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Pulaski County

December 29, 2023

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William Paine/Patriot Publishing
Deputy Clerk of the Pulaski County Clerk of Court's office Donna Gray recites the oath of office to incoming school board members. From left: Gina Paine, Jake Price, Josh Taylor, Sabrina Cox, Billy Williams and Donna Gray.

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Page B1

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Pulaski County's new school board members are sworn in

By **WILLIAM PAINE**
Patriot Publishing

Incoming members of the Pulaski County School Board opted to take their oaths of office together at a ceremony held just after one o'clock on Thursday, Dec. 21.

The oath was administered by Donna Gray, Deputy Clerk of the Pulaski County Circuit Court's office, as retiring Circuit

Court Clerk Maetta Crewe was unable to attend due to illness.

The five incoming school board members stood behind the dais and raised their right hands to recite the oath, as read by Deputy Clerk Gray.

The oath taken by new members of the school board reads:

"I (name of board member) do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution

of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and I will faithfully and impartially discharge all of the duties incumbent on me as a member of the Pulaski County School Board ... for a term commencing on January 1, and expiring Dec. 31, 2027, according to the best of my ability, so help me God."

Incoming board members

See BOARD, page A2

Patricia Cox introduced as county's new finance director

From Pulaski County

Pulaski County is pleased to announce the hiring of Patricia Cox as its new Director of Finance.

Cox has a strong background in finance leadership. She has a bachelor's degree in accounting from Clemson University and has been a Certified Public Accountant since 2000.

She has worked in the New River Valley as Director of Finance for New River Community Action, Inc. and as the Director of Finance and

Human Resources for the City of Radford. Since 2018, Cox has served as Senior Director of Finance for New River Valley Community Services.

"We are thrilled to officially welcome Patricia Cox to the Pulaski County team as our new Director of Finance. Patricia is a CPA and has over 25 years of relevant financial management experience in the public sector that makes her the perfect pickup to smoothly and quickly transition into this key role within County Administration," said Jonathan D. Sweet, County

Administrator.

"Beyond her education and employment experience, she is highly motivated, engaged and committed to serving Pulaski County, and I trust she is going to help us continue to soundly and responsibly manage the County's finances, and will be a big part of our community advancement efforts."

"I'm excited to be joining the exceptional team in Pulaski County to serve its amazing citizens," Cox said excitedly. "I'm impressed by the forward-

See COX, page A2

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Christmas Eve crash results in two being airlifted to Roanoke

From Pulaski County Sheriff's Office

On December 24, 2023, Pulaski County Sheriff's Office responded to a motor vehicle crash in the 3500 block of Lee Highway on Draper's mountain. After initial investigation it was determined that a Ford Mustang had left the roadway and struck a tree. Both occupants of the vehicle were taken to LewisGale Hospital – Pulaski, then airlifted to Roanoke Memorial. The crash is still under investigation and no further information will be released at this time.

The Patriot
540-808-3949

Board

Continued From Page A1

will likely maintain the same seating arrangement as seen in the photo, as Josh Taylor will assume the Chairmanship and Gina Paine will act as Vice Chair of the board. Pulaski County Public School Assistant Superintendents Tara Grant and Sarah Polcha were both in attendance at the ceremony. Pulaski County Supervisors Laura Walters and Mike Mooney were also in attendance, as was former supervisor Adam Hall and his family. Superintendent of Pulaski County Public Schools Rob Graham was not present for the swearing in ceremony. After the swearing in, incoming board members took photos with family members who came to witness the event. Incoming school board members had the option of taking their oaths individually in the quiet confines of the Pulaski County Circuit Clerk of

Court's office, but chose instead to take their pledge as a group. "We thought it was important to take the oath of office as one cohesive group," said incoming Vice Chair Paine. "We wanted to show our dedication to the betterment of the Pulaski County Public School system both as individuals and as members of a team. This community voted for change and together we intend to bring a positive change to Pulaski County Public Schools."

Cox

Continued From Page A1

thinking approach of leadership and thrilled to know I will be part of that advancement." Cox will take leadership of the Pulaski County Finance Department in January upon the retirement of the current Director of Finance, Diane Newby.

Americans ramped up spending during holidays

NEW YORK (AP) — Holiday sales rose this year and spending remained resilient during the shopping season even with Americans wrestling with higher prices in some areas and other financial worries, according to the latest measure. Holiday sales from the beginning of November through Christmas Eve climbed 3.1%, a slower pace than the 7.6% increase from a year earlier, according to Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks all kinds of payments including cash and debit cards. This year's sales are more in line with what is typical during the holiday season, however, after a surge in spending last year during the same period. "This holiday season, the consumer showed up, spending in a deliberate manner" said Michelle Meyer, Chief Economist, Mastercard Economics Institute. "The economic backdrop remains favorable with healthy job creation and easing inflation pressures, empowering consumers to seek the goods and experiences they value most." The number of people seeking unemployment benefits has remained very low by historical standards and employers are still having a hard time finding enough workers. Still, sales growth was a bit lower than the 3.7% increase Mastercard SpendingPulse had projected in September. The data released Tuesday excludes the automotive industry and is not adjusted for inflation. Clothing sales rose 2.4%, though jewelry sales fell 2% and electronics dipped roughly 0.4%. Online sales jumped 6.3 % from a year ago and in-person spending rose a modest 2.2%.

Consumer spending accounts for nearly 70% of U.S. economic activity and economists carefully monitor how Americans spend, particularly during the holidays, to gauge how they're feeling financially. There had been rising concern leading up to the holiday about the willingness of Americans to spend because of elevated prices for daily necessities at a time that savings have fallen and credit card delinquencies have ticked higher. In response, retailers pushed discounts on holiday merchandise earlier in October compared with a year ago. They also took a cautious approach on how much inventory to order after getting stung with overstuffed warehouses last year. The latest report on the Federal Reserve's favored inflation gauge, issued Friday, shows prices are easing. But costs remain still higher at restaurants, car shops, or for things like rent. Americans, however, unexpectedly picked up their spending from October to November as the holiday season kicked off, underscoring their spending power in the face of higher costs. A broader picture of how Americans spent their money arrives next month when the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, releases its combined two-month statistics based on November-December sales figures from the Commerce Department. The trade group expects holiday expects U.S. holiday sales will rise 3% to 4%. That's lower than last year's 5.4% growth but again, more consistent with typical holiday spending, which rose 3.6% between 2010 and 2019 before the pandemic skewed numbers.

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County selects ‘change agent’ to focus on improving fire, rescue systems

From Pulaski County

The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors has made it a priority to focus efforts and resources to comprehensively analyze and evaluate the state of Pulaski County’s fire and public safety services. In 2022, the Board of Supervisors commissioned two independent studies that comprehensively analyzed the County’s fire and rescue systems.

A baseline study was performed by the Commonwealth through the Virginia Fires Services Board, and a parallel third-party study was conducted by an independent contractor – Gannon Emergency Solutions USA.

Both studies were made public and officially presented to the Board of Supervisors, paid and volunteer fire departments, the Public Safety Department and

the general public in an open meeting.

“The studies conducted were intended to be more than checking a box or even constructive feedback, but more of an instrument to understand what opportunities lie ahead to strengthen these critical services, and to give us a direction on what our next step(s) would be to improving safety, response and sustainability for our Fire and Public Safety Departments”, stated Jonathan D. Sweet, County Administrator. “We have come to a place in time where it is important to consider making necessary investments, to employing best practices and to look for ways to resourcefully support our brave men and women who provide first-response services to our growing community.”

See CHANGE, page A7

Don’t Give Up

This is not the world we grew up in, or even the world we knew for much of our lives. If my informal poll of friends and acquaintances is correct, we don’t like it much. The current state of the world has taken an emotional, physical and social toll on us. This isn’t the retirement we planned.

I hear:
We’re too trusting and it gets us into trouble when we fall for scams coming to us via phone, email and the internet, and resulting in identity theft and loss of money.

The pandemic locked many of us away, and we haven’t surfaced yet because Covid is still out there, as well as the annual flu and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) this winter. Staying home seems to be the safest way to avoid it all.

And there’s the television news. Some of us have started only watching the first five minutes to catch the weather and then turn to a different channel to avoid the political scene and crime reporting, some of which unfortunately

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

is happening in our own areas. Channels showing reruns of retro programs are getting a lot of our attention now.

No, we don’t like it much, and some of us wonder if we’re sliding into depression.

But there are ways to regain some of what we’ve lost, and a trip to our physician might be the best first step. Go, and tell him or her what’s going on with you. A simple blood test might point to a change in diet that could help how you feel.

At the same time, he might know of some community resources, even if it’s having meals delivered.

Reconnect with friendships that matter (even if it’s on the phone), ask if the library delivers books, become a pet foster parent, look for senior exercise videos on YouTube, etc.

Don’t give up.



William Paine/Patriot Publishing

Santa Comes To Town

Santa Claus, aka Bryant “Bubba” Blankenship poses with several youngsters in the gazebo at Jackson Park in Pulaski back on Dec. 4 and 5. Jackson Park has been all aglow throughout the holiday season.



WEATHER



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MONDAY

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TUESDAY

Partly sunny, then gradually becoming sunny, with a high near 43.

