
- 27 Brit. record label
- 28 Fa follower
- 29 Youngster
- 31 Links org.
- 34 Ratted out
- 35 Sufficient, old-style
- 36 Deity
- 37 Gender-neutral
- 39 Montana city
- 40 Dazzles
- 41 Freshener scent
- 42 Shoppe description
- 43 Unrepaired
- 44 Lip soother
- 45 Garage job
- 46 Panache
- 48 Conceit

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top ten

Best Aquarium Fish for Beginners

1. Rasboras
2. Goldfish
3. Tetras
4. Corydoras
5. Platies
6. Betta Fish
7. Barbs
8. Bolivian Cichlids
9. Kuhli Loaches
10. Angelfish

Source: aquariumcoop.com

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president signed legislation that made Christmas a national holiday?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of dragonflies called?
3. MOVIES: Who played the role of Father Chuck O'Malley in "Going My Way"?
4. FOOD & DRINK: In what year was the famous Toll House chocolate chip cookie first made?
5. LANGUAGE: What is the international radio code word for the letter M?
6. TELEVISION: What's the name of the mom on "Family Guy"?
7. PERSONALITIES: Which famous boxer's nickname is "The Manassa Mauler"?
8. HISTORY: Over which empire did Genghis Khan rule?
9. GEOGRAPHY: The Appian Way is an ancient road in what country?
10. MEASUREMENTS: How many milliliters are in 1 cup?

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Differences: 1. Table is moved; 2. Ball is missing; 3. Glasses are added; 4. Pants are different; 5. Hair is added; 6. Necktie is removed.

Answers

1. Ulysses Grant
2. A swarm
3. Bing Crosby
4. 1938
5. Mike
6. Lois Griffin
7. Jack Dempsey
8. The Mongol Empire
9. Italy. The road connected Rome and Brindisi.
10. 250

Solution time: 23 mins.

SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

1. Regard; 2. Mingle; 3. Tablet; 4. Reset

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: M equals P

SJLOANTX ITPIEHJIP PL XLLUV-
JLLZNTX OACO OAIV ECZI
MCPPIWPHV SWCSZ DM:
CMMCWIJ LU JCDXAP.

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King Crossword

Americanisms

"You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance."
— Franklin P. Jones

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Cryptoquip
ANSWER
Clothing assembles so goody-passers by crack up: looking that they make apparel of laughs.

TUCK'S COLLISION

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 N B I F A E A G D B Z X V S E
 Q R I O O L N R O H E D N P M
 K I O G T G P R E C A R I Y W
 U S Q H H P N H O S O P L J H
 F E O O T O N R O H N I T C A
 Y R X R V W R U G R E R S Q P
 N N M N K J A N O H N O O F E
 E K I L N R O H L L U B H H C
 B Z Y X V L L I B N R O H S T

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: A LARGE WASP

- Alphorn
- Althorn
- Bighorn
- Bullhorn
- Dehorn
- Foghorn
- Hawthorn
- Hornbill
- Hornlike
- Hornpipe
- Longhorn
- Shoehorn
- Shorn
- Thorns
- Tinhorn

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
 is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

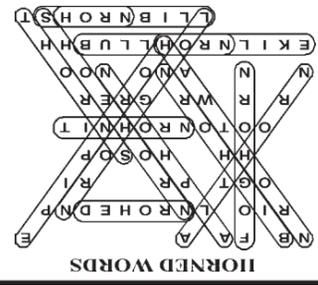
KYNZ GZYGWZ RSZLN YM
 KPBBZKK, EVCWZ YAVZS
 GZYGWZ QZA PG ZOZSJ

NYSFCFQ LFR NLHZ CA VLGGZF.

— ELJFZ VPCUZFQL

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Some people dream of success, while other people get up every morning and make it happen — Wayne Huizenga



CryptoQuote answer

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Puzzle Answer Appears Elsewhere In This Week's Issue

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Help your New Year's resolutions stick

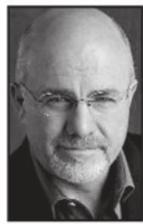
Dear Dave,
I thought I was going to get control of my money and make a lot of other positive changes in my life this year, but very few of the things I wanted to accomplish happened. I started strong, and began with serious intentions, but somewhere along the way I lost focus. Can you give me some advice for making and sticking to my resolutions in 2022?

Isaac
Dear Isaac,
Lots of people make big promises with the best intentions on December 31st. It seems everyone comes up with a laundry list of New Year's resolutions, but research shows very few people actually achieve their goals. If you're ready — and I mean really ready — to reset your life and succeed with your New Year's resolutions, here are a few simple, proven steps that'll help.

First, write down your top goal. Pick the resolution that means the most to you and write it down. You're more likely to succeed if you can focus on a single goal, and you have a greater chance of achieving it if you write it down — on paper, on purpose. And make sure the resolution you choose is very important to you. Writing down a goal just because it's what someone else is doing, or because it sounds like a good idea, isn't good enough. If your goal isn't yours, it won't happen.

