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Sunday - Mostly sunny, with a high near 57.

Bopp announces retirement from Board of Supervisors

By MIKE WILLIAMS
The Patriot

Charles Bopp – who has represented the Robinson District on the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors since first being elected in 2007 – announced Monday night he is retiring from the board.

'Since I was first elected to the Board of Supervisors from the Robinson District in 2007, it has been my honor, my privilege and my duty to serve the good folks of my district and the county," said Bopp at the close of Monday night's board meeting.

"I have always taken this responsibility very seriously to do the best job I can as your representative and as a county official. I have never been a person who disregards a responsibility, but rather a person who gives my all to anything I've said I will do.

"It was my intention when I ran for re-election in 2019 to serve my entire four-year term. It is with sadness that I tell you I am unable to continue to serve in this role due to health issues and I will soon be resigning from the Board of Supervisors," Bopp stated.

Robinson District Supervisor Charles Bopp

The veteran supervisor said he had not made his decision lightly.

"If I felt my health was going to allow me to complete my term, then I would continue to serve," he said, disclosing that earlier this year he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

"At first, I thought the effects it would have on me would not affect my service or prevent me from completing my term in office. But, as the weeks and months have gone on, I realize that the disease is weighing heavily on me, and I regretfully can no longer perform this job at the level it deserves."

Bopp said his retirement from the board will help relieve him of a "burden of duty and will allow me and my family to concentrate on my health and well-being."

Bopp said it is his plan to serve through the organizational meeting of the board set for January 4.

"I have told Chairman Guthrie that it is my desire before I resign to nominate him for another term as Chair because I appreciate his leadership and the fine work he does as Chair.

"It is also my desire to attend tonight's meeting and add my 'yes' vote to the renewing of Mr.

See BOPP, page A2

Toys for Tots delivers to the Pulaski County YMCA

By WILLIAM PAINE
For The Patriot

It was 10 a.m. on the last Monday before Christmas 2021, when Keith Covey pulled his pick-up truck and trailer to the entrance of the YMCA of Pulaski County. The pick-up truck's bed was filled to the brim with large cardboard boxes, each containing about 45 toys and a dozen smaller items meant to be "stocking stuffers." The trailer attached to the rear of his truck carried eight brand new bicycles.

This delivery marked the third time this season that Covey had brought a load of presents to the YMCA for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Christmas campaign. Covey is a member of the Marine Corps, whose active service career spanned from 1978 to 1982.

Covey and other members of Marine Corps League 1190 start gathering toys for Christmas in October. Covey is responsible for collecting presents in Pulaski County and he estimates that 90 percent of what he collects ends up being distributed here.

This marks the third year that Covey has volunteered for the duty of delivering presents, so that the children of the economically challenged in Pulaski County can find something under their Christmas trees.

"It's not as much work as you might think," Covey said of his Toys for Tots duties. "I typically spend maybe two hours on a Friday afternoon and three or four hours on a Saturday morning. It's like anything else. If you stay on

See TOYS, page A3

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Meredith McGrady
Office Manager

Bopp

Continued from Page A1

(Jonathan) Sweet's contract. I want to add my voice of confidence in Mr. Sweet and the fine work he is doing for the county. It is very important to keep Jonathan here working for us. We appreciate all he has done and look forward to what he will continue to do here," Bopp said.

Earlier in the meeting, the board voted unanimously to renew Sweet's contract as County Administrator for another four years.

Noting he has enjoyed working with his fellow board members, Bopp – who also serves as Vice Chairman of the board – said he also looks back fondly on serving with all the other board members he has served with over the years. "I will cherish these memories," he said.

"I will also look with pride at the many accomplishments the Board of Supervisors and our county staff have done over the time I have been a member of the Board. We have made Pulaski County a better place to live, work, play, raise a family, and retire," he said.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank all the folks in the Robinson District for voting for me four times, and for giving me your confidence and your trust to be your supervisor. Everything I did in this office I did with what I thought was best for you and your families.

"Finally, and most importantly, I want to thank my family and especially my wife Kathy for all your love and support for me. I could not have done this job without you being there for me and by my side every step of the way.

"Pulaski County will always be my home. I was happy that I was able for 14 years to help make it a better place for all of us to call our home. Now I will step aside to allow someone else to carry on that legacy of success so I can devote my time and attention to my health and to my family.

"Thank you and God Bless Pulaski County," Bopp said.

Each supervisor offered statements of thanks to Bopp for his years of service.

Massie Supervisor John Travis said Bopp had done a superb job and has always been faithful to the different organizational boards he had served with.

"I thank Mr. Bopp for his dedication and service to the citizens of Pulaski County and the Robinson District, and for all his help to me as a new board member," said Ingles District Supervisor Laura Walters. "Most of all, I thank him for his kindness and friendship. He will be missed on the Board of Supervisors. Now it is time for him to take care of himself and his family. We wish him the best."

Draper District Supervisor Dirk Compton said Bopp had taught him a lot.

"He did this (serve as a supervisor) for the right reasons. His main focus has been to take care of the people of the Robinson District, and I really appreciate that. I've always valued his advice and counsel, and he will be missed," said Compton.

"On behalf of my fellow members of the Board of Supervisors and the people of Pulaski County, I want to thank Mr. Bopp for all the time and work he has given to the county during his 14 years of elected service on the board," stated Board Chairman Joe Guthrie. "While we wish he could finish his term, we are supportive of the decision he has made that his retirement from the board is best for him, his health, and his family. He has contributed much to his community, and we will be forever grateful to him for all he has done as a supervisor."

Bopp is in the middle of his fourth term on the board, which was due to end when the entire board of supervisors is up for election in 2023.

In his four campaigns for supervisor, Bopp won two elections by comfortable margins and was unopposed in two others.

Editor' Note: See related articles in this week's edition on the process for selecting Bopp's replacement on the board, as well as the application process to fill his seat until a special election can be held.

The Process Of Finding A New Supervisor

There is a process in state law for how to go about replacing Mr. Bopp on the board. Following Mr. Bopp's official resignation, the process as stated by County Attorney Tim Kirtner is as follows:

"When Mr. Bopp's seat becomes vacant, the BOS will initially appoint someone from the Robinson District to serve. That person will serve until a new supervisor is seated through a special election. Within 15 days of the vacancy, we will need to petition the Circuit Court for a writ of election to hold a special election to fill the seat. Unless we request an earlier date, that special election would be held on the date of the next general election in November."

The first step in this process begins with the Board of Supervisors appointing a person from the Robinson District to fill the immediate vacancy. The Board of Supervisors will do this through an open and fair process. Any eligible person who is qualified to vote in the Robinson District and has an interest in being considered may make their interest known to the Board of Supervisors by completing a simple one-page application form. Contact Cheryl Farris in the County Administrator's Office during business hours at 540-994-7705 or by email at cfarris@pulaskicounty.org.

Applications are available through the close of business day on Thursday, December 30th other than when the office is closed December 23rd through

See PROCESS, page A3

How To Apply:

The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors is seeking applications for the appointment of Board of Supervisor to the Robinson District. Interested candidates must reside within the Robinson District and fill out the application form, which can be submitted with a resume and supporting documentation via email to Cheryl Farris, Administration Office Manager, at: cfarris@pulaskicounty.org. Applicants may choose to return the application and supporting documentation by mail or in person to:

Cheryl Farris, Administration Office Manager, Pulaski County
143 Third Street N.W.
Suite 1
Pulaski, VA 24301

Note: All applications must be received in the office on or before close of business (5:00 P.M.), on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Any questions regarding the application process should be directed to Jonathan D. Sweet, ICMA-CM, Pulaski County Administrator, by email at: jsweet@pulaskicounty.org or by phone at: (540) 980-7705.

NEW YEAR'S WEEK DEADLINES

The Patriot will publish its Dec. 31 newspaper on THURSDAY, Dec. 30.

The deadline to accept news and advertising for that issue is NOON, TUESDAY.

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Toys

Continued from Page A1

top of it, it's easy."

When asked why he does it, Covey coyly responded, "Somebody's got to do it." Then added, "I didn't have a lot when I was growing up … I had plenty, but I didn't have as much as others and I just didn't like the thought of a kid waking up and not having nothing there."

Much of what he collects gets distributed at the Christmas Store in Dublin, where individuals sign up in advance to be a part of the gift give away. After the Christmas Store stops taking applications, Covey takes more toys to the YMCA, as well as the Pulaski County Social Services office.

This is the second year that the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program has added the YMCA of Pulaski County to their list of gift recipients.

According to Brandon Smith of the "Y," about a dozen families have already taken advantage of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. So many gifts have arrived, that a racquet ball court had to be temporarily repurposed as a storage room for the toys. The racquet ball court has since been dubbed "Santa's Workshop."

"If this isn't Santa's workshop, I don't know what is," Smith quipped.

One doesn't need to be a member of the YMCA to take advantage of these freely distributed Christmas gifts, but there are some rules.

"The only thing they have to do is show an ID," said the YMCA's Holly Whipp. "It's not income based. They just fill out the sign-in sheet with their names, addresses and the names and ages of their children. We ask for email just because if there's other community type events, we'll be able to send out email notification and mail out flyers."

Parents who come to "shop" for Toys for Tots gifts are asked to take only two toys and a stocking stuffer or a book or stuffed animal for each of their children. Parents and guardians are also asked to "shop" only once per season.

There is much variety in the toys and bicycles that fill the newly dubbed Santa's Workshop room, including dolls, skateboards, radio controlled cars, balls of most every description and some offbeat gifts like Tie Died Slimy Glops.

"These toys are appropriate for teens to toddlers," said Covey, who noted that, in addition to individual donations, corporate contributions added quite a lot to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots gift giving program.

"James Hardie is a huge contributor," said Covey. "I collected nine boxes and seven bicycles from them just the other day."

Covey also noted the generous contributions given to Toys for Tots by the local Dollar General Store and King's Tire.

After unloading his presents at the YMCA, Covey was headed to Pulaski's Social Services office with a similar sized shipment of toys and bikes. All told, the Toys for Tots program collects and distributes an eye-popping number of presents.

"This year is typical," said Covey. "Folks in Pulaski County are very generous. They truly are."

Jess Woods, Executive Director of the YMCA, couldn't be happier about it being included in the Marine Corps Toys for Tots gift giving program.

"It's just such a privilege for us to do this," said Woods. "We really appreciate it. It makes a big difference to our families."

Free Christmas Gifts courtesy of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program will be available at the YMCA of Pulaski County from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m. this Wednesday and Thursday and additionally on Friday (Christmas Eve) from 8 a.m. till noon.

William Paine/For The Patriot

What was a racquet ball court at the YMCA last month, has transformed into Santa's Workshop. This because the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Christmas Campaign has filled the room with hundreds of presents. From left: Brandon Smith, Jessie Woods, Keith Covey and Holly Whipp.

William Paine/For The Patriot

Keith Covey drops off another big load of gifts at the Pulaski County YMCA for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.

Process

Continued from Page A2

26th. Applications will be due to be back to the County Administration office no later than the close of the business day on Monday, January 3rd, 2022. The Board of Supervisors will then begin reviewing the applications and scheduling interviews with a goal of having the appointment made in time for the new member to begin serving on the board at the regular January 24th, 2022 meeting.

Also, during the first 15 days following Mr. Bopp's retirement in early January, County Attorney Tim Kirtner will petition the circuit court for a writ of election to hold a special election to fill the vacancy. In consulting with the other members of the board, I believe the consensus is that the special election will be on the date of the next general election, November 8, 2022. We will plan to vote at the organizational meeting in January, which will be the date of Mr. Bopp's retirement, to give the County Attorney the direction as to the petition he is to file seeking the writ of election. All the regular filing requirements and deadlines for being on the ballot will apply to this special election. That election will determine who will fill the seat on the board until the term ends following the general election in November 2023.

The person appointed to fill the vacancy might or might not choose to run in the special election and there might or might not be opposition. The winner of the special election will serve for one year, 2023, which will be all that will remain of this term. So, there will be a regular election in Robinson District as there will be in all five Magisterial Districts in November 2023 for a new 4-year term which begins January 1, 2024.

Questions regarding the process can be directed to the contact information above for the County Administration Office. If needed, your question will be directed to Mr. Jonathan Sweet the County Administrator or Mr. Kirtner the County Attorney.

In Loving Memory

Area Obituaries

Check www.pcpatriot.com Daily For Obituaries

In Loving Memory

STEVIE RAY "SHORTY" JUSTUS

Stevie Ray "Shorty" Justus, age 58 of Pulaski passed away Saturday, December 18, 2021. Born November 19, 1963 in Grundy, Virginia he was the son of the late Kibby "Daniel" Justus and Pauline Stiltner Coleman.

Shorty was a tool technician at Mar-Bal Inc. where he had 11 years of service.

He is survived by his

Wife – Trena Kay Gallimore Justus – Pulaski

Children – Steven Heath Justus – Grundy, Danny Ray Justus – Grundy, Jessica (Randy) Webb – Dublin, Meaghan Payne – Max Meadows, Johnny Payne – FL

9 Grandchildren

Brothers – Kirby (Tara) Justus – Lebanon, VA, Samuel (Renee) Justus – Norton, VA

Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at the Bower Funeral Home-Chapel, Pulaski with Pastor Todd Garwood officiating. Interment followed at the Thornspring UMC Cemetery.

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

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

JERRY EUGENE HANEY

Jerry Eugene Haney, age 81 of Dublin went to be with Our Heavenly Father Saturday, December 18, 2021. He was born on June 22, 1940 to the late Minnie S. Yeckley and William C. Haney. Jerry was a graduate of Pulaski High School, Class of 1960. Jerry was a lifelong automobile mechanic who owned and operated a Union 76 service station in Pulaski for many years.