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OBITUARIES



UDOM SAYTHONG
Oudom Saythong, age 65 of Pulaski, passed away Thursday, December 21, 2023, at his home. Born April 5, 1958, in Ban Phkha, Savannakhet, Laos. He was the son of the late Banh & Kahm Saythong. He was also preceded in death by a brother and sister.

Oudom was married to Mrs. Chansouk Saythong and is survived by three children, Spencer Saythong, Steven Saythong, and Khansily Bounthavong.

He completed his education in Laos. Then, after the war, he fled to Thailand in 1977 later making his way to the United States in 1981.

He spent his time doing what he loved most. Gardening, building things, and spending time with his family and friends.

He enjoyed the little things in life like the sweet aroma of a high-quality sticky rice and the fruitiness of a home-grown pepper

He was not just a great father but a great human. His legacy will forever be one of the kindness and compassion for everything around him. He will be greatly missed.

Funeral ceremonies were Thursday, December 28, 2023, at the Bower Funeral Home-Chapel, Pulaski.

To sign the online guestbook, visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com

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



MARTHA PHILLIPS BRANSCOM
July 11, 1941
December 22, 2023

Martha Phillips Branscom, 82, passed away Friday, December 22, 2023, at her home in Radford surrounded by her family. She was retired from nursing and a member of Valley Harvest Ministries. She was preceded in death by her parents, Burman and Hattie Phillips.

Survivors include her husband, Hubert Casper Branscom, Jr.; daughters, Karen Campbell (Randy), and Renee Coleman (Josh); sons, Scott Branscom (Rhonda), and Steve Branscom (Teresa); grandchildren, Brandi Milewski (T.J.), Craig and Clay Branscom, and Jehu, Callie and Hattie Maxwell; great grandson, Campbell Milewski; brother, Lloyd Phillips (Rosemary); and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 1 until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

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

KATHY CAROL BOWLES

Kathy Carol Bowles passed away on December 18, 2023, at her home in Draper Virginia. Born on July 27, 1957, to Frank Louis and Barbara Brown Bowles who preceded her in death.

Survivors include a sister, Karen Bowles of Draper, Virginia and a brother, Karl Mac (Molly) of Littleton, CO. Kathy also leaves behind two cats that she affectionately called Isabella and Maizey.

Visitation will be Wednesday Night, December 27, 2023, at Norris Funeral Services, Pulaski Chapel from six o'clock until eight.

Funeral services were held on Thursday Morning, December 28, 2023, at the Norris Funeral Services, Pulaski Chapel, with interment following in the Blacklick Cemetery located in Rural Retreat.

Services are being directed by Norris Funeral Services; Pulaski Chapel located at 815 Randolph Avenue in Pulaski. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.stevensfuneralhomepulaski.com.

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SUE FULTON DOBSON

Sue Fulton Dobson age 92 of Dublin, died early Monday morning, December 25, 2023 at Commonwealth Assisted Living in Fairlawn.

Gracious, warm, embracing, and constantly kind. She was Sue to some, Mrs Dobson and Ms.D to others, and Mushie, to her grandkids.

Sue was born a Fulton in Lee County, Virginia on January 13, 1931. She graduated from Thomas Walker High School in Lee County, Virginia and with a B.A. from Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia.

She grew up on a farm with her sister, Ruth Fulton Hobbs, and her father and mother, Larren Fulton and Mary Fulton. Her strength of character, strong will, and tough demeanor was developed from the daily chores necessary to live and thrive on a farm.

She left the farm at the age of sixteen to attend Emory and Henry College. During her time at Emory and Henry, she studied to be a teacher. It was there that she met and married Ken Dobson who was also studying to be a teacher and coach.

They married and moved to Dublin, Virginia and had two children, Debbie, and Cindy. As years passed, Sue's family added the husbands of Debbie and Cindy, Kurt Tonkin and Bill Renner, five grandchildren, Stephen, Lexie, and Sarah Tonkin, and Summer and Bryn Renner, and four great grandchildren, Kurt Tonkin, and Louis Tonkin, and KJ Disher and Dusty Disher. Nothing made her happier and prouder than those grand and great grandchildren.

Sports were a major part of Sue's life. Watching and cheering for her beloved Pulaski County Cougars, the Virginia Tech Hokies, and any of the teams her children and grandchildren played for. But her favorite sport was basketball. The sport she played during college at Emory and Henry. She could sit and watch any basketball game at any time no matter who was playing. And always made sure the referees knew the rules!

Sue worked as a teacher in the Wythe County School System for thirty-nine years. She taught sixth grade reading and enjoyed and cherished her relationship with her students, faculty, and administrators.

She was an active member of

See DOBSON, page A5



JUANITA (HALL) HUGHES

Juanita (Hall) Hughes, age 92 of Mocksville, North Carolina departed this world on December 22, 2023.

Juanita was born on July 6, 1931, in Hillsville, Virginia. She was the daughter of the late John Lewis Hall and Erna Dora Midkiff. In addition to her mother and father, Juanita was preceded in death by her husband Harry J. Hughes, two brothers Gerald Hall and WJ Hall, and a sister Shirley Schen.

In life, Juanita graduated from Hillsville High School. Later, she chose a career in nursing before being a housewife and a mom where she raised her children and cared for her family. Some of Juanita's favorite pastimes included reading her bible, crocheting, and word search puzzles.

Juanita leaves behind to cherish her memory, a son Barry C. Hughes (Patricia) of Christiansburg, VA, three daughters Bonnie Burgess, Debbie Palmer, and Janet Ward, all of Mocksville, a sister Imogene Jenkins of Mt. Airy, NC, ten grandchildren, ten great grandchildren, and two very special people to her heart was Ronnie and Cindy Quate (granddaughter and spouse).

On February 24, 2024, a Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be held in Dublin, VA at Community Christian Church beginning at 12:00 pm, with a potluck lunch to follow. Juanita will be laid to rest in Highland Memorial Gardens.

We, the staff at Davie Funeral Service of Mocksville, are honored to serve the family.

ELIZABETH ANN EDMONDS VINCENT

Elizabeth Ann Edmonds Vincent, age 67 of Pulaski, died Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at Lewis Gale Medical Center in Salem. Arrangements are pending with Seagle Funeral Home, Pulaski., www.seaglefuneralhome.com 540-980-1700

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CAROL JEANETTE CANTY

Carol Jeanette Canty, 93, who loved to spend the holidays with her family, willed herself through one more Christmas before passing peacefully in her sleep on Dec. 27.

Born in Battle Creek, Mich., on Sept. 13, 1930, to J S Clark and Nellie (Donovan) Clark, Carol was working in a music store when she met her future husband, William S. Canty, Jr. of Decatur, Ill., an ex-Marine who was assigned to Michigan as an air traffic controller. They wed on Nov. 24, 1951, and lived successively in Detroit and Ann Arbor (Mich.), Hinsdale (Ill.), and Sterling (Va.), before moving to Pulaski in 2012 to be closer to most of their five children.

Despite a near-fatal battle with bacterial meningitis at age 62, Carol bounced back through years of rehabilitation and lived to the fullest for another three decades, eventually outliving her dear husband Bill by more than ten years. She is survived in Pulaski by daughter and son-in-law Deborah and Daniel Grubb, who lovingly attended to her during her later years, and elsewhere by her other children: William S. ("Chip") Canty III, of Boston, Mass.; Eileen (and Kenny) Coleman, of Olmstead, Ky.; Greg (and Lynn) Canty, of Johns Creek, Ga.; and Carla (and Richard) Scott, of Bent Mountain, Va. She is also survived by several grandchildren, step-grandchildren, and foster grandchildren, and their spouses and children: Jennifer Canty and Tanner Lostan (and daughter Leona), Son and Nancy Ngo (and children Samuel, Phoebe and Priscilla), Bradley and Linde Grubb, Ryan and Erin Coleman (and children Carlea, Harrison and Sawyer), Kelly Chapman (and children Sam and Max), William Alexander ("Alex") and Samantha Canty, Richard Benjamin ("Ben") Canty, Kendall Scott, and Kemper Scott. Besides her husband, she was predeceased by beloved grandson Gregory Canty.

The family also gives special thanks to Carol's devoted caregivers over the past several years – Laura, Pauline, Lori, Connie, and Wendy – who sat with her through countless Hallmark movies and Virginia Cavaliers basketball games. A longtime and devoted fan of the Baltimore Orioles, she was finally rewarded with a winning season and the promise it brings of future championships. A mostly self-taught pianist who instilled in her offspring a love of music and the arts, Carol was often happiest when singing with members of her family or watching them perform.

A memorial ceremony will be held at the Seagle Funeral Home on Saturday, Dec. 30 at 2:00 p.m., with public visitation starting at 1:00. She will be laid to rest with her late husband Bill at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the scholarship fund established in honor of Carol's late grandson, Gregory, at the University of Virginia School of Engineering and Applied Science (Allocation #94073 in memory of Gregory

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Dobson

Continued From Page A4

the Dublin United Methodist Church in Dublin, Virginia for over sixty years and taught Sunday School, served on numerous committees, and was a volunteer on numerous occasions.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Ken Dobson, her daughter, Debbie Tonkin, her son-in-law, Kurt Tonkin, her father, Larren Fulton, her mother, Mary Fulton, her sister, Ruth Hobbs, and her brother-in-law, Sam Hobbs.