Second, set benchmarks. Let's say you want to pay off your credit cards before July. You need to make that goal measurable throughout the year by setting benchmarks. If you owe \$5,000 on your credit cards and want to pay them off in six months, you need to pay about \$833 towards them every month. Write your benchmark down beneath your goal, and make a plan for how you're going to get it done.

Three, find an accountability partner. A great accountability partner isn't afraid to ask how your goals are coming along, and they'll



Dave Says

Dave Ramsey

call you on it when you're slacking. If you set a financial goal, a good accountability partner isn't going to be the friend who always asks you to go shopping. Studies have shown that having a strong accountability partner increases the likelihood of achieving a goal dramatically.

And finally, make sure you reward yourself along the way. It's tough to stay motivated when hitting your goal takes a while. Lots of folks start out at full speed, only to see the momentum disappear over time. You might treat yourself to a night at the movies when you've paid off the first \$1,000 on your credit cards, or maybe a nice, new shirt when you've paid off half the card.

Sometimes life doesn't work out the way we think it will, Isaac. Our priorities can change, and our goals may change, too. If that's why you didn't make your resolutions happen this year, that's fine. Just don't make the mistake of thinking it's too late to change and improve your life!

— Dave

* Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show.

— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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

Radford University names Danilowicz its 8th president

The Radford University Board of Visitors announced today the selection of Bret S. Danilowicz, Ph.D., as Radford University's eighth president, effective July 1. He succeeds Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D., who left Radford in June to accept another university presidency.

"He is a proven leader and possesses the background and experience required to take us to the next level and into the future. He clearly demonstrated to both the Search Committee and the Board of Visitors his energy and commitment to higher education, as well as his life-long goal of becoming a president of a major university such as Radford," said Robert A. Archer, rector of the board. "I am convinced that Dr. Danilowicz, along with his wife Kay, are a perfect fit for Radford and for the extended Radford community."

The Board's selection is the result of a comprehensive search by the 23-member Presidential Search Committee led by chair Susan Whealler Johnston, Ph.D., and co-chair Jay A. Brown Ph.D. and assisted by the search firm, Greenwood/Asher & Associates, Inc.

"Being an undergraduate focused comprehensive institution, Radford University plays a critical role in higher education for the Commonwealth of Virginia," said Danilowicz. "Having already developed a strong reputation for high quality and innovative instruction, Radford is furthering its distinctive mission by strengthening its focus on diversity, sustainability and economic development. Through the search process, I have become enamored by its mission, its dedicated faculty, staff, and alumni, and the students that it serves. Kay and I cannot wait to immerse ourselves in the New River Valley community and meet our new Highlander family!"



Bret S. Danilowicz, Ph.D.

Danilowicz has served since 2018 as the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. In this role, he was the chief academic and administrative officer of a large public research (R2) university. In addition to supervising 10 academic colleges with a budget of \$330 million, Danilowicz provided oversight to related areas such as the Office of Undergraduate Studies, University Registrar, University Libraries, Office of Information Technology and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

"Bret will be a wonderful president. I am extremely proud of his achievements, and so happy for Bret and his family as he transitions into this role," said John Kelly, Ph.D., President of Florida Atlantic University. "He is a creative thinker and very personable. He will serve Radford University well."

Prior to joining Florida Atlantic University, Danilowicz served as dean of the college of arts and sciences at Oklahoma State University beginning in 2012.

Danilowicz's career has seen success in numerous areas. His

work on FAU's strategic plan ultimately drove improvement in academic programs, leading to the university's first ever rank in National Public Research Universities. As well, the university now ranks in the top 50 U.S. News and World Report lists for social mobility and for the diversity of its student body, with programs in business, education, engineering, fine arts, medicine, nursing and social sciences achieving their highest national rankings for one or more of their programs.

In collaboration with the faculty senate at Florida Atlantic, Danilowicz launched a diversity, equity and inclusion committee charged with identifying policies and practices which should be changed to improve diversity and inclusion efforts. As a result, one of the major changes enacted was the addition of diversity and inclusion learning outcomes for all degrees.

In the last three years, Danilowicz led Florida Atlantic to achieve its highest scores ever in the Florida Board of Governors' Performance Metrics. The 89-point score in 2021 was the third highest score in Florida. In addition, Florida Atlantic's four-year graduation rates rose from 31 to 47% in the last three years.

Danilowicz earned a doctor of philosophy degree in zoology from Duke University, a master of business administration from Georgia Southern University, master of arts in education from The Open University, U.K., and his bachelor of science in biology with a computer science minor from Utica College of Syracuse University. Additionally, Danilowicz held two postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Windsor, Canada.

Danilowicz will assume the president's role on July 1, 2022.

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