He is survived by his son, Terry L. Haney and wife Linda of Pulaski, daughter, Patty Pastrana and fiancé Todd Alley of Dublin, sister Connie Lauro of Clearwater, FL, grandchildren, Amber Skidmore and husband Bryan, Tyler Pastrana, Tara Haney and fiancé Doug Phillippi, and Erin Haney (Zach), great grandchildren: Brooklyn Skidmore, Bentley Skidmore, Brielle Skidmore, and Alexander Phillippi.

Memorial services were held at Seagle Funeral Home on Wednesday, December 22, 2021 with Pastor Robbie Patton officiating.

Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.seaglefuneralhome.com Arrangements by Seagle Funeral Home, Pulaski.

JOHNNY ERNEST TICKLE

Johnny Ernest Tickle, 69, of Draper, departed this life on Thursday, December 16, 2021.

He was born January 8, 1952, in Pulaski, but spent his entire life living in Draper. He was a graduate of Dublin High School and worked for Overnite Transportation Company a& Estes Express Lines for over 44 years. Johnny also drove a school bus for Pulaski County as a high school student, and again years later. He was a member of the Draper Volunteer Fire Department for more than 40 years. He was a member of Memorial Christian Church in Draper. While he loved each of his jobs, Johnny was happiest on the farm, where he spent most of his time after retiring.

Johnny was preceded in death by his parents, James Philip & Ruby Windle Tickle, and his brother, James P. Tickle, Jr. Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Ruby Williams Tickle; daughter & son-in-law, Daphne & Dalford Phillips of Draper; son & daughter-in-law, Derek & Kim Tickle of Dublin; his cherished grandchildren, Josh Tickle & fiancé Abby Jones, & Emma Tickle; brother & sisters-in-law, Jerry & Linda Tickle of Morris, MN & Bessie Tickle of Draper; and numerous other brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins, & friends.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations to the Draper Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 90, Draper, VA 24324, or a charity of your choice.

Arrangements are currently pending.

The Tickle family is in the care of Norris-Stevens Funeral Home, Pulaski. Online condolences can be made at www.stevensfuneralhomepulaski.com.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CARTRETTE

Benjamin Franklin Cartrette, age 79 of Pulaski passed away Saturday, December 18, 2021 at the Chippenham Medical Center, Richmond. Born June 25, 1942 in Beaver Dam, North Carolina he was the son of the late Dan & Beulah Cartrette. He was also preceded in death by his beloved soul mate of 43 years, Bonnie June Combs, his daughter, Robin Cartrette, siblings, Geneva, Jim, John, James, George, Elbert, Donald, Auburn, Eva Lee, Robert and Faye.

Benjamin was a dedicated employee of Coleman's & Pulaski Furniture where he worked in maintenance until his retirement for 30 plus years.

He is survived by his

Daughter – Susan Jean Sadler – Pulaski

Stepchildren – Carolyn Parlier, Bobby Combs, Missie (Russell) Reese

Grandchildren – Chelsea (Eric) Marshall, Bradley Rupe, Casey (Tanner) Alley, Sammi Reese, Chris Combs

Great Grandchildren – Sullivan Marshall, Remi Alley

Brother – Sam (Alice) Cartrette – Lexington, NC

Children – Lisa Cartrette – NC, Benny Cartrette – NC

Funeral services will be held Thursday, 11:00 AM, December 23, 2021 in the Bower Funeral Home-Chapel, Pulaski with Pastor Jeff Willhoite officiating. Interment will follow at the Oakwood Cemetery, Pulaski.

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

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

GERALEEN BEATRICE FREEMAN TALMAGE

Geraleen Beatrice Freeman Talmage went to be with her Lord and Savior on the evening of December 19, 2021. Born September 12, 1931, in Caldwell, West Virginia she was the seventh child of Bessie B. and Parris E. Wood. She lived in a Christian home where many ministers, laymen, and missionaries visited and these visitors influenced her future career decisions.

Rev. G. F. Talmage is preceded in death by her sisters and brothers including Pauline Bowden (Paul), Kathleen LeFon (Leonard), Rev. Roy Wood (Mabel), Rev. Parris Wood (Lelia), Sanford Wood (Dot), and Rev. Curtis Wood (Myrtle) as well as her Mother and Father. We would also be remiss in not remembering her first husband, John Freeman.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Rev. D. E. John Talmage of Dublin Virginia, who cared for her these last many years of dementia, her son Daniel (Danny) E. J. Talmage, Jr. (Germantown, MD), her adopted daughter - Beatrice Rene Talmage (Hagerstown, MD), and her grandson, Brandon Talmage-Roy.

Geraleen started her education at Caldwell Elementary School, then White Sulpher Junior High. She then moved to Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs Georgia. After Emmanuel, she went to Holmes Bible College where she completed her High School Diploma and graduated with a Bachelor of Sacred Literature degree. Upon graduation, she was married to John Freeman at the Holmes Memorial Church. They were accepted as a couple to become missionaries to Africa by the Pentecostal Holiness Church (PHC) and Rev. Geraleen Talmage was ordained as a minister and missionary in August of

See DEATHS, page A5

DORIS GRAY KING

Doris Gray King, age 92 of Pulaski passed away December 15, 2021, at Pulaski Rehab. Born August 21,

1928, to the late Irven M. Gray and Blanche Hendricks Gray. She was retired from Virginia Maid and was a locally known beautician.

Doris is preceded in death by her sister Mary Elizabeth Gray Kanode and brother Irven Miller Gray Jr, niece Susie Baginski, 2 nephews Jeffrey Alan Gray and Michael Anthony Gray, a great nephew Benjamin Thomas Payne.

Doris is survived by her brother-in-law Robert Kanode, nephews Miller Duane "Dobbie" Gray, Jerry and Kay Kanode, Stevie and Andie Kanode, Larry Baginski, and niece Donna Marie Gray. She also leaves behind many great niece's and nephew's and even great-great nieces and nephews. She was very close to many of her cousins and had some special friends.

Funeral service was held Sunday, December 19, 2021 at the Highland Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Dublin, Virginia with Judy Yonce officiating.

The King family is in the care of Norris-Stevens Funeral Home. Online condolences can be made at www.stevensfuneralhomepulaski.com

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Missing You At Christmas

Every day without you
Since you had to go,
Is like summer without sunshine
And Christmas without snow.

I wish that I could talk to you
There's so much I would say,
Life has changed so very much
Since you went away.

I miss the bond between us
And I miss your kind support,
You're in my mind and my heart
And every Christmas thought.

I'll always feel you close to me
And though you're far from sight,
I'll search for you among the stars,
That shine on Christmas night.

Merry Christmas Sandy!
We love and miss you so much.
Mom, Alene, Angie, Kimberly, Heather, Terrell, Trinity, Ashton and Aiden

Deaths

Continued from Page A4

1952. Tragedy struck with John being killed in a tragic car accident as they were itinerating to travel to South Africa. Seeking God's will for her life Gerry then decided to continue her studies at Lynchburg College where she received her B.A. in 1954.

In 1954 she traveled to Africa and served on a mission station in what was then eastern Transvaal near Nelspruit. During these seven years, she served with her good friend and lifelong friend, Phylis Butler. Later on, at the mission station, her mother also visited Gerry as well as her brother, Roy Wood, who was also serving as a missionary in Pretoria, South Africa. Near the end of her time in South Africa, the Talmage family visited the mission station while on holiday and the eldest son John started writing letters, making calls, and a friendship blossomed into a romance.

Geraleen traveled back to the United States for her furlough and John moved to Holmes Theological Seminary to study for the ministry. They became engaged in 1961, married in 1962, and upon John's graduation in 1964 they were sent to South Africa as missionaries to Cape Town for the PHC.

Geraleen and John helped build the PHC church in Cape Town from one church to over 20 churches in the next few years while having their son Danny in 1965 and adopting their daughter Bea in 1973. During this time Geraleen was active in the women's ministry and Christian education programs for the church in Cape Town and later throughout the country. She would teach and lead correspondence courses and spoke in five different languages so that she could correct the homework that was sent in. She became head of the correspondence courses for Africa in 1986. Her passion was leading women and teaching them that they could serve and work for God as a leader. She preached and taught from early on and even preached two Mother's Day services two days after being blessed with Beatrice. In 1990 her passion for women's ministry was rewarded by her being named the Jurisdictional President for PHC Women's Ministries in Southern Africa as well as the PHC Women's Ministries Director for Africa, all while being based in Krugersdorp South Africa. The rest of her time in Africa was spent mentoring, writing, teaching, and leading the ministries throughout Africa as amazing growth was reported in women's ministries and Christian education in the IPHC. She also spoke at the many supporting churches in the United States as well as at the quadrennial national convention of the church.

Gerry and John retired in 2005 after serving 41 years together in Africa. They moved to Dublin Virginia where they both became active in their local Pulaski church in the prayer ministry and working with seniors in the Appalachian Conference of the IPHC. When time permitted Gerry enjoyed bird watching, playing scrabble, and sitting on the deck with her husband. In retirement, Gerry also was a church historian and wrote the history of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church in Africa used that material to lecture at the centennial celebration in South Africa in 2013.

In compiling this obituary, the family found a note from her father that ended with: "Look to God for your help in time of need and trust Him Always for He and He alone can keep you and Save your Soul when this life comes to an end!"

The Family has asked that in lieu of flowers donations be made to Holmes Bible School or to Emmanuel College. A graveside service will be held on December 27, 2021, at 2:00 pm in Dublin, Virginia, at the Appalachian Conference Cemetery and a memorial service will be held in April.

The Talmage family is in the care of Norris-Stevens Funeral Home. Online condolences can be made at www.stevensfuneralhomepulaski.com

CHARLES "CHARLIE" EDWARD TALBERT

Charles "Charlie" Edward Talbert, age 67 of Draper passed away Wednesday evening December 15, 2021 at the Lewis-Gale Hospital-Pulaski. Born March 27, 1954 in Pulaski County he was the son of the late Neal & Cecil Mabry Talbert.

Charles retired from Fontaine Modifications and was recently driving for the Pulaski Transit System. He was also a faithful member of the Faith Ryders and Grace Ministries, Pulaski

He is survived by his

Wife – Mary Jane Talbert – Draper

Children – Michelle Frost – Dublin, Charles Cecil (Rachel) Talbert – Pulaski, Selena Estep – Draper, Michael Shaver & Teresa Whitley – NC, Nikki Stump & Steve Gillispie – Draper, Cody Lawrence & Kortney Gravley – Roanoke, Cheyanne Melton – Dublin

Grandchildren – Austin Talbert, Kristopher Hayes, Zoey Talbert and many more special grandchildren

Great Granddaughter – Burkley Hayes

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 18, 2021 at the Bower Funeral Home-Chapel, Pulaski with Pastor Michael Williams officiating. Interment followed at the Memorial Christian Church Cemetery, Draper.

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

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

Remember Your Cherished Loved Ones With A Memoriam In The Patriot.

Call 540-808-3949.

Deadline Is Noon Wednesday.

The Patriot

County administrator, board agree on new four-year contract

By MIKE WILLIAMS
The Patriot

The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors on Monday night unanimously approved a new four-year contract for County Administrator Jonathan Sweet.

Terms of the contract were not readily available Monday night, except for the length of the contract, however, Chairman Joe Guthrie said the terms are public record and would be available to anyone who asked to see them – as well as being made a part of the minutes of the meeting when they are approved in January.

"It would be my privilege to serve this board for that period of time, and even longer than that if its is the pleasure of the board," Sweet said about the new four-year term.

Sweet expressed his appreciation and gratitude "not simply for approving the agreement, but just for giving me this privilege and honor to serve with you, for you and to serve this community and work alongside some of the most exceptional professionals in local government service. I greatly appreciate this. It is an honor, and I will continue to give Pulaski County my best years."

"We appreciate everything you've done for us, and we're delighted that we were able to find terms in which we can incentivize you to stay here in Pulaski County for a long-term future," said board chairman Joe Guthrie.

He added the board is delighted with the progress the county has been making and looks forward to more in the future.

Sweet's initial hiring was announced October 14, 2016 and his first day on the job was Jan. 16, 2017.

Defendant in murder case denied bond

Pulaski County Commonwealth's Attorney Justin L. Griffith reported Tuesday that the Pulaski County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court heard a motion for bond filed by the attorney for William Tyler Griffith, a defendant charged with 2nd Degree Murder.

Griffith, no relation to the Commonwealth's Attorney, is being held for the murder of Deborah (Debbie) Reed Griffith.

His motion was denied, he will continue to be held without bond at the New River Valley Regional Jail. His next court date is a pre-trial conference set on January 19th, 2022 at 9:30 am and his preliminary hearing is set January 26th, 2022 at 2:15 pm.

The Commonwealth was represented by James Crandall and Nicole Cumberland, both are Deputy Commonwealth's Attorneys for Pulaski County.

William Tyler Griffith

Academy nominees listed

Congressman Morgan Griffith (R-VA) issued the following statement recently announcing the names of his nominees to the United States Service Academies:

Ninth District Nominees:

U.S. Air Force Academy

D.J. Albert — Narrows
Nicholas Brians — Blacksburg
Morgan Dales — Cedar Bluff
Brenna Mills — Radford
Trenton Watkins — Marion
Audrey Williams — Weber City

U.S. Naval Academy

Camden Cormany — Radford
Jack Thompson — Blacksburg

In order to receive an appointment, nominees must meet all entrance requirements of the specific Academy. Nominees will be notified by the individual Academies upon appointment.

The Patriot
www.pcpatriot.com
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Saturday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

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The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2 : 1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that
a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.
2 (This was the first census that took place while[a]
Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went
to their own town to register.
4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth
in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David,
because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5
He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged
to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6
While they were there, the time came for the baby to
be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.
She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger,
because there was no guest room available for them.
8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields
nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An
angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of
the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring
you good news that will cause great joy for all the peo-
ple. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been
born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will
be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths
and lying in a manger."
13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host
appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor
rests."
15 When the angels had left them and gone into
heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to
Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which
the Lord has told us about."
16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph,
and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When
they had seen him, they spread the word concerning
what had been told them about this child, 18 and all
who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said
to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and
pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God for all the things they had
heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

White Christmas

The Christmas season is one of beloved traditions. From music we sing and hear to the menu of dishes we customarily enjoy for a Christmas feast to the decorations we hang around the house, the holiday is a time to return to the things that make the season special.