She is survived by her daughter, Cindy Renner, her son-in-law, Bill Renner, her grandchildren, Summer Disher, Adam Disher, Bryn Renner, Stephen Tonkin, Stephanie Tonkin, Lexie Tonkin, and Sarah Tonkin, and her great grandchildren, KJ Disher, Dusty Disher, Kurt Tonkin and Louis Tonkin and her special family friends, Becky Buckland, and Beth Ratcliffe.

A memorial service will be held at 12:00 P.M. on Friday, December 29, 2023 at Dublin United Methodist Church in Dublin, Virginia. Visitation will be held at 11:00 A.M. prior to the memorial service there at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be offered to Dublin United Methodist Church, 424 East Main St, Dublin, VA 24084.

Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.seaglefuneralhome.com Arrangements by Seagle Funeral Home, Pulaski. 540-980-1700



MELVIN ROBERT HUDSON

Melvin Robert Hudson, age 80 of Pulaski passed away Saturday, December 23, 2023 at the Lewis-Gale Hospital – Montgomery. Born February 2, 1943 in Pulaski he was the son of the late John Robert Hudson & Georgie Pauline Quesenberry Hudson. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Glenna Marie Carroll Hudson, daughter, Michelle Coffey and son Jeffrey Hudson.

Melvin was a truck driver,

retiring from the Pulaski County Sanitation Department. He is survived by his

Sons – Mike (Tina) Hudson – Pulaski, Joseph Hudson – Radford, David Hudson – Radford

Grandchildren – Shea Hudson, Kendra Franklin, Heather McGuire and Jimmy Coffey

Several Great Grandchildren Best Friend and Sister – Wanda McGlothlin – Pulaski

Brother – Vernon Hudson – Vinton

Special Companion – Sassy

Funeral services will be held 2:00 PM – Friday, December 29, 2023 at the Bower Funeral Home-Chapel, Pulaski. Interment will follow at the Shiloh Cemetery.

The family will receive friends one hour before service time Friday at the Funeral Home.

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

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

IRIS (PENNY) PENTECOST CRAIG

Iris (Penny) Pentecost Craig, a long-time resident of Pulaski/Dublin, passed away on Monday, December 25, 2023 at Majestic Care of Sheridan in Sheridan, IN, living most recently in Noblesville, IN. Penny was the eighth child born to the Rev. James Thomas and Pearl Pentecost on February 12, 1941 in Cleveland, TN. The family moved to Virginia in the late 1940s, settling in Pulaski where she attended Jefferson Elementary School and Pulaski High School.

After high school, Penny served in the U.S. Air Force as an Airman 3rd class (where she got her nickname) and was proud to have served her country. She returned to Pulaski in the early 1960s and was a machine operator at Jefferson Mills where she met her late husband, R. G. Craig, U.S. Army SP4. She also worked at Sweet Ore, Lee Jeans, Roses, and Russell Apparel while living in the New River Valley. She worked as a photofinisher at McJon in Ft. Wayne, IN. While in Tennessee, she was the receptionist at Tomlinson College and church secretary at Keith Street Ministries, both in Cleveland, TN.

Penny was a master gardener with a true green thumb. If she planted it, it grew. She loved cooking, baking and candy-making, a gift she shared by catering weddings and other events and owned "Penny's Sweet Shop" in Dublin where she taught classes to her patrons. She was also an avid crafter and master seamstress in high demand, owning her

own decorating business, "Silks, Satins, and Sew-On" in Cleveland, TN. She was a woman of strong faith. She led congregational singing, sang in choirs, spoke to congregations, taught Sunday School, directed youth ministries, and sang in a trio with sisters Affie and Anna in their youth. She used her candy-making skills and organized large campaigns to raise thousands of dollars for various churches in Virginia, Tennessee, and Indiana.

Penny was preceded in death by her husband Roy Garnett (RG) Craig; parents, James Thomas and Pearl Pentecost; brothers David, James, Paul, and Charles Pentecost; and sisters Ruth Shelton, Anna Keith, Dorthy (Dee Dee) Pownall, and Belva Green. She is survived by her son, Roy Garnett Craig, Jr., his wife, Kelli, and grandson, Joshua of Fishers, IN; sister, Affie Stump and brother, A. J. Pentecost both of Salem, VA along with many beloved nieces, nephews, and dear friends made throughout various chapters of her life in Virginia, Tennessee, Indiana and Alaska.

A memorial service will be held at Bower Funeral Chapel in Pulaski, VA at 2 pm Saturday, December 30, 2023 with visitation at 1 pm. Dr. Ron D. Boyd, President of the Roanoke Local Office on Aging and Rev. JD Wall, West Virginia State Youth and Discipleship Director for the Church of God will be officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a local Autism organization or Alzheimer's/Dementia charity.

To sign Penny's online guestbook, visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com – Bower Funeral Homes, Pulaski is handling the arrangements for the family.

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JAMES WILLIAM HALL

James William Hall, age 66 of Pulaski passed away Sunday, December 24, 2023 at his home. Born July 1, 1957 in Pulaski, he was the son of the late Jack Hall & Beveridge Holston Hall. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Lisa Kay Kidd and brother, Chris Hall.

James is survived by his Sisters – Sabrina "Beanie" Morrison – Stafford, Tommi Lynn Bower – South Hill

Many Nieces and Nephews Per his wishes, there will be no services. To sign James's online guestbook, visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com

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



MYRTLE ANN PAULEY BRAMMER

Myrtle Ann Pauley Brammer, age 81 of Pulaski, passed away Friday, December 15, 2023 at Lewis Gale Hospital – Montgomery. She was born in Bland County on July 17, 1942, and was the daughter of the late Bert & Zethel Poff East. She is also preceded death by her husband; John Jackson Brammer, Sr., her daughter Bonnie Scott; sister Roberta Byrd; brother

Floyd "Walker" Pauley and Son-in-law, Raymond Secrist.

Myrtle is survived by her children: Connie Willard of Pulaski, Dorothy Arlene Secrist of Snowville, John Jackson (Robin) Brammer, Jr. of Pulaski, Melissa (Troy) Carston of Pulaski; sister; Libby (Arnold) Byrd of Pulaski; son-in-law; James Scott of Dublin. Grandchildren: Brett Don Carston, Brittany Nicole Secrist, Logan Wesley (Nicole) Willard, Zachary (Sam) Willard, Linda Ann (Thomas) Tallant, Clifford James Scott, Christopher John Brammer, Vonda Kay Brammer, Jackie Danielle, Sarah (Daniel) Hurst, Joseph Daniel (Siera) Brammer, Curtis Darrell Arnold, James Garnett Ridpath, IV. Also survived by 26 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Thursday, December 28, 2023 at the River of Life Church in Dublin, with Pastor Shawn Burchett officiating.

Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.seaglefuneralhome.com Arrangements by Seagle Funeral Home, Pulaski. 540-980-1700

GEORGIA LEE ANDERSON

Georgia Lee Anderson, age 98 of Pulaski passed away Friday, December 22, 2023 at her home. Born April 28, 1925 in Giles County, she was the daughter of the late Clarence Gusler & Nora Lea Nicewander. She was also preceded in death by two sisters and a brother.

Georgia was a member of the Jehovah Witness' congregation of Pulaski and retired from Jefferson Mills with over 37 years of service.

She is survived by her Daughter & Son-in-law – Bonita Diane & Donald Thornton – Pulaski

Grandson – James Edward Thornton

Step Grandson – Donnie Thornton

6 Great Grandchildren


7 Great, Great Grandchildren

Special Niece – Dreama Andrews


Several nieces and nephews

Services for Georgia are going to be private. To sign her online guestbook, visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com

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



In Loving Memory



In memory of Randy Sexton

New Years Day will never be the same. One year ago today, the Lord called you home. I can't believe it has been a whole year since I talked to you or hugged you. A piece of my heart will always be missing. I love you, son.

-Momma

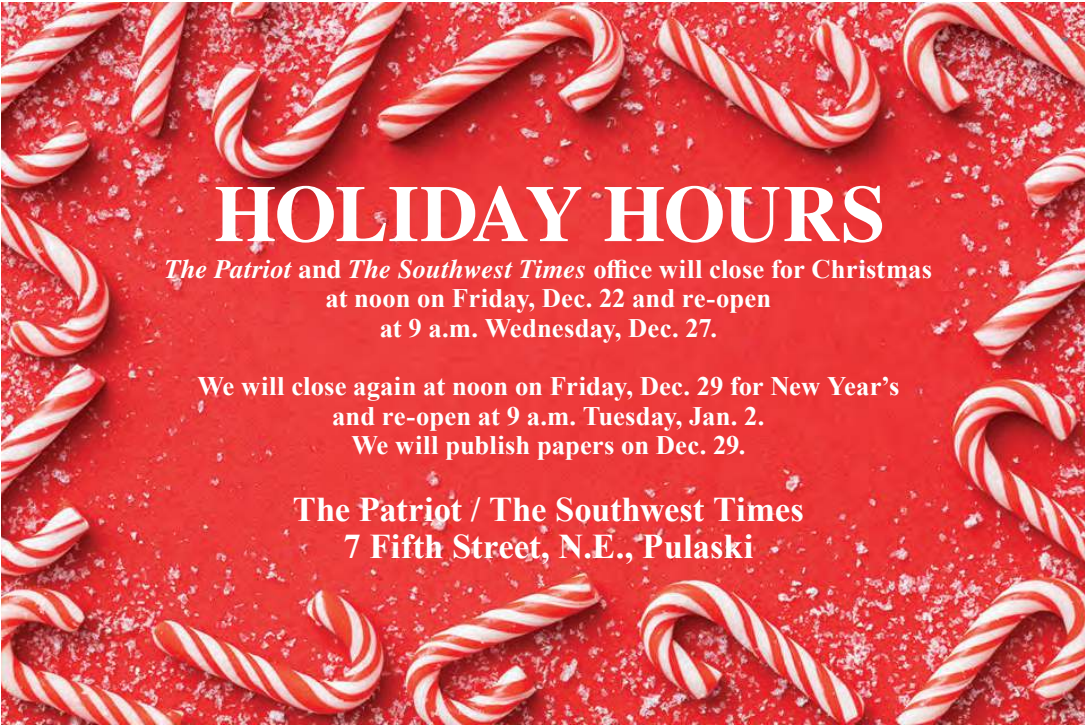


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HOLIDAY HOURS

The Patriot and The Southwest Times office will close for Christmas at noon on Friday, Dec. 22 and re-open at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27.