Morgan Griffith

9th District Representative

One song may be more familiar than most. "White Christmas" is not just a Christmas song; the version sung by Bing Crosby is considered to be the best-selling single of all time.

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know
Where the treetops glisten and children listen
To hear sleigh bells in the snow
I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
With every Christmas card I write
May your days be merry and bright
And may all your Christmases be white
I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know
Where the treetops glisten and children listen
To hear sleigh bells in the snow
I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
With every Christmas card I write
May your days be merry and bright
And may all your Christmases be white

"White Christmas" earned its place in music history and its regular spot in the rotation of Christmas music through talented writing, good timing for its melancholy mood, and memorable use in film.

See GRIFFITH, page A7

Do You Want Presents or His Presence?

One Nation Under God

By Danielle Reid

There was a time in early Colonial America when Christmas was not widely celebrated, especially by the Puritans. This may seem unusual, but Christmas in Europe had changed from being a holy religious celebration to one of debauchery and drunken revelry. They had lost the true meaning of Christmas and denigrated it to a season of self-indulgence and sensual pleasure. The Puritans wanted to retain the purity of the Bible and held those other activities in disdain.

For many people, Christmas this year is going to be very different. Some communities are still in lockdown because of COVID; and friends and family members cannot spend the holidays together.

Many businesses have closed resulting in people being unemployed and unable to afford gifts for their loved ones.

See NATION, page A7

Building the Wall Back Better

By Cal Thomas,
Tribune Content Agency

During a debate with George H.W. Bush in New Hampshire in 1980, the moderator asked that Ronald Reagan's microphone be "turned off for the moment." Reagan was angry and said something that might be applied to the failure of the Biden administration to use materials lying unused in Texas paid for during the Trump administration for the purpose of constructing the border wall. Said Reagan, "I paid for this microphone." The clear implication was that since he paid for it, he ought to be able to use it.

Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas is making a similar argument. He believes the Biden administration, either to spite Trump, or because it is not interested in securing the border, refuses to use materials already paid for by taxpayers for the purpose of resuming construction of the wall. As a result, Abbott has orderedthat construction resume, using state taxpayer funds and new materials.

More than a $100 million of taxpayer money was spent on materials intended for the border wall during the Trump administration. They should be made available to Gov. Abbott, but the Biden administration won't allow it. President Biden canceled contracts for its construction after entering office last January.

The Texas Department of Transportation is set to pay nearly $25 million for the construction of a nearly two-mile concrete barrier along the border in Eagle Pass. The Texas Tribunereports: "Under the project, the state has also contracted for a temporary fence near the right of way along State Loop 480, which the Department of Public Safety has designated a high-traffic area for illegal immigration."

Officers from the Texas Department of Public Safety are patrolling parts of the border where federal border control officers cannot be found. Immigrants who cross are being charged with trespassing and put in jail.

Gov. Abbott has said: "The Biden administration has abandoned its responsibilities to secure the border and Texans are suffering as a result. The problems along the border are only getting worse due to President Biden's inaction. Property is being destroyed, deadly drugs and illegal weapons are being smuggled into communities throughout the state, law enforcement is having to redirect their resources, and county judges and mayors are facing skyrocketing expenses. Texas is doing more than any state has ever done to protect the border, but it is clear that more is needed. In the Biden administration's absence, Texas is stepping up to get the job done by building the border wall. Through this comprehensive public safety effort, we will secure the border, slow the influx of unlawful immigrants, and restore order in our border communities."

As some media outlets (mostly Fox) show pictures of migrants illegally entering the country and new reports find some are coming from other than Central American countries, opinion appears to be shifting. A Fox polllast spring found an increase in the portion of respondents saying the migrants "hurt" the country and that attitude is seen across the board: "independents (+21), Republicans (+20), Whites (+18), men (+16), women (+14), Blacks (+11), and Democrats (+8) are more likely to think immigrants hurt rather than help."

Abbott has created the equivalent of a GoFundMe campaign so he might have additional resources to complete the wall. The website is borderwall.texas.gov.

I'm betting there are many Americans who would be willing to contribute, because they want to see the wall finished and stop the invasion. I would call the project "building the wall back better."

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" (HarperCollins/Zondervan).

Rich Lowery

Editor, National Review

The Failure of 'Latinx'

What the progressive culture elite wants, it usually gets. Single-sex bathrooms changing overnight to all-gender or non-gender bathrooms? Done. Illegal immigrants becoming known as undocumented persons? But of course.

So, when it was decided in the precincts of fashionable opinion that the term "Latino" would be retired in favor of "Latinx," one could have been forgiven for thinking that this hideous neologism would, like so much else in American life, go from a fringe cause to mainstream soon enough.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the Latinx ascendancy -- Latinos have rejected the term, at the same time that a big swing toward the GOP among these voters has highlighted the perils of high-handed cultural politics for the Democrats.

Latinx may end up being a woke experiment that failed, showing the vast gap between the identity-politics-obsessed progressives earnestly talking to one another in seminar rooms and on social media and the Hispanics in whose name they presume to speak.

Latinx is a project cut from the same cloth as the endless extension of LGBTQ, which, as of this writing, is now more properly and comprehensively rendered as LGBTQQIP2SAA.

The alleged problem that Latinx was invented to fix is that is Spanish has gendered nouns. This means that using the male Latino as an adjective to describe men and women of Latin American ancestry, let alone transgender and non-binary people, is supposedly exclusionary, hateful and downright dangerous. As a handbook on the terminology by a Princeton scholar explains, "To default to the masculine gender promotes interpersonal violence against women and non-binary individuals."

Latinx rose from the ashes of its predecessor neologism Latin@, an attempted amalgamation of the -o at the end of the Latino and the -a at the end of Latina. But no one knew how to pronounce the word. It was deemed insufficiently woke because the "o" was supposedly graphically dominating the "a" (yes, this is how some people think). And it caused confusion on social media where the at sign is used to tag someone.

Enter Latinx, which is only slightly less ridiculous.

As Giancarlo Sopo of The Daily Wire, who has been on a one-man crusade against the rise of the term, points out, Latinx is incomprehensible to any Spanish speaker without some knowledge of English. Most Spanish-speakers don't think there is something desperately flawed about their language, or that Spanish grammar is a proto-hate crime. The Real Academia Espanola, Spain's official institution charged with maintaining the integrity of the language, has ruled against the -x appendage.

Out in the real world, "Latinx" polls even more poorly

See LOWRY, page A7

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The Patriot

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Griffith

Continued from Page A6

The talent behind the music and lyrics was Irving Berlin, one of the great songwriters of all time and a true only-in-America success story. He was born Israel Beilin in the Russian Empire of the late nineteenth century and emigrated with his family to the United States in 1893. He picked up his musical talents growing up in New York, and when the sheet music of his first published tune in 1907 misnamed him as "I. Berlin," he became Irving Berlin going forward.

His musical output varied from popular music ("Alexander's Ragtime Band" was his first major hit) to patriotic tunes ("God Bless America," which has become an unofficial national anthem of sorts) to musicals (This is the Army was a hit on Broadway and later as a movie featuring Ronald Reagan), even to campaign jingles ("I Like Ike" rallied voters for Dwight D. Eisenhower's presidential victories).

But it was of "White Christmas" that Berlin supposedly bragged to his secretary that not only was it the greatest song he wrote, but that it was the greatest song anybody had ever written.

The song was first sung by Bing Crosby on the radio on Christmas Day 1941, soon after the United States entered World War II. Its wistful lyrics would speak to the millions of Americans who would soon find themselves engaged in the war effort far from home.

That war backdrop also influenced the eventual film version of "White Christmas," released in 1954 and starring Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and Vera-Ellen. It was not the first film to feature the song, but it became a classic of the season.

Crosby and Kaye play veterans who find their former general running a struggling hotel in Vermont during an unusually warm winter. On Christmas Eve, they stage a show to cheer up the general with all the men of their old unit, and as snow finally falls, they sing the title song.

One of my favorite memories related to the theme of the song is from when I was young. The weatherman called for flurries on Christmas Day. I woke up on Christmas morning and the flurries looked heavy. By mid-morning, the ground was covered. At 6pm, I measured the snow in my backyard in Salem and the "flurries" reached twelve inches of snow.

For millions, the song and the film have become an integral part of the holiday season, a product of a particular time and place that can resonate with anybody. In that way, it is like the fundamental meaning of Christmas – the birth of one child in the unusual setting of a manger, yet who offers to all hope and redemption.

Whether this year's Christmas is white or not, I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. You can call 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.

Nation

Continued from Page A6

Some have lost their long-term careers because they refuse to take the mandated vaccine jab. Others have lost loved ones because of sickness, accidents or crime-related incidents.

Whatever the cause, there are multiple opportunites for people to feel isolated, lonely and even depressed this year. I know several families who are part of these scenarios and they seem to have lost the joy of the holiday season. I had started sinking into a Grinch mentality myself, until last Sunday during our church service.

Something happened that reminded me that we should look past the external and materialistic meaning of Christmas and refocus on the original reason for celebrating Christmas. It's not about the presents under the Christmas tree, but it's about the presence of Jesus in our lives – the One whose birth we celebrate, who brought the gifts of forgiveness and restoration to the human race – gifts of love from our Father, God.

One of our praise team members, Tonya Repass Martin, sang this song that helped me refocus, and I want to share the lyrics with you. The song is entitled, "Your Presence for Christmas."

In the busy Christmas noise,
All the lights, the bells, the toys,
I have found You are the only source
Of comfort and joy

Lord, I want Your presence for Christmas.
I long to feel Your Spirit
speaking peace to my heart.

Of all the gifts I may receive,
Theres only one I truly need,
And it's Your presence,
Your Presence for Christmas.

When the Holiday is through,
And the year is fresh and new,
What will linger are the moments spent,
My Lord just worshipping You.

Lord, I want your presence for Christmas!
Of all the gifts I may receive,
There's only one I truly need,
And It's Your presence.
Your presence For Christmas.

Let's make a point this Christmas to share the presence of God's love, sent through the birth of His Son, Jesus. My prayer is that everyone who reads this will be filled with Jesus' abiding love and peace; and feel His calming embrace this Christmas.

Lowry

Continued from Page A6

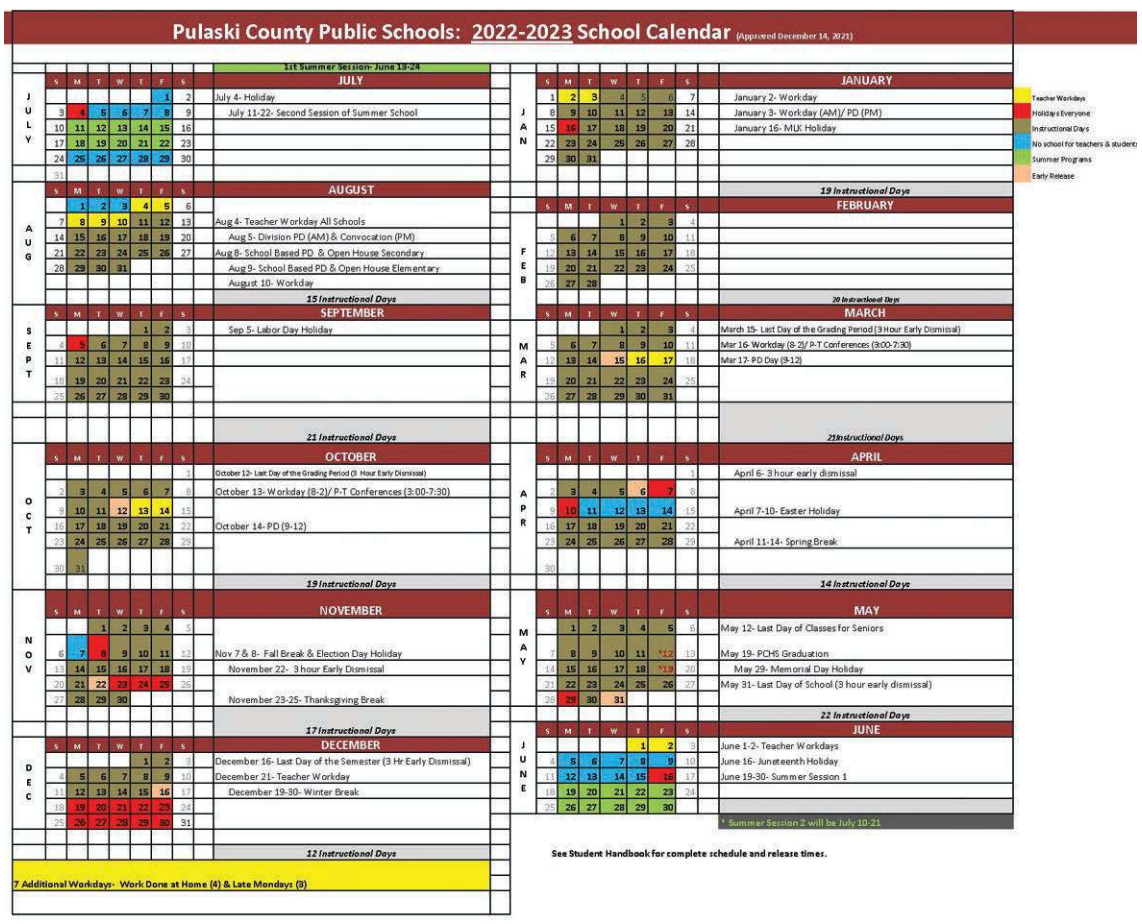
than Joe Biden does. A Politico poll found that only 2% of Hispanics prefer the term, while 68% opt for Hispanic and 21% favor Latino or Latina. The term is considered offensive to 40% of respondents and 30% said that they are less likely to support a politician or group using it.