*We will close again at noon on Friday, Dec. 29 for New Year's and re-open at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2.
We will publish papers on Dec. 29.*

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EDITORIAL

AP Poll: Primaries, parties don't rank highly

WASHINGTON (AP)—With the GOP presidential primaries just about to start, many Republicans aren't certain that votes will be counted correctly in their contest, as pessimism spreads about the future of both the Democratic and Republican parties, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC of confidence that votes in the Republican primary elections and caucuses will be counted correctly. About three in 10 Republicans report a "moderate" amount of confidence, and 32% say they have "only a little" or "none at all." In contrast, 72% of Democrats have high confidence their party will count votes accurately in its primary contests. Democrats are also slightly more likely than Republicans to have a high level of confidence in the Republican Party's vote count being accurate.

Republicans continue to be broadly doubtful about votes being counted accurately — in the early contests or beyond them. About one-quarter of Republicans say they have at least "quite a bit" of confidence that the votes in the 2024 presidential election will be counted accurately, significantly lower than Democrats. Slightly fewer than half of U.S. adults overall (46%) believe the same, which is in line with an AP-NORC poll conducted in June.

The skepticism among Republicans comes after years of former President Donald Trump falsely blaming his 2020 loss on election fraud. Federal and state election officials and Trump's own attorney general have said there is no credible evidence the election was tainted. The former president's allegations of fraud were also roundly rejected by courts, including by judges Trump appointed.

"Nothing will be fair because the last election was rigged," said Julie Duggan, 32, of Chicago, a Trump voter, referring to 2020. "I don't trust any of them at this point."

The AP-NORC poll found a widespread lack of trust in both major political parties among U.S. adults overall.

About one-quarter of U.S. adults say they have "only a little" confidence or "none at all" that both the Democratic Party and Republican Party have a fair process for selecting a presidential nominee. About half of independents have that low level of confidence in both party's processes, compared with one-quarter of Republicans and 19% of Democrats.

Slightly fewer than half of U.S. adults — 46% — say they are pessimistic about the way the country's leaders are chosen.

About half of U.S. adults are pessimistic about the future of the Republican Party, including one-third of Republicans and 45% of independents. The poll found 45% of U.S. adults are pessimistic about the future of the Democratic Party, including about one-quarter of Democrats and 41% of independents.

"The way they're spending our money, sending it all over the world and not protecting our people here in the United States of America," said Gary Jackson, a 65-year-old retired trucker and Republican in Boise, Idaho. "Right now, I'm not impressed with either party."

Christine Allen, a political independent in Gambrills, Maryland, sees her state's last governor, Larry Hogan, a moderate Republican, as a model for the country. But Hogan refused to run in the GOP presidential primary, which she sees as emblematic of how the two-party system prevents talented leaders from holding office.

"Everybody right now is a bunch of children, stomping their feet until they get their way," Allen, 44, said. "Everybody's at fault here. There's no winners."

Nonetheless, Allen thinks the primaries will be fair. "They're fairer than the Electoral College," she said.

Even those who identify with the two political parties are uneasy about whom their organizations will nominate. A recent AP-NORC poll found that Democrats and Republicans are also not especially confident that their party's primary contests will result in a candidate who can win the general election in November. Additionally, there are some doubts on both sides that the emerging candidates will represent their party's views or Americans overall.

Only three in 10 Democrats say they are confident the Democratic party's process will result in a candidate whose views represent most Americans. About one-quarter of Democrats believe the process will produce a candidate whose views represent their own. Similarly, about three in 10 Republicans say the GOP process will produce a candidate who represents a majority of Americans. About one-third of Republicans expect they'll get a nominee whose views represent their own.

Mark Richards, a 33-year-old middle school teacher in Toledo, Ohio, and a Democrat, said he expects President Joe Biden will be nominated again by the party, despite his low job approval numbers. The incumbent faces only token opposition in the Democratic presidential primary.

"I feel like there's got to be someone better out there, but I don't think another Democrat is going to

See POLL, page A7

Ninth District Rep. Morgan Griffith's column will return in next week's edition.

OPEN FORUM

Christmas Parade was the best in years

To the editor,
I want to thank everyone that helped with the Pulaski Christmas Parade this year.
It was the best one I have seen in 20 years.

A lot of people I talked to said it was the best one in a long time.

I will say this – if you missed the parade you can't know what you missed out on.

I am so proud of it.

I thank everyone that helped with the parade.
It was really, really great.
This is what Pulaski is all about.
So thanks again to everyone.
Thanks to the people who came out to see and support the parade.
I am proud of the people of Pulaski.
God bless everyone and merry Christmas.

Sincerely,
Shirley Nester
Pulaski

Learn about the Constitution

Dear Editor and Readers:

As we enter 2024, many of us anticipate being bombarded by political ads from the national stage. At first, the question will be, which candidate in each party can articulate not only the problems of our nation, but also make the most responsible case for their vision to move our nation forward.

As summer closes, we will see ads for at least two Presidential candidates at nearly every turn. Many people will hope one or the other of the candidates will provide a foolproof solution to restore prosperity to each and every one

of us.

But wait! Who is in charge of our nation? Every person I know can tell me how the constitution starts: "we the people." America is the first nation in which the people created the governmental structure instead of having one imposed upon them.

You say you didn't know you are part of the authority of the United States? Would you like to know what authority "we the people" granted our country and our states when the constitution was ratified?

See LETTER, page A7



Readying for Session

I hope you had a very merry Christmas and that you've been able to enjoy time with family, friends, and loved ones who help make the holidays special. As we get ready to ring in the new year, members of the Virginia General Assembly prepare ourselves for a return to Richmond to confront the challenges facing the Commonwealth. One of these challenges is the issue of mental health, especially as it relates to our youth, and it's a great example of an area where Republicans and Democrats can work together to solve a serious problem.

This past week was the one-year anniversary of Governor Glenn Youngkin's "Right Help, Right Now" initiative that seeks to tackle the mental health crisis head-on. To mark the occasion, the Governor announced an additional \$500 million will be earmarked in his upcoming budget to address multiple shortcomings in our current approach to treating mental health ailments. This includes \$307 million to eliminate the Priority 1 waitlist for mental health treatment. \$58 million will help build a best-in-class behavioral health workforce through salary increases in state hospitals. An additional \$28 million will be put toward opioid abatement and response initiatives, and \$23 million will expand access to school-based mental health services for children.

While supplementary funding is certainly one of the most important pieces of the Governor's policy, equally as important are steps the Governor will take through legislative and regulatory means to specifically protect children. These actions are intended to assist before external pressures cause a breakdown in our youth's mental health. One such action is protecting the privacy of all children under 18 from social media companies by banning targeted advertising and creating a marketing profile of kids without their parents' consent. Another is to ban social

Delegate Jason Ballard 42nd District

media companies from using addictive practices – such as auto-playing videos or virtual gifts – on children. And, as mentioned earlier, mental health services will be extended in our schools using both in-person and tele-behavioral health methods to vastly increase the level of support our children have access to.

Taken together, Virginia is laying the groundwork to ensure our future generations grow with support systems in place to address the things that degrade mental wellbeing. There are more pressures on all of us now than ever before, and much of that seems to be driven by social media. While social media certainly has its valid uses and is a source of enjoyment for many, we must not forget the impact it can have on impressionable youth. I applaud the Governor for his sincere focus on the mental health crisis and I look forward to working with House colleagues soon to enact policies that begin to solve it.

It is my honor to represent you in Richmond, and I want you to be fully informed what your government is doing for you. As the Delegate representing the 12th District (soon to be the 42nd District due to redistricting), your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJBallard@House.Virginia.Gov.

You can also follow me on Twitter @ JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf. Best wishes for a happy new year!



Rich Lowery

Editor, National Review

Where's the big immigration debate?

Do you remember the big national debate on whether the United States would adopt a policy to make the foreign share of the population the highest it's ever been?

Neither do I. For the simple reason, of course, that there wasn't one.

That doesn't mean that the policy wasn't adopted, through inertia and the Biden administration's imposition of a de facto open border for a large swath of asylum-seekers.

An analysis of Census data by Steve Camarota and his colleagues at the Center for Immigration Studies has found that a 4.5 million net increase in immigrants since Joe Biden took office has boosted the share of the foreign born to 15% , the highest ever recorded.