Rep. Ruben Gallego, an Arizona Democrat, tweeted in reaction to the poll that he forbids his staff from using Latinx in official communications. "When Latino politicos use the term, it is largely to appease white rich progressives who think that is the term we use," he wrote. "It is a vicious circle of confirmation bias."

Still, elite media outlets and other institutions susceptible to progressive influence, as well as many elected Democrats, have dutifully defaulted to the term. It's one thing if an individual prefers to be called Latinx (or, the even more cutting-edge Latina/o/x or Xicanx), it's another thing to apply the term to a large group of people who have no interest in being called a name that makes no sense to them.

The pushback is a heartening sign of the limits of elite cultural power, and of the lack of interest of most Latinos in being pawns in the ever more strained and obscure progressive politics of perpetual victimology.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



School board approves calendars for next 2 years

From Pulaski County Public Schools

At the recent meeting of the Pulaski County School Board, the board approved the calendars for the upcoming 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.

"We wanted to be proactive and set the calendars early and ahead of schedule in an effort to give teachers, staff and parents extra time to make plans," Dr. Kevin Siers, Superintendent of PCPS said. "We went through a process that involved input from various stakeholders in the community and school system to make this happen and we greatly appreciate all of their input. We were able to put together a schedule that we think everyone will be pleased with."

First, information was gathered that included input from board members, staff, teachers, students and parents. Surveys went out asking for recommendations on start dates and end dates, as well as questions concerning teacher work days, holidays and other important events.

With the information in hand, two different calendars were created. While the two calendars were similar in many aspects, they did offer variations in start and end of school dates and other items.

Those calendars were then presented to the board, as well as teacher, staff, parent and student advisory groups for consideration. After being presented with the options, a vast majority of those involved recommended the calendar that was approved Tuesday, Dec. 14.

The 2022-23 calendar will see teachers return Aug. 4 for a teacher work day. A School Based Professional Development Day followed by Convocation will happen Aug. 5.

Open House for PCHS will take place for high school and middle school students Aug. 8, followed by elementary school open house Aug. 9. Another teacher workday will take place Aug. 10.

See CALENDARS, page A10

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New Year's Week Schedule
We'll Be Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
We'll Be Closed
Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Public meeting planned for Peak Creek cleanup

Over the past eight months, the Town of Pulaski, Pulaski County, Friends of Peak Creek, and the New River Conservancy have been working with local residents and organizations to develop a clean-up plan for Peak Creek.

Currently, Peak Creek does not meet water quality standards for fecal bacteria, which poses a risk to human health when coming in contact with the water. The plan has been developed outlining the best ways to reduce fecal bacteria in Peak Creek.

The success of the plan relies on voluntary actions from local landowners. If you would like to learn more about this plan and what you can do to help, please join us on January 6, 2022 at 7:00 at the Train Station, 20 South Washington, Pulaski, VA. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on January 11, 2022 at 7:00 PM

The draft Clean Up Plan to reduce bacteria in Peak Creek will be presented at the meeting. The meeting will also include numerous displays from project partners. Refreshments will also be provided. Following the meeting, the draft plan will be available for the public to review. There will be a 30-day public comment period to provide feedback on the plan before it is submitted to the VA DEQ for approval.

For more information, contact: Cathy Hanks, President, Friends of Peak Creek, Inc at info@friendsofpeakcreek.org or Karen Kline, Senior Research Scientist, Biological Systems Engineering at klinek@vt.edu.

Arrest made in burglary try

The Virginia State Police has made one arrest and is still searching for additional suspects connected with an attempted burglary at a Wythe County ATV dealership early Saturday (Dec. 18).

At approximately 2:20 a.m. Saturday, a Wythe County Sheriff's Deputy encountered several individuals attempting to break into an ATV dealership located in the 2000 block of Chapman Road in Wytheville. The individuals fled the scene on foot and the sheriff's office requested Virginia State Police (VSP) to aid with searching for the suspects. During the course of the search, the sheriff's office requested VSP to take the lead on the incident.

During the search efforts, state police located Christopher A. Thomas, 35, (no known address) and have charged him with conspiracy to commit grand larceny, conspiracy to enter a structure to commit a burglary, possession of burglary tools, and trespassing on railroad property. He is being held without bond at the New River Valley Regional Jail.

State police is also still seeking information on a 2016 Hyundai sedan with Pennsylvania license plates: LSG 0399. This vehicle may be involved in this morning's attempted burglary.

VSP is investigating a previous larceny at the same dealership that occurred Aug. 28, 2021. During that incident, several motorcycles – worth thousands of dollars – were stolen by a small group of individuals.

Mike Williams/The Patriot

Fred the Skeleton stands watch over a huge pile of toys and game collected by Holly Welty Miller's Foothills Chiropractic office in Pulaski. This is only a portion of what had been collected so far on Monday morning - with more donations expected.

Foothills Chiropractic's toy drive a huge success

By MIKE WILLIAMS
The Patriot

Christmas will be a good bit brighter this week for about 50 children – ages newborn to 18 – thanks to the generosity of patients and community supporters of Holly Welty Miller and her Foothills Chiropractic office in Pulaski.

It took only a couple weeks or so for a mountain of toys and games to be brought into the Foothills office after word got out about the toy drive through fliers and Facebook updates.

"It started as an idea which quickly turned into a dream of helping out 50 kids. In less than two weeks this little idea has become a mind blowing, heart-warming community uniting experience. You guys conquered the unthinkable! Thank you so much," Miller said in a Facebook post this week.

The toys are bound for Carilion Roanoke Children's Hospital and its Pediatric Oncology Hematology Department.

According to Chiropractic Assistant Wesley Canter, while Miller and her staff have sponsored toy drives in the past, this is a first working with the children's hospital.

Canter said after the toys have been in "quarantine" for while, under the watchful eye of Fred the Skeleton, they will be delivered to the hospital on Thursday, Dec. 23 – just in time for Christmas.

Canter said the huge pile of toys and games – which covers one entire side of the Foothills front office – will grow even larger as more deliveries are expected before the 23rd.

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December 2021

Services and Big Christmas Celebration will be at the current ministry location 223 N Washington Ave Pulaski VA.

Fri. Dec. 3rd: Pastor Mike Ingo
Sat. Dec. 4th: Pastor Charlie Barbettini

Saturday Dec. 18th Big Christmas Celebration 3 pm—5 pm guest speaker will be Pastor Shawn Burchett. Gifts for infant to 16 years of age. Children must be with parent or guardian to receive gifts. Also the Clothing Bank will be open with Free Men's, Women's, Boys and Girls Clothing.

Pre-registration is now underway for the Big Christmas Celebration through Saturday Dec. 11th at Emanuel Book Store, The Patriot Newspaper and at Taking It To The Streets Ministries.

Each Service Broadcast Live on streaming video at: www.streets4god.com
For More Information Contact: Charlie Barbettini. : 276.620.4293
Wear what you have and come as you are! Come expecting a Blessing
"Go Ye Into All The World and Preach The Gospel to Every Creature" Mark 16:15

The Patriot
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PET OF THE WEEK
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• Purina Puppy Chow
• Canned dog/cat food
• Dog/Cat Treats (NO RAWHIDE)
• Laundry Detergent (UNSCENTED)
• Bleach
• Blankets/Towels/Sheets/Dog or Cat beds that are no longer needed
• Small litter pans
• Dawn dish soap
• Heavy Duty Dog Toys: KONGS Classic works great!
• Wal-Mart Gift Cards
• Puppy Pads

**Please drop off donations at the Pulaski County Animal Shelter with Animal Control

Pulaski County Animal Control,
80 Dublin Park Rd.
Dublin, VA 24084, 540-674-8359

Pet of the Week Is Sponsored Each Week By *Todd Bruce, Mgr.* Seagle Funeral Home

Seagle Funeral Home

NRV Health Director Bissell offers COVID update

We are moving into the end-of-the-year holidays with COVID once again on everyone's mind as families try to plan for safe, healthy ways to celebrate; and as our community tries to keep our healthcare systems from being overwhelmed so they can be there for everyone in need. Meanwhile, Omicron is making a lot of waves around the world and likely will be the predominant variant in the United States within the next few weeks. It is highly transmissible, and cases double every 2-3 days.

Let's start with where we are now. In the New River Valley, we are still dealing predominantly with the Delta variant and the bump in cases from holiday gatherings and engaging in more indoor activities due to cold weather. This morning, our hospitals reported 38 COVID positive patients - about the same as last week. Our hospitals are very busy. They are often full, with patients waiting in the emergency department for beds to become available; we are asking everyone to choose behavior that reduces the spread of infection and protects our healthcare systems.

We do expect cases to increase significantly in the New River Valley over the coming weeks as Omicron arrives. Case numbers are becoming even less reliable as more people do at-home tests and don't report results, and as people assume they have COVID without getting tested or attribute symptoms to something else and don't get tested. Rapid test availability is slowly improving, and the health department has PCR test availability. We do have a modified schedule for the holidays.

However, as I mentioned last week, at this point in the pandemic we really need to be looking more at hospitalizations, deaths, and trends. Let's look at the weekly trends in the New River District.

We do have to remember that with Omicron being so much more contagious, more people will get infected. We still may see higher absolute numbers of hospitalizations and deaths because a small percentage of a large number is still a lot of people.

The good news is that the vaccine looks like it is still protective against severe disease, hospitalization or death. Although Omicron may infect people who have been previously infected, vaccinated and even boosted, the data we are seeing from South Africa and the U.K. indicates that the vaccine is working. In South Africa, 93% of the deaths have been in people who are unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated. Being vaccinated significantly reduces hospitalizations and deaths.

We continue to encourage everyone to get a vaccine. They are widely available at local pharmacies and many medical practices. The New River Health District offers vaccination clinics every weekday at different facilities. Please note that we are closed Dec. 23, 24, and 31. There will be no vaccine clinics on those days.

COVID is here and it's not going to go away. The CDC has acknowledged that we will not achieve herd immunity, which means we are moving to where COVID is endemic and, as one person said, "we need to learn how to dance with COVID." This means that each individual, each household, and each family needs to perform a risk assessment that informs their own behavior - just like we do when flu and other diseases are spreading in a community.

Just like flu and other infectious viruses, we have safe, effective vaccines, and good treatments. The pandemic has shown us all the value of masking, ventilation, respiratory hygiene, and hand washing. I hope everyone uses these tools going forward with any infectious disease.

A number of people are asking us how to plan safe family get togethers for the holidays. Each family needs to do their own risk assessment. If you want to gather with people at higher risk for poor outcomes, elderly relatives, or young children not eligible for vaccination, you will want to employ more safeguards. Stay outdoors and bundle up if it's cold, open windows, stay home if you have any symptoms at all, use good respiratory hygiene and wash your hands. If you don't know the vaccination status of everyone at the gathering, you are always safer wearing a double layer, well-fitting cloth mask, or a surgical mask.

To be extra safe, your vulnerable family and friends might ask you to test before coming. Many families are planning to get tested in advance. If you are meeting with young, healthy, vaccinated people who are not vulnerable, you can gather with fewer precautions. Many groups will fall somewhere in between. No matter what group you gather with, if you have any symptoms, please stay home.

As for testing, you can find rapid tests at some pharmacies. The Health Department has changed our testing schedule for the holidays. This week, we tested today at Montgomery and tomorrow we will test from 9-11:30 at Floyd. We will not be testing Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday due to lab closures. Next week, we are testing from 9-11:30 on Monday at Montgomery County and Tuesday at Floyd. On Wednesday, we will test from 1-3 at Montgomery and we won't be testing Thursday and Friday.

-Dr. Noelle Bissell,
Director, New River Public Health District

First Bank & Trust Donates to Backpack Programs

Community involvement is one of the many things that make Pulaski County Public Schools so special. Our community members and local businesses are and have been strong supporters of education and programs that benefit our students. Another example of that support recently took place when First Bank & Trust made donations to support two local backpack programs. The Snowville Backpack Buddies and the Dublin Elementary School Backpack Program are just two of the local organizations that work with our local schools to help provide healthy and nutritious snacks and food for students who may otherwise do without. These backpacks are sent home during the weekends packed with food donated or purchased by these organizations. The groups collect or purchase the food, fill the backpacks, and then deliver them to the schools each week for the students. Students return the empty backpacks when they return to school. Seen here are representatives from First Bank & Trust along with representatives from the backpack programs and schools. First Bank & Trust donated $500 to each program to help them in providing assistance to these students. We gratefully thank you for your generous support. (Pulaski County Public Schools)

VDH approves Certificate of Need for NICU at LewisGale

SALEM, Va. – LewisGale Medical Center announced the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) recently approved its Certificate of Public Need (COPN) for a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). LewisGale had been seeking approval to provide intensive care unit level services to babies in Salem since 2011.

"After 12 years of vigorously pursuing all possible avenues to secure approval to open a NICU at LewisGale Medical Center for the families and communities we serve, we are excited the Virginia Health Commissioner has approved our COPN application," said Lance Jones, market president.

The NICU will provide critical care to newborns who are ill or premature. Many factors may lead to a newborn being admitted to the NICU, including low birth weight or complications during delivery. The NICU staff will work closely with parents to develop a treatment plan for their newborn.

Virginia Senator David Suetterlein (R-Roanoke County), who wrote and carried the legislation that exempted a NICU at LewisGale from the COPN process, has long supported efforts to being a NICU to LewisGale as has Senator John Edwards (D- Roanoke) other state and local legislators.