You know all the black-and-white photos of immigrants coming to Ellis Island, the lore about names being changed upon arrival, "your huddled masses yearning to be free"?

We are currently higher than that. We're eclipsing the Great Wave of Immigration with an even greater wave. We hit 14.8 in 1890 and 14.7 in 1910, in what were, until now, the most historic decades for immigration.

Just last month, the Census Bureau was projecting the foreign-born share of the population wouldn't hit 15% until in 2033. Now, we could keep going up from here. "If the immigrant population continues to grow," Camarota writes, "it will set new numerical and percentage records every year going forward."

A straight-line projection shows the share of foreign-born increasing to 15.5 by the end of Biden's term, and to an astonishing 17.3% by the end of a potential second term.

This is not the normal course of business. According to Camarota, the foreign-born population has grown on average by 137,000 a month since the beginning of Biden's term, higher than Donald Trump's pre-COVID-19 42,000 and Barack Obama's 68,000.

What accounts for this? Some of it is a COVID-19 bounce-back in legal immigration. But that's not responsible for the lion's share of the story. The Biden administration has boosted the foreign-born share of the population well above the pre-COVID-19 trend line.

It has done it by ignoring the law and greasing the skids for new arrivals even if they have no right to be here. Of the total net 4.5 million increase of immigrants on Biden's watch, 2.5 million of that is illegal immigrants. Most of that illegal number is solely a function of discretion and the administration's opposition to excluding bogus asylum-seekers.

The Biden administration's border policy has obviously been the subject of debate, including criticism from his own party. The overall number of immigrants, though, is rarely mentioned, and even treated as an almost illegitimate topic for public consideration.

This makes no sense. The foreign-born share of the population has consequences for schooling, welfare, wages, politics and the broader culture. It is at least as important,

See LOWERY, page A7

Change

Continued From Page A3

Following a nationally advertised request for proposals (RFP), Pulaski County selected Gannon Emergency Solutions USA. The firm had already demonstrated a tremendous wherewithal for the complexity of fire and rescue systems by way of preparing a detailed comprehensive analysis of all of our Fire and Public Safety Departments, and the company hits the ground running due to their extensive familiarity with Pulaski County and their existing relationship with our many volunteer and paid departments.

“The cooperation, faith and passion shown by everyone involved was pivotal in our decision to bid for the opportunity to provide Pulaski County with the help they need to move forward from the studies,” stated Chris Gannon, CEO of Gannon Emergency Solutions USA. “I am very grateful to the County for selecting my firm, and in return I will dedicate all my energy and experience to this challenge. Moving from Florida to the New River Valley of Virginia has been the first step in my commitment, and I look forward to starting work on the important task of making the lives of first responders and the people they serve safer.”

Both the study conducted by the Commonwealth and Gannon identified that the current Fire and Public Safety Departments could benefit from organized support and collaborative assistance.

“Although the County is fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers and professionals who are committed to providing first-response services, we are at a juncture where it is vitally important to find ways to keep up with the evolving needs of our emerging next-level community,” stated Laura

Walters, Chair of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors. “The Board’s commitment to our citizens, our business community and to the men and women who serve them, has been unwavering and we continue to follow the strategic process of comprehensively studying, carefully evaluating, properly planning, adequately funding and sustainably implementing, in order to ensure we can continue to meet the progressing needs of Pulaski County.”

The contract for Change Agent services is a two (2) year partnership and will provide direct engagement with all paid and volunteer departments serving Pulaski County. The high-level deliverable is for the development and implementation of a strategic plan that will serve to strengthen, support and affordably sustain the paid and volunteer emergency response services, as well as implement safety, efficiency and support measures to ensure the highest level of response can be provided.

Gannon Emergency Solutions is a firm of specialists dedicated to the review and improvement of Fire and Rescue Services. Chris Gannon, CEO is a globally recognized pioneer of reform in the public safety industry. He has 27 years of experience working on five (5) continents and is fully registered in the USA. He brings a unique and unparalleled level of experience to Pulaski County and the departments he will be working with, and shares a unique insight that could make our best even better.

To learn more about Chris Gannon, Gannon Emergency Solutions and the Gannon team of professionals, please visit: www.gannonemergencyusa.com

Letter

Continued From Page A6

This winter you are invited to a Constitution Alive! class at Pulaski Presbyterian Church. Presented in video by America’s Constitution Coach, Rick Green, of Patriot Academy, this free class will be held for six successive Tuesday nights, beginning January 9th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Together we will hear stories of the founding of our nation and get an invigorating overview of the constitution.

What better way can you think of to prepare yourself to listen to the campaigns state their positions and be able to make an informed choice as we select the people who will speak for us in Washington, D.C. during the next term?

If you have any questions about this course, I am available to help.

Susan Peters
540/ 994-7122

Lowery

Continued From Page A6

if not more so, than trade policy, Ukraine aid, the deficit, infrastructure or a whole host of other issues that are routine fodder for congressional debate and the Sunday shows.

It also should be subject to the approval of the American people and its representatives just like those other issues. We should affirmatively decide whether we want the foreign share of the population to be 15% and growing, or less than 15% and shrinking, and the mix of people who are coming --largely unskilled, or overwhelmingly higher skilled?

Instead, we treat immigration as something that happens to us, like the weather. (Although

progressives now seek to influence the weather, so maybe this is a dated analogy.) It isn’t. We are making the choices that have gotten us to this point.

The fact is that immigration has operated largely under its own power, and under false pretenses, since the immigration reform of 1965. One reason there’s so little discussion of the underlying issue is that many people simply don’t know the historic numbers involved.

In short, there’s been no debate on 15%, and one, shamefully, doesn’t seem in the offing.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



Pennies On Markers

Several of the veterans’ gravestone markers, seen at the recent Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, had coins placed on top of them – a tradition not everyone understands. Here is the explanation: If you leave a penny, it lets the family know you visited. A nickel means that you and the deceased soldier trained at boot camp together. If you served with the soldier, you leave a dime. A quarter is very significant because it means that you were there when that soldier was killed.

Danielle Reid/Patriot Publishing

Prepare your home for new puppy

DEAR PAW’S CORNER: This Christmas, we planned to get a puppy, but it is too young to leave its mother yet. Instead of revealing the puppy on Christmas Day, we wrapped a big box that had a little note in it from Santa saying that a new puppy will arrive soon, and to write down their ideas for a name on the back of the card. Do you have any tips on how we can prepare the house for the puppy’s arrival in a few weeks? -- Chet in Boise, Idaho

Poll

Continued From Page A6

unseat Joe Biden,” Richards said. Though Richards thinks the primaries will be fair and the votes accurately counted, he sees the nominating system as inherently flawed. “It’s all about money, who can get the most money from PACs and Super PACs,” he said, referring to political committees that donate to candidates or spend millions of dollars on their behalf.

The poll of 1,074 adults was conducted Nov. 30–Dec. 4, 2023, using a sample drawn from NORC’s probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, designed to represent the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.0 percentage points.



DEAR Chet: First, kudos to you for handling the Christmas announcement so well! That’s a great way to surprise the kids during the gift-opening while not having to supervise a puppy who has no idea what is going on. And keeping the puppy with its mother until it’s at least 8 to 12 weeks old is so important.

Involving the kids in preparation for the puppy’s arrival is important. Explain to them that puppies like to

explore -- often with their teeth. So they need to put away their toys, clothing and anything that they don’t want to get chewed up. Puppies can also get into foods and cleaning items that can be dangerous or deadly for them, so those items need to be lifted off the floor or removed from the house’s common areas entirely.

Talk to them about how they can help train the new puppy. This will prepare them for how to handle, talk to and correct the puppy from the first day of its arrival.

Congratulations on the new family member! It sounds like you’re doing a great job preparing the family for the arrival, and that’ll make things so much easier for a new pup.

How did you help your kids adjust to a new pet? Tell us about it at ask@pawscorner.com.

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County Library Displays Young Adult Canvas Artwork

By DANIELLE REID
Patriot Publishing

During your next trip to the Pulaski County Public Library, as you go through the main doors, notice the display to your left, which identifies the Young Adult area. The Library is located at 60 3rd Street, across from the “new” county courthouse.

Sheena Johnson, Public Services Coordinator for the Library, is proud of the partnership between the students and the County Library. “The canvas artwork brings flair to the Young Adult area and incorporates the creativity of our community,” Johnson stated.

Displayed high on the wall of the library’s Young Adult area are ten giant canvas paintings, contributed by 11th and 12th grade students from Pulaski County High School. The creative 30-inch by 20-inch paintings

are acrylic and mixed media, produced by seven students over the summer months.

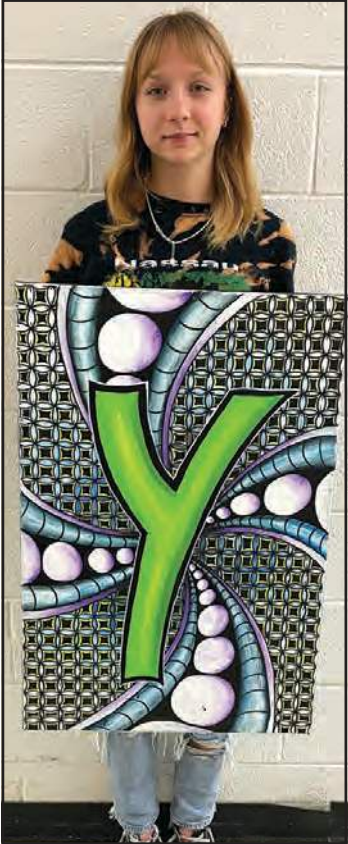
The Pulaski County Library purchased the canvas and the students provided the labor and paint. The art pieces are very different in their themes and materials. Some have intricate details, some have a creative mix of media, and all are expressions of the student’s individual talents and creativity.