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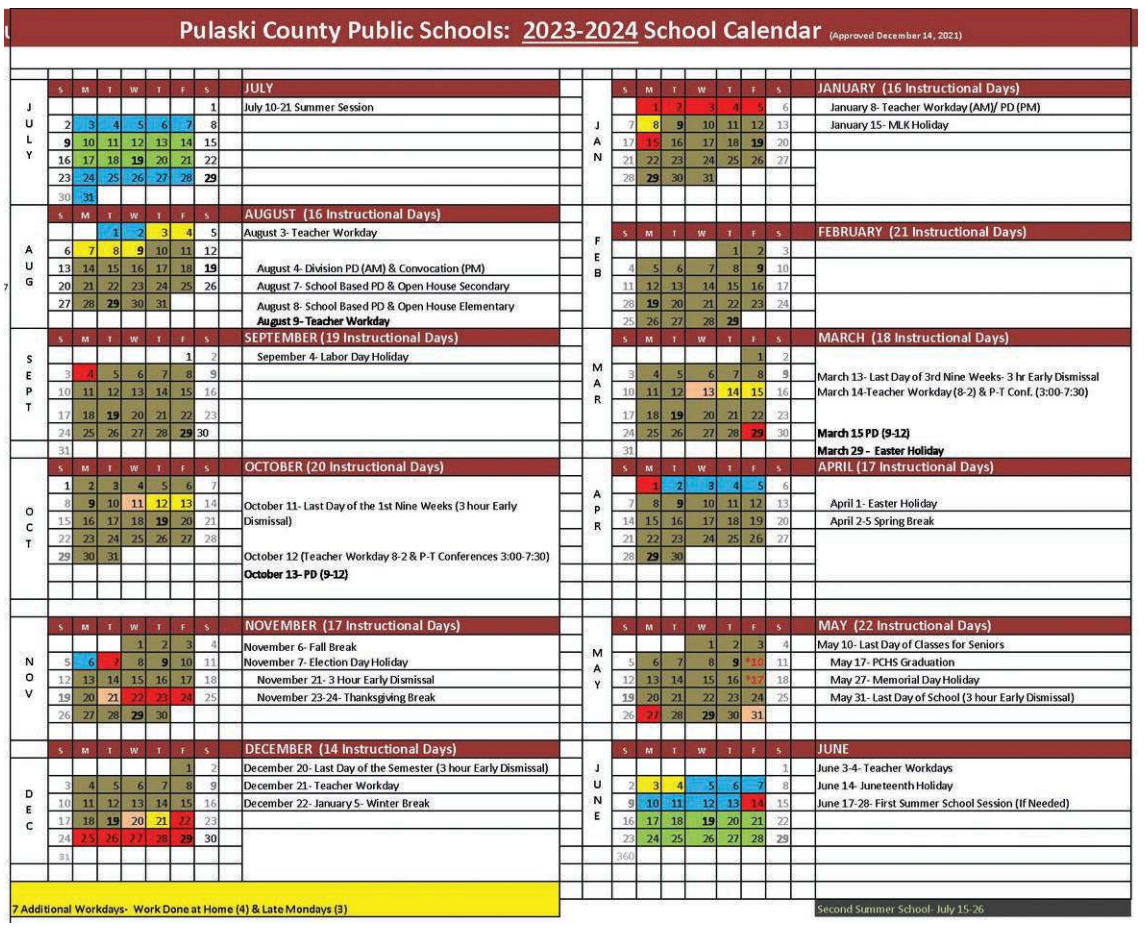
Calendars

Continued from Page A7

PCPS will welcome students back beginning Aug. 11, 2021.

Students and staff will enjoy a long weekend with Nov. 7-8 as scheduled days off due to the election. Fall Break will be Nov. 23-25 with early dismissal Nov. 22. Winter Break will be Dec. 19-30 with early dismissal Dec. 16.

Students will return from Winter Break Jan. 2, 2023. Spring Break will be April 11-14 with early release April 6. The last day of class for seniors will be May 12, with graduation from PCHS set for May 19. May 31 is set as the final day of school for all students in PCPS.



Bland man gets 50 years in child porn conviction

ABINGDON, Va. – A Bland County, Virginia man was sentenced last week to 50 years in prison for making and producing child pornography at his home and illegally possessing a firearm after previously being convicted of a felony offense.

William Dean Blankenship, 42, was a previously convicted felon residing in Bland County. On February 12, 2021, the Bland County Sheriff's Office and Virginia State Police executed a state search warrant at Blankenship's home after receiving information that the defendant had engaged in sexual acts with children and was in possession of child pornography.

During that search, a cellular phone and other electronic devices that belonged to Blankenship were recovered. Blankenship's phone contained over 50 video files of child pornography made by the defendant that showed him engaging in sexual intercourse with two minors under the age of 18. The investigation revealed that Blankenship routinely coerced and enticed the two minors to engage in sexual activity with Blankenship, and with one another, after he gave the minors narcotics and other controlled substances. Blankenship's abuse began when the minors were approximately 13 and 14 years old. Law enforcement also located a firearm in the defendant's home.

"Today's lengthy sentence shows the commitment of the Department of Justice to protecting children from the type of abuse and coercive exploitation this defendant exhibited over several years," United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh said today. "My Office will continue to investigate and prosecute all those who prey on our most vulnerable victims. I am grateful to the work of the Department of Homeland Security and the Virginia State Police for their work on this case.".

"Now, Mr. Blankenship will begin to pay for the horrific atrocities he committed," said Ray Villanueva, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Washington, D.C. "This sentencing serves as another example to anyone who seeks to victimize our children, that we will work tirelessly to bring them to justice. HSI was proud to have partnered the Virginia State Police, as well as the Bland and Giles Sheriff's Offices on this case."

In September 2021, Blankenship pleaded guilty to 17 counts of production of child pornography and one count of illegal possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon.

The Department of Homeland Security Investigations, the Bland County Sheriff's Office, the Giles County Sheriff's Office, and Virginia State Police investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel J. Murphy prosecuted the case.

PULSE

Public Service Announcements:

Christmas Holiday Schedule
The PSA Office will be closed December 23-24 for Christmas. There will be trash collection on Dec. 23-24. Have garbage out by 7 a.m. on your pickup day. The convenience centers will be open on Dec. 23-24. They will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 25.

New Year's Day Schedule
The PSA Office will be closed on Friday, December 31 for New Year's. There will be garbage collection. The conveniences centers will be open on Dec. 31. They will be closed on Saturday, Jan. 1.

Dublin Town Offices will be closed
Dublin Town Offices will be closed December 23, 24, 27, and 31. Garbage scheduled to be picked up on Monday, Dec. 27 will be picked up on Tuesday, December 28.

January 6

Legion to meet
The American Legion, Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 to meet
The American Legion, HHC Post 30 will meet on Thursday, January 6, 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. If Radford City Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather. The meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please contact 250-2283 or 239-9864.

January 11

Meeting of Sons of Confederate Veterans planned

Sons of the Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Camp 1184 to meet
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet on Tuesday, January 11, 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. The guest speaker will be Mr. Scott Gardner of the Glencoe Museum, who will give a talk on General Gabriel Wharton. If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Tuesday, or Wednesday of this week due to weather, the meeting is cancelled. For further information, please contact 320-4315or 239-9864.

January 21

2022 NRV Master Gardening Training

The New River Valley Maaster Gardener Program is seeking applicants for the 2022 Master Gardener Training class. The class runs on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from Feb. 15 through May 5. Contact the Montgomery County Extension Office at 540-382-5790 for more information. Applications are due Jan. 21, 2022.

Live Nativity At Newbern Church of God

Newbern Community experiences the real meaning of Christmas! A Live Nativity was displayed on December 18th and 19th by the Newbern Church of God. Wishing all a Merry Christmas and hope that all will take time to reflect on the Savior's birth.

Photos courtesy of Sandy Smith

Price, players discuss upcoming New Era Pinstripe Bowl

Hokiesports.com

BLACKSBURG – Leading up to the Maryland game in the New Era Pinstripe Bowl, interim head coach J.C. Price and select players held a press conference on Tuesday addressing the media.

HEAD COACH J.C. PRICE

"First of all, we are really excited to represent Virginia Tech and the ACC in the New Era Pinstripe Bowl. The Yankees have been very gracious to Virginia Tech over the years, so it's going to be very cool to play in Yankee Stadium for our players, coaches and fans. Whit [Babcock] and our administration were on a call yesterday finalizing the details for our trip. We are certainly excited to see a lot of Hokies travel up there, including my wife and kids who are really looking forward to taking this trip and experiencing New York during this time of the year with the holidays. Then I am looking forward to the challenge of facing Coach [Mike] Locksley and a very good Terrapins team."

On what the protocols may be in New York and how the team will manage a potential Covid-19 outbreak:

"The Yankees have done a wonderful job keeping our staff informed on the procedures and the following when we make it to New York. We haven't really done anything more or less here, and Blacksburg isn't really close to a hot bed. The guys have all been following the same procedures throughout the whole year. So, our guys have continued to do a great job and continue to do things right with wearing masks."

On how he has structured the practices during the bowl prep and how the younger guys are stepping up:

"Going into it before everything, we talked about developing a little bit. I guess, as a coach, you have two different mindsets. You have a few duty structures, like a spring practice, and you try to get a lot of guys ready for next year. Or, you know, we went about it as a staff thinking that, since we are going to have a bunch of young

See BOWL, page B3

Hokiesports.com

Hokies interim head coach J.C. Price speaks with his team following the first day of bowl game practice.

Brian Bishop/The Patriot

Pulaski County's Ally Fleenor poses with her family during Tuesday night's home game against Patrick Henry after she scored her 1,000th career point for the Lady Cougars.

Fleenor reaches 1,000 points

Patriot Staff Report

Tuesday was a big night for one Pulaski County High School basketball player and her team, and an off night for the boys squad.

The Lady Cougars' Ally Fleenor scored her 1,000th career point in Tuesday's rout of Patrick Henry.

Fleenor led the Lady Cougars with 19 points on their way to a 60-37 victory.

Keslyn Secrist added 15 points to the Lady Cougars' cause as Pulaski County improved its season record to 4-1.

Other scoring for the Lady Cougars included Jaden Lawson's 10, Erin Russell's 9, Paige Huff's 5 and Hannah Keefer's 2.

Scott Ratcliff's Lady Cougar squad now prepares for next week's Andrew Johnson Bank Classic in Greenville, Tenn. The tournament action begins Tuesday and continues through next Friday.

The Lady Cougars open play on Tuesday at noon against Oak Ridge, Tenn.

In boys' action, Tyler Cannoy's Cougars saw their record drop to 3-2 on the season as Pulaski County dropped its second straight – both by lopsided scores.

After falling Friday at Radford, 62-31 the Cougars lost again Tuesday night at Patrick Henry, 71-47.

Pulaski County trailed only 30-23 at the half, but the Patriots blew the game open in the third quarter to lead, 51-35 and kept their foot on the gas to the end of the game.

Of note, the Patriots hit 11 three-pointers in the contest.

Points-wise it was a good night for the Cougars' JJ Gulley who tallied 20 points to lead Pulaski County.

Other scoring came from Peyton McDaniel, 8; Kyle O'Neal, 5; Lane Nester, 5; Caleb Under-

See COUGARS, page B4

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ACC bowl game details, notes

From theACC.com

Monday, Dec. 27, Time, TV, Sirius, XM, App
Military Bowl Presented by Peraton
Boston College (6-6) vs. East Carolina (7-5), 2:30 p.m., ESPN, 84, 84, 84
ESPN: Brian Custer (play-by-play), Kelly Stouffer (analyst), Quint Kessenich (sideline)

Tuesday, Dec. 28, Time, TV, Sirius, XM, App
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl
Louisville (6-6) vs. Air Force (9-3), 3:15 p.m., ESPN, 84, 84, 84
ESPN: Chris Cotter (play-by-play), Mark Herzlich (analyst), Jalyn Johnson (sideline)

San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl
No. 18 NC State (9-3) vs. UCLA (8-4), 8 p.m., FOX, 83, 83, 83
FOX: Gus Johnson (play-by-play), Joel Klatt (analyst), Jenny Taft (sideline)

Wednesday, Dec. 29, Time, TV, Sirius, XM, App
Wasabi Fenway Bowl
Virginia (6-6) vs. SMU (8-4), 11 a.m., ESPN, 137, 202, 965
ESPN: Dave O'Brien (play-by-play), Tim Hasselbeck (analyst), Kelsey Riggs (sideline)

New Era Pinstripe Bowl
Virginia Tech (6-6) vs. Maryland (6-6), 2:15 p.m., ESPN, 80, 80, 80
ESPN: Matt Barrie (play-by-play), Roddy Jones (analyst), Sam Acho (sideline)

Cheez-It Bowl
No. 19 Clemson (9-3) vs. Iowa State (7-5), 5:45 p.m., ESPN, 80, 80, 80
ESPN: Dave Pasch (play-by-play), Dusty Dvoracek (analyst), Tom Luginbill (sideline)

Thursday, Dec. 30, Time, TV, Sirius, XM, App
Duke's Mayo Bowl
North Carolina (6-6) vs. South Carolina (6-6), 11:30 a.m., ESPN, 137, 202, 965
ESPN: Anish Shroff (play-by-play), Mike Golic Jr. (analyst), Taylor McGregor (sideline)

Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl
No. 12 Pitt (11-2) vs. No. 10 Michigan State (10-2), 7 p.m., ESPN, 80, 80, 80
ESPN: Mark Jones (play-by-play), Robert Griffin III (analyst), Quint Kessenich (sideline)

Friday, Dec. 31, Time, TV, Sirius, XM, App
TaxSlayer Gator Bowl
No. 17 Wake Forest (10-3) vs. No. 25 Texas A&M (8-4), 11 a.m.,

See ACC, page B4

Classifieds

AUCTION

Town Center Storage Dublin, VA 24084 The following units are being offered by online auction at www.storageauctions.com Units 84,107 and 310 Auction has been posted and will be active until Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 12:00 Noon.