Johnson praised the cooperation between the students, the Pulaski County High School Art Instructor, Ms. Pattie Nickles, the former Children’s Librarian and the current Children’s Librarian, Kristine Saunders. Saunders has been with the Pulaski County Library for the past few months.

The public is encouraged to visit the Young Adult area during their next trip to the Pulaski County Library.



Ellis Cox, Senior



Sadie Ratcliffe, Senior



Olivia Hull, Senior



Angelina Martin, Junior



Pattie Nuckols, Teacher

Wythe-based dispatcher named Telecommunicator of Year

From Virginia State Police

RICHMOND – A local Virginia State Police dispatcher supervisor is the recipient of the Department’s 2022 Telecommunicator of the Year Award. On Tuesday, (Dec. 19, 2023) during the Virginia State Police Superintendent’s Award Ceremony, Colonel Gary T. Settle announced Dispatcher Supervisor Whitney L. Richardson as the recipient of this esteemed recognition. Richardson is employed at the Wytheville Division Communications Center, which covers the counties of far southwestern Virginia.

“Dispatchers play a crucial role in our response, and Dispatcher Supervisor Richardson has made sure we continue to have people to provide that invaluable connection between the public and state police,” said Settle. “I am proud to award Whitney as our 2022 Telecommunicator of the Year and appreciate all she has and continues to do for state police and the Commonwealth.”

The award is presented to a State Police dispatch employee who demonstrates exceptional commitment to their job as a telecommunicator and distinguishes themselves through their dedication to public safety.

Richardson developed a training curriculum to aid in the development of newly hired dispatchers and to increase retention. She also developed a



Virginia State Police photo
Dispatcher Supervisor W.L. Richardson with Wytheville Division Lt. Derek Reece.

training plan which allowed new dispatchers exposure to the job without feeling overwhelmed. The result is that retention of dispatchers has increased. Richardson accomplished this while also serving as a supervisor and continuing to take calls for service, dispatching calls, requesting law enforcement and other emergency personnel, and assisting in notifying area supervision.

Griffith: Wythe - Bland Chamber gets grant

Today, U.S. Congressman Morgan Griffith (R-VA) announced that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has awarded \$25,000 to the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce through the ARC Ready Non-profits Capacity Building initiative.

“This \$25,000 investment by the Appalachian Regional Commission will go a long ways towards helping the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce grow and expand through software and technology upgrades, the development and implementation of a marketing plan, and the creation of a Chamber 501(c)3 Foundation.”

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SPORTS



Pulaski County's Marcus Reed drives to the basket against Grayson County.

Brian Bishop/Patriot Publishing

Cougars win, halt losing streak at five

By RODNEY YOUNG
Patriot Publishing

MAX MEADOWS—A win is a win, even if it's not pretty. Such was the case for Pulaski County's Cougars Wednesday night as they defeated Grayson County, 45-42 in the First Community Bank Christmas Tournament held at Fort Chiswell High School.

The Cougars (3-6) got a game-high 18 points

First Community Bank Christmas Tournament

from senior Lane Nester as he hit four of six free throws in the final quarter to help propel PCHS to the victory halting a five-game losing streak. Senior Marcus Reed had a double-double scoring 11 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. Sophomore Jalere Harlow chipped in with 10 points with eight of those coming in the first half.

Grayson County (2-6) got 14 points from point guard Austin Dowell, and Maverik Goad knocked in eight points in a losing cause.

See COUGARS, page B3

Hokies rush to Military Bowl win, 41-20

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — As long as he could hold onto the ball and keep his footing on a slippery day, Kyron Drones found plenty of room to run.

Drones rushed for 176 yards and a touchdown and also threw for two TDs as Virginia Tech withstood a second-half downpour to beat No. 23 Tulane 41-20 in the Military Bowl on Wednesday.

Drones fumbled three times in the wet weather, but the Hokies (7-6) only lost one of them. The sophomore quarterback passed for just 91 yards, but he and Bhayshul Tuten were tough to stop on the ground.

"It was tough conditions. You can't really simulate it like that," Virginia Tech coach Brent Pry said. "They had the same weather we did. Both teams had to deal with it."

Tuten finished with 136 yards and two touchdowns on 18 carries to help Virginia Tech snap a four-game losing streak in bowls.

"Any time we've had success this year, really, we've been able to run the ball," Pry said. "That's who we need to be. That's who we want to be."

Tulane (11-3) was without star quarterback Michael Pratt. Both



Hokiesports.com

Virginia Tech quarterback Kyron Drones drags a Tulane defender for some of his 176 yards rushing on the day.

See TECH, page B4

Out-of-place FSU wants out of ACC

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Columnist

Florida State always seemed out of place in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

A football school in a league long renowned for its basketball prowess.

Now, the Seminoles want out. Divorce is inevitable, but the split figures to be anything but amicable.

The salvos fired Friday, when the Florida State board of trustees voted to begin legal proceedings to escape the ACC without having to pay a staggering departure fee, showed just how nasty this fight is likely to be.

Not surprising, since the stakes are enormous for both sides.

The ACC is vowing to hold Florida State to its end of the bargain over television rights, which would force the Seminoles to come up with a staggering pile of cash — the

See FSU, page B5

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Cougars

Continued From Page B1

The Cougars led for most of the contest, leading 10-8 after the first quarter and 23-19 at intermission.

Leading 34-29 after the third period the Cougars stretched their lead to nine at 41-32. But Pulaski County had to hold on for the win. The Cougars struggled to hit open shots and made turnovers down the stretch that put the Blue Devils right back in the game.

“It was an ugly game,” said Cougar head coach Anthony Akers. “We have trouble making open shots. Marcus Reed, Jalere Harlow and Lane Nester really carried us tonight. We played hard at times, but we didn’t play smart at times.”

With the win, the Cougars advanced to the tournament semifinals against an undefeated Narrows Green Wave.

PC - 10 -13 - 11 - 11 = 45
GC - 8 - 11 - 10 - 13= 42

PC - Nester 18, Reed 11, Harlow 10, O’Dell 2, Hash 2, Anderson 2, Grayson - Dowell 14, Mav. Goad 8, Gillespie 4, Mac Goad 4, Mak. Goad 3, Walls 5, Weatherman 2. Pennington 2

3-PT. Goals - PC - 2 (Harlow, Nester) , Grayson -5 (Mav. Goad 2, Mak. Goad, Walls. Dowell)

Total FG’s - PC - 16, Grayson 17

FT’s - PC - 11 -20, Grayson - 3-8

Total Fouls- PC - 11, Grayson - 21

Fouled Out - Grayson - Mak. Goad

Technicals - PC - O’Dell

Other first round games in the First Community Bank Tournament saw the Radford Bobcats come from behind to down Tazewell, 54-46. Radford got 26 points from

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Brian Bishop/Patriot Publishing

Cougar senior Lane Nester goes up high over Grayson County defenders to put up a jumper. Nester led all scorers in Pulaski County’s 45-42 win with 18 points.

Mekih Martin. Sincere Taylor and Daniel Dehart-Lewis both scored six points each for the Bobcats.

Tazewell was led by T. J. Barrett with nine points. Carter Creasy, Chase Brown and Matt Clifton all scored seven points each.

Narrows got a game-high 25 points from Levi Smith and Kolier Pruett finished with 22 in their 65-59 win over the Fort Chiswell Pioneers.

The Pioneers were led by Brayden Billings with 17 and Broderick Gunter had 12 in the losing effort.

Narrows head coach Patrick Bailey remarked, “It was a grind here tonight. We got three guys that can score 20 or more a night, and two of them did.” Derrick Jackson, head coach for the Pioneers after the loss said, “We played hard, but turnovers really hurt us late in the fourth quarter.”

Narrows improved to 8-0, while Fort Chiswell fell to 5-3.

The other first round game saw the undefeated Carroll County Cavaliers (7-0) smash East Wilkes (NC), 71-48. Davis Reitzel had a game-high 27 points and Bryce Smoot scored 17 for Carroll. East Wilkes got nine points from Mason Sparks. Phoenix Blackburn and Andrew Tharpe both chipped in with eight points apiece.

PCHS falls to Radford in double-OT

By RODNEY YOUNG
Patriot Publishing

RADFORD – The so-called “Battle of The Bridge” is what it’s called in football. Last Friday’s basketball game turned into a battle, period. The Cougars battled, clawed and played extremely hard, but came up short in a double-overtime thriller to Radford, 61-56.

Down 14 points in the third quarter (35-21) the Cougars fought their way back to tie the game at 43 all to send it into overtime.

Senior Lane Nester hit two field goals to tie the game and then scored all six of the Cougars’ points in the first overtime to send the game into a second extra period. He finished the game with a game-high 22 points despite having only two points at intermission.