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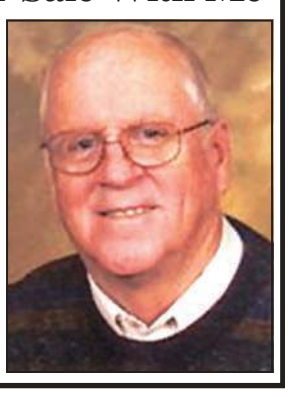

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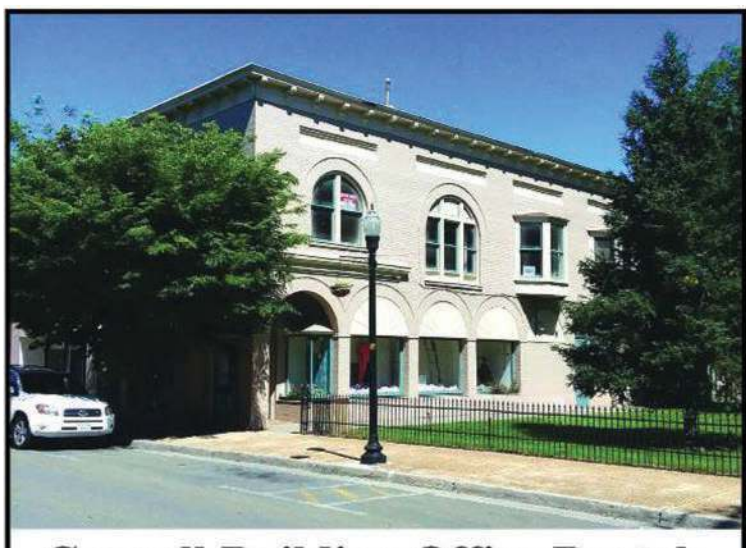
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Bowl

Continued from Page B1

guys are already playing, that we weren't going to back off. This is reward. I didn't want them to be out there for normal, two-hour practice. That's not what we wanted. We wanted to make sure these guys enjoy the bowl experience. It is reward. So, we basically cut things down. We had limited individual time. But I also expressed to them that there's a certain amount of work you need to put in to win the game. And we have done that. Inside drills. We've had spirited inside drills. What was live and we've had good on good. We were hitting our situations with red zone and third down. We did a two-minute drill of 1s against 1s and 2s against 2s today. So, we're trying to simulate as much as we can, good 11-on-11, as we prepare for the game."

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN TYRELL SMITH

On what he would like to accomplish before he leaves Blacksburg after a long career:

"Yeah, these last few weeks, honestly, I've been happy because my time here in Blacksburg has been so good, so I'm trying to cherish these last moments. But while we are we still here, we have a lot of business to finish. We weren't going to play in this bowl game if we didn't beat UVA. So that was our path and now we face Maryland in New York."

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN BROCK HOFFMAN

On the thought process on playing in the bowl before declaring for the NFL Draft:

"I mean, for me, there was no decision. I've never been to a bowl game. So, this is my first one. Like, it was just my decision. There was no way I wasn't going to play. Then in terms of the draft, for me, I just thought it was my time to move on. I talked to a lot of people here, and I talked to my family and I just felt like it was the right time for me."

DEFENSIVE BACK CHAMARRI CONNER

On the passing game Maryland presents and the difficulties defending it:

"It is definitely going to be a challenge to defend the pass against them, but, as a defensive back, that's what we look forward to. It will be exciting to see if we can stop them."

LINEBACKER DAX HOLLIFIELD

On it being a lot of his teammates' last game and what it means to play with them one last time:

"The seniors, they've put a lot of hard work into this program, and we want to send them out the right way. Then playing at Yankee Stadium is pretty cool. It's a really historical place, and the game is going to be played on a baseball field in the Bronx will be really cool. But, at the end of the day, we just need to get the win."

Hokiesports.com

Junior quarterback Connor Blumrick has been named the starter for Tech in the Pinstripe Bowl.

The Christmas Goose

Woods, Water & Wildlife

W.A. 'Doc' Davis

The reading of Robin Hood and his men and their exploits in the days of Merry Ole England by our 6th grade teacher was fascinating. The shooting of long bows, six feet and longer made of yew wood that shot steel-tipped arrows with goose feathers on the shafts that were a 3-feet in length, perked my Little Creek gang to accomplish the many feats of Robin and his band. We never were able to split another arrow in the bullseye or the other described shooting skills with our archery equipment (some purchased and some home-made).

The goose feathers used on the arrows gave us an idea of trying to get a goose a couple weeks prior to Christmas one year as roast goose was a meal of tradition of that time period. There was a corn field of a neighboring farmer that we often walked the rows of young growing corn looking for arrow heads. A small pond adjoined the field and was visited by a few ducks and occasionally 3 to 4 geese that fed on any corn left after the shocked corn was shucked out. We wondered what we would need as a gun and I had often looked at one in the Montgomery Ward catalog that featured a 36-inch barrel; but the cost was too far out for us with the little money we got working for adjoining farmers and selling a few pelts from our winter trap lines. Bob* and Joe* (names changed), two of my buddies, were brothers who had gotten Poly-Choked 12 gauge Browning shotguns for Christmas the year before. Joe, the older brother of Bob, was fifteen and into dating girls and offered me the use of his gun.

Bob and I practiced with the guns using a splatter board in order to get the best pattern by adjusting the poly-choke on the end of the barrel. We scouted the pond area for a few evenings and found the ducks and four geese flying into the corn field and onto the pond. We knew little as to build blinds but were fortunate that near the pond there was a large shock that the farmer had built after shucking out several regular-sized shocks and was to be fed out to cattle that winter. Bob said he would hunker on the right side and shot at the goose to the farthest right and I could do the same from the left side of the corn shock keying in on the goose to the farthest left.

The plan worked pretty well that morning as Bob got a goose as it flew in from feeding in the corn field and as it lit down on the water; I, however, winged one as it lit and was able to get another shell loaded and got it as it tried to get off the water with a broken wing. We took them home and showed our mothers. They said, "We'll fix them for Christmas dinner, but you have helped us clean chickens, so pluck them and leave the rest for us." We did and they even made some Yorkshire pudding as well and we enjoyed a meal like that even Robin and his men would have envied.

Goose joke: Why do geese use Head & Shoulder shampoo?

What's good for the goose is good for the dander. Yorkshire Pudding Recipe: Four eggs; 1 ½cup of milk; ½ teaspoon salt; 1 ¼ cup of flour; 4 tablespoons of vegetable oil or beef drippings. In blender, stir eggs, milk, flour & salt and keep in frig for at least 30-minutes, then after preheating oven 450 degrees; bake in pie pan or cast-iron dish approximately 15 minutes or crust brown-serves six. For anyone wanting to do a goose for Christmas, you can get good recipes on line.

Ducks, geese or even turkeys are not mentioned in the Bible; but the Good Lord cares for all birds and feeds them (Matthew 6;26). Therefore, all should heed Matthew 6:33 KJV, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." This, the greatest gift is available to one and all needing salvation and as we celebrate His birth this time of the year, may you endeavor to do this.

Until next time

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

JOBS

Pulaski County Construction Administrator

The County of Pulaski is seeking to hire a Construction Administrator that would be responsible for performing construction administration duties related to public works and building construction/maintenance projects. Duties include planning, coordination, and oversight of construction projects from inception to completion in accordance with Local, State and Federal regulatory funding requirements. This position also administers the County's Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Program.

Pulaski County prefers a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture, Construction Management, Engineering or a related field and a minimum of five years' experience. It also requires an ESC Combined Administrator Certification (Administrator, Inspector, Plan Reviewer) or ability to become certified within one year of employment. Experience in Federal and State grant management, general construction practices, project management, budgeting and working with the public are required.

The salary scale for this position is $67,883 TO $83,984 and is commensurate upon education and experience. The position also includes an excellent benefits package that offers health, dental and vision insurance, VRS retirement, paid holidays and much more. Applications may be submitted to the VEC or downloaded from the County website and submitted to Tammy Nichols, Human Resources Director, tnichols@pulasicounty.org

Applications accepted until position is filled.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOBS

Pulaski County PSA Deputy Director Water/Wastewater

The Pulaski County Public Service Authority is seeking to hire a Deputy Director that will oversee the Water/Wastewater Department. This position requires thorough knowledge of water/wastewater engineering and construction procedures, equipment used in the repair maintenance and construction of public works projects, ability to comprehend plans, specifications and detailed reports, supervisory experience, GIS experience, grant experience, etc.

Applicant is required to have a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from an accredited college or university and a minimum of five year's experience and must have the ability to obtain a Professional Engineer's License in Virginia. A detailed description of the job and requirements are located at www.pulaskicounty.org.

This is a full-time position that includes benefits such as health, dental, vision, VRS retirement, vacation, sick leave and paid holidays and much more. The salary range for this position is $77,662 to $122,092 and is commensurate upon education and experience.

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

Position is open until filled

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Hearing
Town of Pulaski Planning Commission

PULASKI VIRGINIA

The Planning Commission of the Town of Pulaski, Virginia will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Pulaski Municipal Building, 42 First Street, NW to consider the following:

1. A request from Marathon Realty Corp. to rezone property located at 1201 E. Main Street [tax parcel(s) 072-1-55] from I-1 Light Industrial to B-2 General Business.

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 Monday, January 10, 2022, 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.

LEGAL NOTICE

Pulaski County Planning Commission Public Notice

The Pulaski County Planning Commission will convene to review four (4) applications in January. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, the Planning Commission will host four (4) public hearings beginning at 7:00 p.m. on TUESDAY, January 11, 2022 in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, NW, in the Town of Pulaski to receive comments about the applications as listed below;

1. Application by Jonathan Cottle, to rezone the property from Low Density Residential (LR) to Agriculture (A), at Tax Map # 092-007-0000-0001 located at Ferncliff Road. , Draper District.
2. Application by Howard Gilmer & Su Su Ellen Owen Sadler, to rezone the property from Low Density Residential (LR) and Industrial (I) to Agriculture (A), at Tax Map # 064-001-0000-0017, 064-001-0000-0005, 064-001-0000-0014A located at Peppers Ferry Road. , Massie District.
3. Application by David Stowers, to rezone the property from Agriculture (A) to Rural Commercial, at Tax Map # 107-001-0000-009A located at Wysor Road. , Draper District.
4. Application by Paul & Tracy Riggins, Special Use Permit in an Agriculture Zone District, located at Tax Map # 107-001-0000-0010, 11 at Wysor Road, Draper District.

The public can receive information and/or submit comments as part of the public hearing process, by using any one of the following methods; E-mail: mqusenberry@pulaskicounty.org Phone: 540-980-7710 Regular Mail: Planning & Zoning Department, County of Pulaski, 143 Third Street, NW, Suite 1, Pulaski, VA 24301. In Person: By attending the meeting at the location listed.

For disabled individuals who may require special auxiliary aids or services, the County will make reasonable accommodations available when requested. Contact the County's ADA Compliance Officer at (540) 980-7800 (TDD accessible) or (540) 980-7705, ten (10) days prior to the above meeting date to arrange for these special accommodations.

Cougars

Continued from Page B1

wood, 4, Cam Cooper, 3 and Jaylen Crowse, 2.

The boys now prepare for the Fort Chiswell Tournament, which gets underway on Tuesday and continues through Thursday.

The Cougars' first action will be Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. against George Wythe.

The JV Cougars also face George Wythe on Tuesday at 2:15 p.m.

ACC

Continued from Page B1

ESPN, 137, 202, 965
ESPN: Taylor Zarzour (play-by-play), Matt Stinchcomb (analyst), Alyssa Lang (sideline)

Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl
Miami (7-5) vs. Washington State (7-5), 12:30 p.m., CBS, 135, 204, 968
CBS: Brad Nessler (play-by-play), Gary Danielson (analyst), Jamie Erdahl (sideline)

ACC Notes

• Led by league champion Pitt's first-ever berth in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, the Atlantic Coast Conference placed 10 teams in football postseason games.

• 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.

• Pitt (11-2), which earned a No. 12 CFP national ranking following its 45-21 win over Wake Forest in the 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.

• No. 17 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.

• No. 18 NC State (9-3) is headed to 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.

• No. 19 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 bowl play.

• 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.

• 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 fourth in six years under head coach Bronco Mendenhall.

• 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.

Brian Bishop/The Patriot

JJ Gulley goes high to get off a jumper Friday night against Radford. Gulley led the Cougars in scoring against the Bobcats.

Pry promotes Prioleau

Hokiesports.com

BLACKSBURG – Virginia Tech Football head coach Brent Pry announced Tuesday that Pierson Prioleau has been promoted to serve as safeties coach on his staff. Prioleau returned to Virginia Tech in 2019 as director of player development – defense.

A first-team All-BIG EAST selection and a team captain for Frank Beamer as a senior in 1998, Prioleau played an integral role in helping Tech establish itself as a national football power in the 1990s. A four-year letterwinner for the Hokies, the Alvin, South Carolina native enjoyed a 12-year NFL career and earned a Super Bowl XLIV ring with the New Orleans Saints.

Prior to his return to Blacksburg, Prioleau served as defensive coordinator at Radford High School after his retirement from the NFL in 2011. He also worked as a health and physical education instructor at Belle Heth Elementary School in Radford starting in 2015. He owns a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Virginia Tech. He also participated in the NFL Business Management and Entrepreneurial Program at Northwestern University in 2006 and served a Bill Walsh Minority Coaching Fellowship with the St. Louis Rams in 1994.

Inducted as part of the ACC Football Legends Class of 2012, Prioleau was a three-year starter for Beamer and defensive coordinator Bud Foster, totaling 237 career tackles and two touchdowns. He was named first-team All-Big East as a junior in 1997 and earned third-team All-America honors from The Sporting News.

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Brian Bishop/The Patriot

Keslyn Secrist puts up a layup for two in the Lady Cougars' rout of Patrick Henry Tuesday night, 60-37 in the Cougar Den. Secrist scored 15 points for 4-1 Pulaski County.