The second overtime saw Tootie O’Dell hit a jumper to tie it at 51. Radford (1-1) hit a layup by Max Kanipe and a huge three by Luke Woodard that put Pulaski County (2-6) behind, 56-51. Nester then hit a three before a Radford turnover put the Cougars right back in business with 1:13 remaining.

The Cougars would then miss

twice on their next possession and Radford’s Koreyon Ferguson was fouled. He hit one of two freebies. Sophomore Justus Hash then hit a jumper with 20 seconds to go to pull the Cougars to within one at 57-56.

The Bobcats then tried to freeze the ball, and Pulaski County would foul Ferguson again. This time he hit both shots. Pulaski County would then miss a wide-open jumper. The Cougars would then foul Sincere Taylor with 10 seconds to go. He calmly sank both to cap the game for Radford.

“I’m proud of the guys for fighting back,” said Cougar head coach Anthony Akers. “We were down 14-15 points there in the third quarter and we didn’t lay down. They battled and played hard. This turned into a barn burner. Hate that we came out on the wrong end.”

The third quarter hurt the Cougars as they scored just seven points to the Bobcats’ 15. Radford would go on a 15-2 run in the quarter before the Cougars would score the last five points going into the fourth.

Pulaski County would then outscore the Bobcats 17-8 in the fourth to send it to overtime.

Radford got 18 points apiece

from Woodard and Dehart-Lewis. Mekih Marin chipped in with 12.

Pulaski County got 22 points from Nester and 11 from O’Dell. Hash scored nine and Marcus Reed had eight, both coming off the bench. Jeremiah Turner contributed six points and had three steals.

Pulaski Co. 9 - 10 - 7 - 17 - 6 - 7= 56
Radford 11 - 9 - 15 - 8 - 6 - 12 = 61

Pul. Co. - Nester 22, Reed 8. Hash 9, O’Dell 11, Turner 6, Radford - Dehart-Lewis 18, Woodard 18, Martin 12, Kanipe 3, Ferguson 6, Taylor 4

3-Pt. Goals - Pul. Co. 4 (Nester 2, O’Dell, Hash), Radford 5 (Dehart-Lewis 2, Martin 2, Woodard)

Brissett to start for Washington

ASHBURN, Va. (AP) — Jacoby Brissett is set to start at quarterback for the Washington Commanders on Sunday when they host the NFC-leading San Francisco 49ers, a decision coach Ron Rivera framed as a chance for Sam Howell to get a breather late in a long season with the team long out of playoff contention.

Brissett takes over after Howell was pulled from each of the past two games, most recently a 30-28 loss at the New York Jets in which he was 6 of 22 with two interceptions. The 31-year-old journeyman is on track to be the 13th different QB to start for Washington since 2018, and at least one more could be coming next season when new ownership puts another regime in charge.

For now, it’s the abandonment of Rivera’s nearly yearlong plan to see if Howell could be the future of the franchise at football’s most important position, which included bringing in Eric Bieniemy to be offensive coordinator and spanned the sale of the team.

“I think this is probably a good opportunity for Sam to take a break,” Rivera said Wednesday before practice. “This is about Sam’s continued development, and things hadn’t gone as well as we would have liked for him the last few weeks, so we just think this is a good opportunity for him to watch.”

Howell started the first 15 games of the season, and he leads the league with 17 interceptions. The 2022 fifth-round pick out of North Carolina has been sacked a league-high 60 times and has thrown 557 passes, second only to Patrick Mahomes.

The Commanders have lost six in a row to fall to 4-11. The 49ers opened as 13 1/2-point favorites on FanDuel Sportsbook coming off their home loss to Baltimore, before the shift to Brissett made them 12 1/2-point favorites.

“He’s going to give us a chance to really be successful,” receiver Terry McLaurin said. “He’s pretty much seen it all at this point in his career, so we’re excited to get out there and play with him.”

Rivera said he let owners

See QB, page B5

LEGAL NOTICE

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The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Virginia Wine Wholesaler's license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Stanley Joynes, Chairman.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

LEGAL NOTICE



Public Notice Pulaski County Planning Commission

The Pulaski County Planning Commission will host a public hearing to consider this application for the Month of January. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, the Planning Commission will host a public hearing on this petition at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, NW, in the Town of Pulaski to consider comments regarding the following applications;

1. Rezone Application submitted by Jim Hager, rezone of Tax Map 056-001-0000-059A, from Industrial (I) to Conservation (C) located Shaedawn Park. Draper District
2. Rezone Application submitted by Melinda Travis, rezone of Tax Map 065-001-0000-0118, from Medium Density Residential (MR) to Agriculture (A) located at 4619 Wish Lane Dublin, VA, 24084. Draper District
3. Special Use Permit Application submitted by The Towers LLC d/ba Cellco Partnership d/ba/ Verizon Wireless on behalf of Stephen Hedge located at Tax Map # 066-014-0000-0013 TBD Deertrot Lane Dublin, VA 24084. Ingles District.
4. UDO Amendment- Pulaski County Solar Ordinance

Comments may be presented at the meeting and by phone or in writing prior to the meeting. Information regarding these items are available for public inspection from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Department of Planning & Zoning, County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, NW, Suite 1 in the Town of Pulaski or by phoning (540) 980-7710.

For disabled individuals who may require special auxiliary aids or services, please contact the County’s ADA Compliance Officer at (540) 980-7800 (TDD accessible) or (540) 980-7705, ten (10) days prior to the above meeting date to arrange for these special accommodations.

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ004798-02-00
Radford Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court
Juvenile Division

Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* ASHWORTH, AUBREY NICOLE

The object of this suit is to: APPROVE A PERMANENT ENTRUSTMENT AND TO TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE UNKNOWN FATHER OF AUBREY NICOLE ASHWORTH (A CHILD BORN OCT. 24, 2023, CONCEIVED AROUND JAN. 24, 2023 AND WHOSE MOTHER IS DANIELLE NICOLE ASHWORTH.

It is ORDERED that the defendant appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before FEBRUARY 13, 2024 AT 8:30 A.M.

DECEMBER 14, 2023

RUBY STUMP,
Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. CL23000512-00
Pulaski County Circuit Court
45 Third Street, NW, Ste. 101, Pulaski, VA 24301

Gary Henry Belcher Jr. v. Cassandra Rhnea Belcher

The object of this suit is to: TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE

It is ORDERED that CASSANDRA RHNEA BELCHER appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before FEBRUARY 2, 2024.

December 4, 2023

Trisha Albert, Deputy Clerk

FSU

Continued From Page B1

school's legal counsel put the figure at \$572 million — just to head for the exit ramp.

But if the Seminoles do find a more realistic pathway, perhaps through a sympathetic court ruling, it could send the ACC tumbling into the same death spiral that quickly erased the storied Pac-12 from the major college landscape.

Clemson and North Carolina could quickly follow Florida State's lead, especially since they joined the Seminoles in voting against the ACC taking in Pac-12 refugees Stanford and California — way out on the Pacific coast — along with Dallas-based SMU for no apparent reason other than providing a convenient spot to meet up with the faraway newcomers.

The last straw to a relationship that has been rocky for years, it would seem, was Florida State being left out of the four-team College Football Playoff — the first time a major conference champion with a perfect 13-0 record has been snubbed.

The school said that was not a direct factor, but it certainly didn't help smooth things over.

"It is becoming painfully apparent that Florida State's athletic ambitions and institutional priorities are no longer served by the ACC's leadership," university President Richard McCullough said.

The ACC quickly shot back, pointing out that Florida State willingly signed on to a 2016 agreement granting control of television rights to the league through 2036.

While that arrangement quickly became outdated as the Southeastern Conference and Big 12 landed much more lucrative media contracts, the ACC says a deal's a deal.

"Each university has benefited from this agreement, receiving millions of dollars in revenue and neither Florida State nor any other institution, has ever challenged its legitimacy," the ACC said in a statement. "It is especially disappointing that FSU would choose to pursue this unprecedented and overreaching approach."

One thing that could work in favor of Florida State's legal case: While the league holds control over media rights through 2036, it was revealed Friday that the current deal with ESPN extends to just 2027.

The network has the right to exercise a nine-year option, but the Seminoles will surely point out to the court that they shouldn't be bound to a deal with no guarantees.

If Florida State is successful in bolting from the ACC, the next big question: Where do the Seminoles end up?

When the earliest rumblings of the super conference era were felt more than three decades ago, it seemed inevitable that Florida State would eventually land in the SEC.

The Seminoles' top rival was — and still is — the SEC's Florida Gators, the team they meet at the end of every football regular season. FSU's Tallahassee campus was — and still is — a perfect fit within the league's geographical footprint.

In fact, when the SEC presidents voted to authorize expansion way back in 1990, Florida State among the six schools identified as potential new members, along with Texas, Texas A&M, Miami, South Carolina and Arkansas.

Turns out, South Carolina and Arkansas were the only schools to join in the initial wave. Missouri and Texas A&M followed. Next season, the SEC will grow to a 16-team league when Oklahoma and Texas join the fold.

Florida State hooked up with the ACC in 1991, figuring it was better to be the big fish in a small football pond rather than taking on the stiffer competition in the SEC. In the beginning, that was undoubtedly the prudent move.

The Seminoles started their ACC tenure with nine straight league championships and two national titles under coach Bobby Bowden. After Jimbo Fisher took over as coach, another national championship followed during the 2013 season.