Pulaski County Sports Schedule

Thursday 12/23/21
Wrestling: @ Big Orange Tournament (William Byrd HS) 10 am

Tuesday 12/28/21
Varsity Boys Basketball: Fort Chiswell Tournament v. George Wythe 8:30 pm
JV Boys Basketball: Fort Chiswell Tournament v. George Wythe 2:15 pm
Varsity Girls Basketball: Andrew Johnson Bank Classic (@ Greenville, TN) v. Oak Ridge, TN 12 pm

Wednesday 12/29/21
Varsity Boys Basketball: Fort Chiswell Tournament v. TBD Time TBD
JV Boys Basketball: Fort Chiswell Tournament v. TBD Time TBD
Varsity Girls Basketball: Andrew Johnson Bank Classic v. TBD Time TBD

Thursday 12/30/21
Varsity Boys Basketball: Fort Chiswell Tournament v. TBD Time TBD
JV Boys Basketball: Fort Chiswell Tournament v. TBD Time TBD
Varsity Girls Basketball: Andrew Johnson Bank Classic v. TBD Time TBD
Wrestling: @ Richlands 12 pm

Friday 12/31/21
Varsity Girls Basketball: Andrew Johnson Bank Classic v. TBD Time TBD

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Scott Vest
Pulaski County High School
Athletic & Activities Director

The Patriot
540-808-3949

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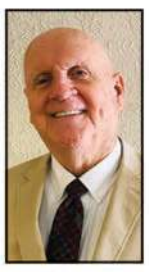

Teach Me Your Word O Lord

Terry McCraw

Why We Celebrate Christmas

Christmas is one of the most blessed times of the year. It's when we in the Christian Community celebrate the birth of our blessed Lord and Savior.

How important was that first Christmas? There has never been a day that was so important. Because it is when God sent His one and only begotten Son to this earth, to reconcile His fallen people back to Him.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea. He has born in a stable and laid in a manger for there was no room for Him in the Inn. No room for Jesus. How sad. But there are many today who have not made room for Jesus in their hearts.

An Angelic Choir appeared to a group of lowly Shepherds in a field nearby saying "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace, good will towards men." Jesus brings peace with God to all who accept Him as their personal Savior. "Peace, peace, wonderful peace, coming down from the Father above, Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray, in fathomless billows of love!" Warren D. Cornell.

Wise men came from afar following the special star that marked the birth of Jesus bringing gifts of Myrrh, Frankincense and gold. This is the reason we give gifts at Christmas, in honor of our blessed Lord. That and Jesus is the greatest love gift from the Father to and for us.

As un-regenerated sinners, we were alienated from God. Sin had built a wall of partition between us and God. We were spiritually dead. But Jesus has reconciled us back to God by paying the full price for our sins on the cross of Calvary so we wouldn't have to pay it ourselves.

"Jesus died in our stead, redeeming us from the curse of the law and it is through His shed blood, the word and the Spirit that we are justified, or pronounced "Not Guilty" by God Himself.

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." Romans 5.

"Jesus paid it all, all to Him we owe, sin had left its crimson stain, but Jesus washed us white as snow."

The blood of Jesus is the most powerful cleansing agent in the entire universe. The blood of Jesus can wash away all of our sins, and cleanse our sin sick souls. "If we'll confess our sins, He, (Jesus) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

For 3.5 years during His earthly ministry, Jesus went about doing good. He healed the sick. He raised the dead. He came to heal the broken hearted and preached deliverance to the captives. He came to seek and to save that which was lost. He voluntarily submitted to His death on the cross so that we can experience peace with God.

I have always loved the Southern Gospel Song entitled, "Oh What a Savior." Sang by Ernie Haase and the Cathedrals.

"Once I was straying in sin's dark valley, No hope within could I see;

They searched through Heaven, And found a Savior, To save a poor lost soul like me.

O what a Savior, O hallelujah, His heart was broken on

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.umc

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.psalm1@gmail.com
Cell) 540-320-2431
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship (with children's message): 11 a.m.
Bible Study, Wednesday: 7 p.m.
Youth Ministry
Facebook.com/
Fairlawn-United-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/faithbiblechurch
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday Children's Church: 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening: 6 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Children's Meal: 6:30 p.m.
Children's and Youth's Group Classes: 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Max Creek Baptist Church
3000 Old Route 100 Road, Draper, Va. 24324
www.maxcreek.org
www.facebook.com/maxcreekbaptist
Senior Pastor: Mike Coleman
Youth Minister: Charlie Prince
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.

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305 Newbern Road, Dublin
Pastor Elder Stephen Muse
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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

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

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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
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Adult Bible Class
THRIVE Teen Class
Children's Special Activitiy Classes

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

Trinity Baptist Church
4008 Robinson Tract Road
Pulaski, VA 24301
Telephone: 980-8186
Pastor Johnny Howlett
Minister of Education Rev. Steve Taylor
Sunday 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

McCraw

Continued from Page B6

Calvary;

His hands were nail scarred, His side was riven, He gave His life-blood for even me."

Jesus was the pre-existent one who came down from Heaven on a divine mission. To seek and to save lost sinners. Our greatest witness for Christ is short but sweet. Jesus saves! From the gutter most to the uttermost.

If a person is not saved, I highly recommend that they get saved today before it's too late. "Now is the day of Salvation. Now is the accepted time. Seek ye the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near. And He will abundantly pardon." One's Soul's salvation is too important to be put off to a future time. If anyone accepts Jesus as their personal Savior, they will be able to enjoy the happiest Christmas this year that they have ever had. They will be transformed by the power of God and will become a new creation in Christ Jesus.

Jesus moves into hearts that are receptive to Him. He is not an Intruder. He only comes in by invitation. You may have noticed that in the well-known picture of Jesus standing outside the door knocking, that the door has no handle on the outside. It must be opened from the inside. If a man, woman, boy or girl will simply open up the door to their hearts, and invite Jesus to come in, Jesus will come into that heart and make His abode there. Jesus said, "If any man cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast him out." All one has to do to be saved from the guilt, penalty, habit and dominion of sin is to repent of their sins; believe that Jesus is the son of God and the Savior of world; accept Jesus as their personal Savior; and they will be gloriously saved and shall receive eternal life.

"All the Christmas presents in the world are nothing without the presence of Christ." David Jeremiah.

"For unto us a child is born. His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6.

"Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life." Corrie Ten Boom.

"Merry Christmas to all of my friends and family." TerryMcCraw.

Bible Trivia

1. Is the book of Immanuel in the Old Testament or New Testament or neither?
2. Isaiah, who prophesied about the birth of Christ, lived about how many years prior? 50, 150, 400, 700
3. Where does the Bible tell us that Jesus was born on Dec. 25? Does not, Matthew 3:4, Mark 1:1, Luke 7:7
4. From Luke 2:2, who was governor of Syria at the time of Jesus' birth? Augustus, Barabbas, Cyrenius, Dalphon
5. What priest was told he would not die until he saw the Savior? Joazar, Matthias, Simeon, Elioneus
6. Who informed Joseph that the baby's name was to be Jesus? Herod, Pilate, Mary, An angel

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) 700; 3) Does not; 4) Cyrenius; 5) Simeon; 6) An angel

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge." Available in bookstores and online, it makes a great gift.

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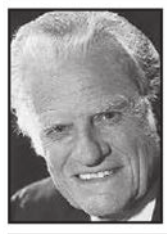
Christmas Eve, the most peaceful night of the year



My Answer

Billy Graham

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: There doesn't seem to be much made about Christmas Eve any more. Why is that? - C.C.

A: To many people, Christmas Eve might be the most peaceful night of the year. Many businesses and restaurants close. Families and friends gather for special meals, attend church services together, and even a few still go Christmas caroling. Some families still gather around the fireplace and read the Christmas story, with a wonderful sense of celebration and expectation in the air because tomorrow is Christmas Day.

On the night that Jesus was born, angels appeared to shepherds tending their sheep in the fields outside of Bethlehem. Those angels announced the Savior's birth and promised peace on Earth.

The centuries have rolled by, and still the world longs for the peace the angels said would come because Jesus had been born. Why does much of the world still experience violence and conflict? Where is the peace?

The peace is in the hearts of those who have received Him as their Lord and Savior. But just as the innkeeper said to Joseph back then, "There is no room at the inn," people all over the world say, "There is no room in my heart -- in my life -- for Jesus." The world still rejects Him, but one day Jesus will return and bring judgment to those who rejected Him. He will also bring peace and the entire world will bow down and worship Him, as the shepherds did on that blessed night. The world still celebrates Christmas, yet without understanding. But they too, can know the Prince of Peace -- today!

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

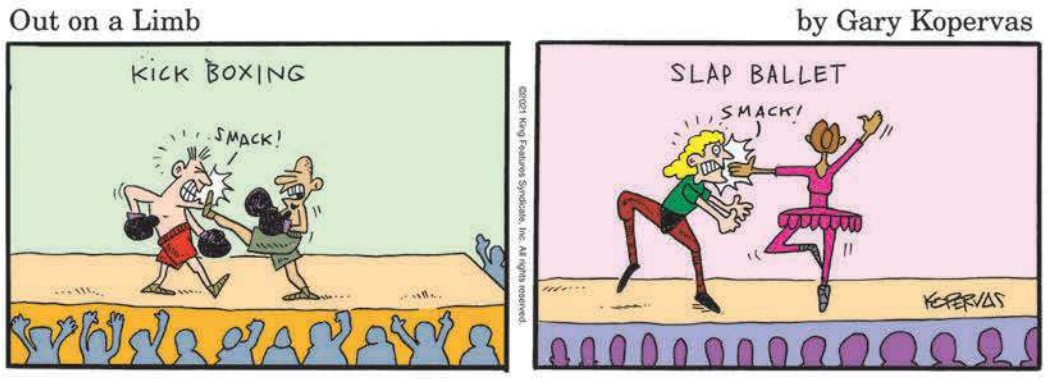
The Patriot
www.pcpatriot.com
540-808-3949

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

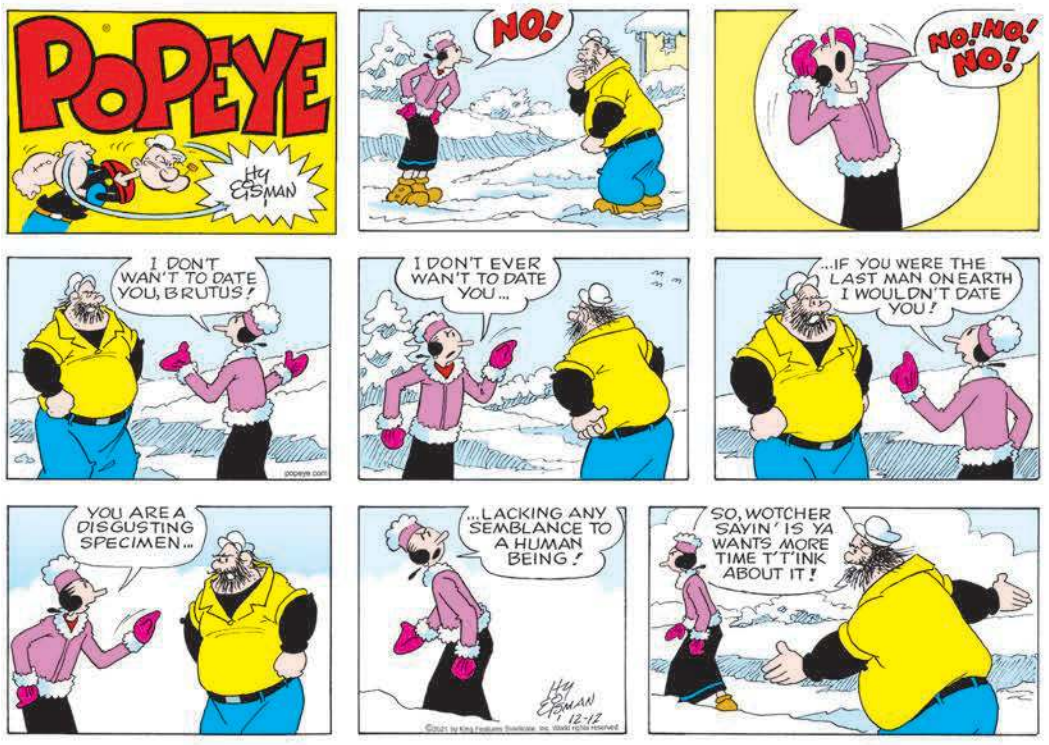


R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

LAFF-A-DAY

"I just don't feel it's necessary to say thank you for each instrument!"

SCRAMBLERS

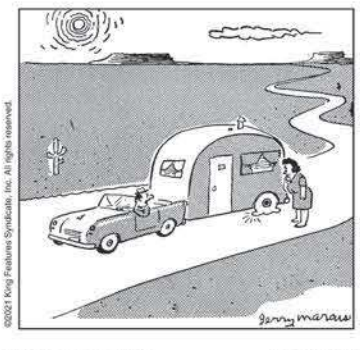
Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Terrain
HATER ___ ___ ___ ___ [ ]

Rush
SLEUTH [ ] [ ] ___ ___ ___ ___

Uniform
QUALE [ ] ___ ___ ___ ___

Cavort
PROM ___ [ ] ___ ___

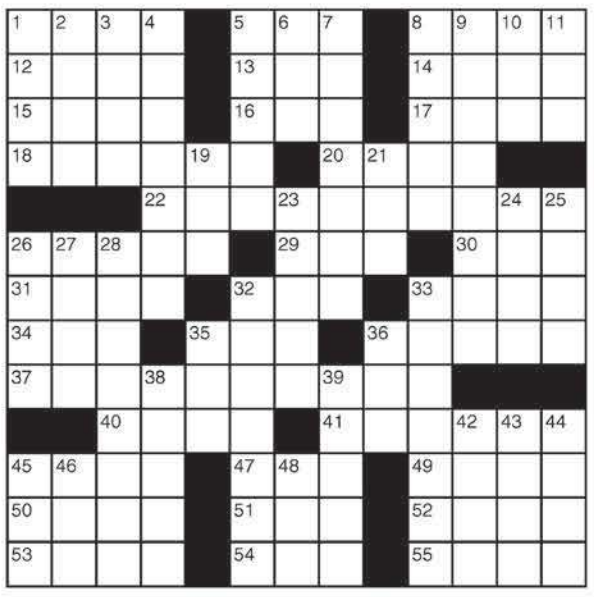


"Taking care of the _____ is your job!"

TODAY'S WORD

___ ___ ___ ___ ___

King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Earring site
5 Smack
8 Blog entry
12 Regrettably
13 Fuss
14 "May It Be" singer
15 Dealer's foe
16 Moving-day rental
17 Aviation prefix
18 Energetic person
20 Galley supply
22 Strikers' queue
26 Manhandled
29 Chemical suffix
30 Hobbyist's abbr.
31 Rue the run
32 German conjunction
33 Lavish party
34 — Paulo
35 Fuel stat
36 Devil's domain
37 Playgoer's souvenir
40 Writer Quindlen
41 Short jacket
45 Gambling game
47 Jay follower
49 San —, Italy
50 Help a crook
51 Hosp. sections
52 Author Sheehy
53 Striped fish
54 Perched
55 Deco artist

DOWN
1 Crow's-nest cry
2 Skin care brand
3 Hoedown site
4 Jailbreak participant
5 Mayhem
6 Greek mountain
7 Ad nauseam
8 Oyster's prize
9 Biased
10 Aleppo's land (Abbr.)
11 Eastern "way"
19 Central
21 Consumed
23 Monarchs
24 Evening, in an ad
25 Peepers
26 Bygone days
27 Exotic berry
28 "So what?"
32 Chimney pipes
33 Maker of ornate eggs
35 Gents
36 Coloration
38 Shoelace woes
39 Secret rendezvous
42 Dread
43 Send forth
44 Portrayal
45 "Terrif!"
46 Lawyers' gp.
48 Altar constellation

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top ten

World's Costliest SPICES

1. Saffron
2. Vanilla
3. Mahlab
4. Long pepper
5. Black cumin
6. Kaffir lime leaver
7. Grains of Paradise
8. Cardamon
9. Cloves
10. Cinnamon

Source: agronomag.com

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: What is the name of the department store where Kris Kringle works in the 1947 "Miracle on 34th Street"?
2. LANGUAGE: What is the English equivalent of the Latin phrase, "Cui bono"?
3. TELEVISION: Why do the other reindeer tease Rudolph in the Christmas TV movie?
4. AD SLOGANS: Which family restaurant advertises itself as a place "where a kid can be a kid"?
5. ASTRONOMY: What is a sunspot?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was a classically trained pianist?
7. THEATER: What musical features a group of women called The Schuyler Sisters?
8. FOOD & DRINK: What is a smorgasbord?
9. GEOGRAPHY: In what body of water does the island of Barbados lie?
10. LITERATURE: Which famous 19th-century novel begins with the line, "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents."

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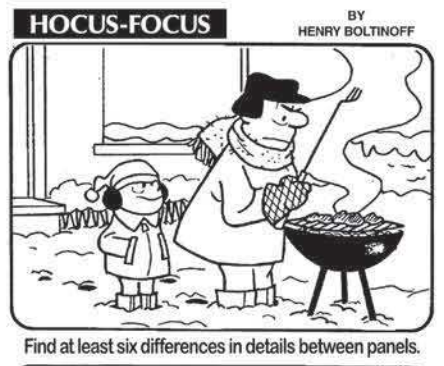
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

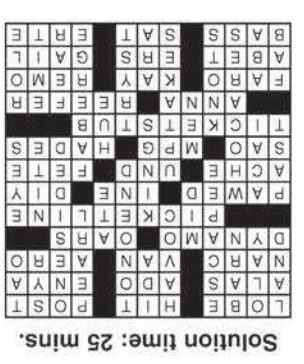


Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Fork is shorter. 2. Boots are different. 3. Hat is different. 4. Arm is showing. 5. Oven mitt is different. 6. Grill leg is removed.

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.



Answers
1. Macy's
2. Who benefits?
3. Rudolph has a shiny red nose
4. Chuck E. Cheese
5. A cooler, darker area on the surface of the sun
6. Richard Nixon, who also could play four other instruments
7. "Hamilton"
8. A buffet with a variety of dishes
9. Caribbean Sea
10. "Little Women," by Louisa May Alcott

Americanisms

"Experience is what you get when you didn't get what you wanted."
— *Randy Pausch*

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SCRAMBLERS solution

1. Earth 2. Hustle; 3. Equal; 4. Romp

Today's Word

HOUSE

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: **E** equals **L**

UA R EFDDFY BRO YFRMBFL OJVFWJLS WS RUYVRUE, U XKFOO SJK MJKEL ORS UD'O WFFG OFGD AESUGX.

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CryptoQuip answer

If a letter has reached somebody by airmail, I guess you could say it's been sent flying.

TUCK'S COLLISION

THANK YOU!

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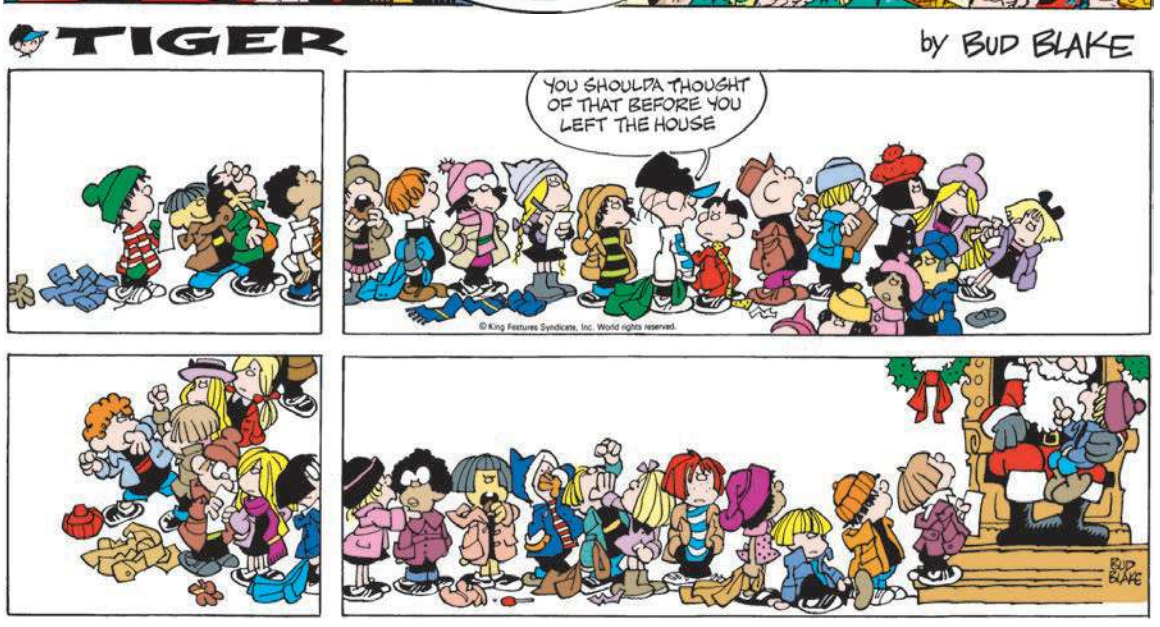

MAGIC MAZE ● — YOU

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: SAID WHEN SOMEONE SNEEZES

Glad to see	I ask	Says	What have
Good for	Mind	Shame on	What's eating
Good on	Over to	Thank	Will
How are	Same to	Up to	

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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.

L INKKNU SGXDD XVKDE: QN SGD XLPGS SGLZP, QN SGD RDES HNV FBZ, BZQ BKUBHE EGNU ODNOKD HNV FBXD.

— KNV GNKSY

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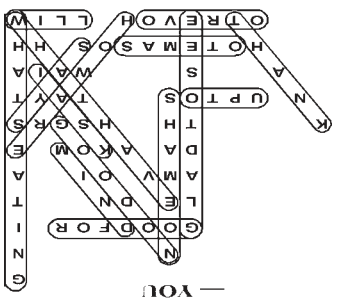

— YOU

CryptoQuote answer

I follow three rules: Do the right thing, do the best you can, and always show people you care.
— Lou Holtz

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Northam urges safe driving over holidays

RICHMOND—Governor Ralph Northam this week continued Virginia's public education campaign and enforcement effort to spread awareness and deter drunk driving during the holiday season. The Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign combines law enforcement with research-based messaging to remind Virginians to make responsible decisions when drinking.

"Keep your family, your community, and yourself safe by not drinking and driving this holiday season," said Governor Northam. "You can always designate a sober driver, call a taxi, or use public transportation and rideshare services. We owe our thanks to law enforcement professionals for keeping people safe this holiday season. Together, we can reduce impaired driving and save lives."

In 2020, Virginia lost 272 lives in alcohol-related crashes. Since Checkpoint Strikeforce's inaugural campaign in 2001, alcohol-related crashes have decreased 41.2 percent, fatalities have decreased by 24 percent.

Mike Williams/The Patriot

Middle School Cross Country Performers Honored

The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors during its meeting Monday recognized members of the Pulaski County Middle School Cross Country Team. The team successfully competed at the Virginia Middle School Cross Country Championship held on October 24, 2021, at Pole Green Park in Mechanicsville, Virginia. This statewide competition was a championship meet for all sizes and classifications of all the public schools, private schools, home-schooled, and unattached associations and athletes across the Commonwealth. In the Boys' Virginia Middle School Cross Country Championship, eighth-grader Cole Boone finished in 2nd Place overall and eighth-grader Silas Sweet finished in 7th place overall and 4th place among all athletes competing from public schools. The top 15 finishers across the state of Virginia receive All-State Honors. Boone and Sweet each received framed copies of the supervisors' resolution of recognition, which states, "Pulaski County Board of Supervisors proudly commends these athletes for their exceptional performance in being All-State in Middle School Boys Cross Country and further commends these athletes and all the members of the Pulaski County Middle School Cross Country team, their coaches, parents, and families for representing Pulaski County with consistent demonstration of true 'Cougar Excellence and Cougar Pride.'"

NRV Small Business Relief Program taking applications

New River Valley- Small businesses in the New River Valley have access to up to $15,000 for a small business relief program award to combat the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic. The Counties of Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, and Montgomery, along with the City of Radford have jointly established a regional $1.6 million grant fund, known as the New River Valley Small Business Relief Program to support the region's small business recovery and resiliency efforts following the COVID19 outbreak. Funds for these grants has been provided by Virginia's Department of Housing and Community Development as part of a Community Development Block Grant award to assist localities mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the regional economy.

Awards of up to $15,000 are being provided to eligible businesses within the region to offset business impacts. This program will be administered by Giles County, on behalf of its neighboring communities, under the oversight of a regional Application Review Committee and Project Management Team.

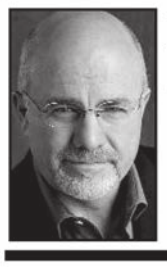
Eligible expenses include: rent or mortgage payments (up to 6 months' worth, between March 12, 2020 and application date), expenses paid that were directly related to COVID-19, from March 12, 2020 through application date, equipment purchased since March 12, 2020 to maintain business or to help business maintain social/physical distancing, PPE Expenses for employees or customers, purchased since March 12, 2020 and used in place of business to sustain business operations, technology or subscriptions to assist navigating the ongoing public health situation, cleaning or maintenance supplies or services.

Eligible businesses are those that have their principal place of business located in one of the following: Floyd County and town within, Giles County and towns within, Montgomery County and the towns within, Pulaski County and towns within, or the City of Radford. The business is locally or regionally owned and must be located in the New River Valley. They have 20 or fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) employees (40 hours/week) at the application date. The business was operational by March 12, 2020 and is realizing a direct negative impact from COVID-19 (e.g. revenue loss, reduced sales, closure or suspended operation, employment decline, or business interruption). They have eligible expenses not already covered by other CARES funding or any other support funding source (e.g. PPP, local COVID-related grants, Rebuild Virginia grants, etc.), and they must be current on all fees, permits and taxes as of March 1, 2020.

The application is available online at VirginiasMtnPlayground.com/Grants and hard copies are available at the County and Town Administration buildings throughout our region. Interested businesses are encouraged to reach out to the Giles Tourism Department to discuss eligibility and answer any questions. Applications are being accepted now and will be reviewed with funds disbursed beginning in January 2022.

Visit NRV The New River Valley of Virginia is nestled among the mountains in Southwest Virginia. Made up of the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski as well as the City of Radford, these communities are home to world class higher education, a robust industrial community, and small towns with classic charm. Visit NRV is an effort of the regional tourism offices to market, develop, and promote travel and tourism to the region as well as enhancing the quality of life for those who call the NRV home.

Teach them to be givers ... and be an example to them



Dave Says

Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

With all the commercials and marketing that accompany the holiday season, how can parents teach their young children about giving and putting others first at this time of year?

Maryn

Dear Maryn,

Christmas is a traditional time to give and help others. But even for adults, it's easy to get so caught up the glitz that we end up forgetting to teach our kids how to give and why it's so important. How do we make sure they learn the satisfaction of giving to others at an early age? Here are a few easy ideas.

Send an extra snack with them to school. Then, at lunch they can give it to a friend. When they get back home, find out who they shared the snack with and talk about what happened. It can be as simple as that. Also, encourage your kids to pass along compliments. Sharing a kind word with a classmate, or even their teacher, will go a long way toward brightening someone's day any time of year.

When you're involved in giving or helping others in any way, take your kids with you. If you're sponsoring a family through your church, or participating in a charity drive, let your kids be part of the buying and delivery process. When you make giving memories together, they'll stick with your kids for years to come.

If you really want to make the kids part of the process, you could let them pick a charity to help. If you give them a commission for doing jobs around the house, or if they're older and have a part-time job, they can start saving a percentage to donate. Another idea might be giving away old toys. Take some time to gather up all the toys they don't play with and don't want anymore. Search the closet together, and choose things to take to Goodwill or another charitable organization.

Remember, you're the adult. That means it's your job to set an example and create teachable moments. So, this year give your kids nice gifts within your budget. But take time to create situations that allow them to participate in wonderful giving experiences, as well — because giving truly is better than receiving.

Merry Christmas, Maryn!

— Dave

*** Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.**

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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