Still, despite hoarding 16 ACC titles over 32 seasons in the league, it seemed inevitable that Florida State would eventually find its way to the more like-minded SEC.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

For now, the SEC has shown no strong interest in adding the Seminoles, with any opposition sure to be led by a Florida contingent that worries its influence within the Sunshine State might be weakened by allowing FSU into its powerhouse league.

Those sort of attitudes could work against Clemson, as well, if the Tigers decide to bolt from the ACC. Their biggest rival, South Carolina, would surely be reticent to have another state school under the SEC banner, especially since Clemson has had far more success on the gridiron than the Gamecocks.

The only other logical landing spot for Florida State (and Clemson or North Carolina, for that matter), would be the Big Ten, which will grow into a coast-to-coast, 18-team behemoth next year when Southern Cal, UCLA, Washington and Oregon come aboard.

The Big Ten would undoubtedly jump at the chance to gain a beachhead right in the middle of SEC country if Florida State comes looking for a home.

Of course, the SEC could be putting up its best poker face, content with the way things are for now if Florida State and Clemson stay put — but ready to spring into action if the Big Ten comes sniffing around its territory.

Amid all the uncertainty, this much is clear:

The Seminoles never seemed a good fit for the ACC.

Now, there's no chance of a reconciliation.

Paul Newberry is the national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at pnewberry@ap.org

The Patriot
540-808-3949

Florida Atlantic has highest ranking ever in AP Top 25

By JOHN MARSHALL
AP Basketball Writer



Florida Atlantic's run to the Final Four last season was viewed as a nice story, a small program making a surprise run before sliding back into anonymity.

The Owls are showing this season that that was no fluke.

Coming off a double-overtime win over No. 4 Arizona, FAU moved up seven places to No. 7 in The Associated Press men's college basketball poll released Monday. It's the Owls' highest ranking as a program after being No. 10 in the preseason poll.

"We wanted to play it in the worst way for a lot of reasons," FAU coach Dusty May said before the 96-95 win over Arizona on Saturday. "National television. Our guys wanted to be challenged. They love the challenge. And we felt our program was at a point where we needed these games to elevate even more than a Final Four run."

Purdue maintained its top ranking for the second straight week, receiving 46 first-place votes from a 60-person media panel after blowing out Jacksonville. No. 2 Kansas had five first-place votes and No. 3 Houston received nine. Arizona and UConn rounded out the top five.

Florida Atlantic made massive waves last season, earning the program's first ranking in the AP Top 25 during the regular season before making a magical run in the NCAA Tournament.

QB

Continued From Page B3

know about his decision, adding: "The big thing everybody has to understand is that they have been very supportive of everything that we have done so far."

Howell said he was disappointed to learn he lost the starting job.

"It is what it is," Howell said. "Just going to try to do whatever I can to continue to get better these last two weeks and try to learn as much as I can, watch Jacoby play, support him and try to be a good teammate."

After four seasons running Washington's football operations, Rivera and much of the front office and coaching staff are expected to be fired next month as Josh Harris' group puts its stamp on the team it paid \$6.05 billion to buy from former owner Dan Snyder.

Brissett, a 31-year-old journeyman who signed a \$10 million contract for this season

to back up and mentor Howell, was 18 of 23 for 224 yards and three touchdowns in relief over the past two games.

"Jacoby's proven that he's a very, very viable player in this league," Rivera said. "It's amazing to watch the professionalism with which Jacoby does things."

This is set to be Brissett's 49th NFL start and first since Nov. 27, 2022, with Cleveland.

Brissett is on the verge of joining Howell, Taylor Heinicke, Carson Wentz, Alex Smith, Dwayne Haskins, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Kyle Allen, Garrett Gilbert, Case Keenum, Colt McCoy, Josh Johnson and Mark Sanchez as QBs to start for Washington since the start of the 2018 season — the year after Kirk Cousins left for Minnesota. He's the ninth since Rivera took over.

"It's going to be a challenge, for sure, but I'm up for the

Invitational by knocking off then-No. 12 Texas A&M in the semifinals and Virginia Tech in the title game.

The Owls showed plenty of grit in Las Vegas on Saturday, going toe to toe with Arizona in one of the best games of the season so far.

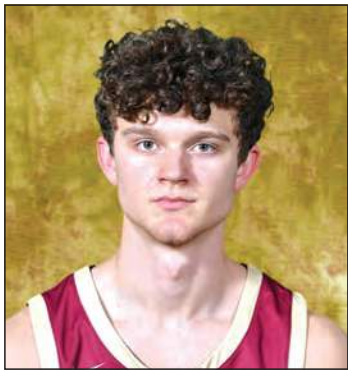
Johnell Davis scored 35 points and FAU dodged Caleb Love's 3-point attempt at the buzzer to win its fifth game over a ranked opponent over the past two seasons.



JamesHardie

SW Times & Patriot

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Lane Nester

Pulaski County senior Lane Nester is this week's Athlete of the Week.

Nester led the Cougars this week with 18 points in a win over Grayson County, and had 22 points in a double-overtime loss to Radford.

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PULASKI COUNTY**

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Sometimes A Good Story!*

Star Barber Shop

123 West Main Street, Pulaski, VA 24301
Sam Corder, Barber



PET OF THE WEEK

Meet River! River is a 1.5 year old, male, lab mix. He is very affectionate towards people and gets along great with cats and other dogs. He enjoys relaxing in his dog bed, being around people, and plenty of treats!



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

**Monday-Friday
10AM-4PM and 10AM-12Noon on Saturday**

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



Registration now open for Spring 2024!

**NEW RIVER
Community College**

www.nr.edu/registernow

CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 22!



Teach
Me Your
Word O
Lord

Terry McCraw

Jesus Came
To Save Lost
Sinners

Some hypocrites in Jesus’ day, railed against Him for being a friend of sinners.

“And Jesus answering said unto them, they that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5: 31, 32.)

John the Baptist was the forerunner of Christ. The One whom God chose to announce and introduce the Savior to the world. We have a similar job to do, just like John the Baptist. We who have been blood washed and born again, have the knowledge of the saving grace of God, and His awesome power to save from the guttermost to the uttermost; and it’s up to us to introduce the Savior to those whom we meet in life.

We can’t just wait until somehow they wander into the Church House to try to win them to Christ. We are to go out into the highways and hedges and find them and bring them to Jesus. As for those who do venture into our services, we should accept them as they are, and show them that we love them in Christ, and care about them, no matter what they might have done or look like. They might not look like us; they might not be dressed as nicely as some of us; they might not even smell good; and they might be all messed up.

People like this might very well be turned away at a lot of Churches as being undesirable. But if they are lost in sin, they are the very ones that Jesus came to seek and to save.

Once a person accepts Jesus into their hearts and lives, they’ll be changed from who and what they were. We need to get them saved, and let God clean them up. God can and will clean up their act a whole lot better than you and I can do it. Who are we to judge who is fit to be saved and who isn’t?

God loves us all equally, with a love that is greater than any other love can ever be. And here’s a revelation for someone. You can’t do a thing to make God love you more. He already loves you as much as it is possible to be loved. He loves you so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that you can be saved. In fact, while we were yet sinners, Jesus died for us. God has already proved how much He loves us. Now we need to prove to Him how much we love Him, by serving Him faithfully, all the remaining days of our lives after we are born again, and by giving Him the worship and the praise that He so rightly deserves.

When a soul is cleansed by the blood of Jesus, and filled with the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, they’ll be miraculously changed from everything they once were, into who and what God wants them to be. God doesn’t just look on the outward appearance as man does, but He looks upon the heart; and when God finds a heart that is longing for Him, He will come in, embrace that person, and fill that longing down in his or her soul.

And when He does, the prophecy of Isaiah and the promise of God will come true for them.

“Although thy sins be as scarlet, they shall be as wool; and though they be red like crimson, they shall be as white as snow.”

The truth be told, some of us were pretty low down and wretched before the Lord saved us. It wasn’t until we got saved, and God implanted a new nature in us, that we started wanting to look like somebody who has been cleansed by the power of God.

It’s a good thing for you and me that Jesus was a friend of sinners. If He wasn’t, you and I would not be saved today and on our way to heaven. I’m so glad that Jesus is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. He is the friend Who will never leave us, nor forsake

See MCCRAW, page B7

CHURCH
Church Directory

Draper Valley Baptist Church
3200 Lee Highway
Draper, Va. 24324
Pastor: Alan Pearce
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
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11 a.m.
Wednesday Night, 7 p.m.
Phone: 980-2046

Draper Methodist Church
3080 Greenbriar Road
Draper, VA 24324
Pastor: Lee Wiggins
Email: office@draper-methodist-church.com
Primary Service Times:
Sunday School, 10 a.m.
Worship, 11 a.m.

Christ Episcopal Church
144 North Washington Ave., Pulaski
P.O. Box 975
Service: 10 a.m. every Sunday
Phone: 980-2413
Email: christ24301@gmail.com

Jordan Chapel Methodist
Pastor: Ginny Tompkins
Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Cecil's Chapel Church
5801 Cecil's Chapel Road
Hiwassee, VA 24347
Interim Pastor: John Kellam
540 230 8837
Worship Service: 9am
Sunday School: 10am
www.facebook.com/cecils.chapel

Valley Harvest Ministries
1 Harvest Place
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

Dublin Baptist Church
100 Hawkins Street, Dublin, VA 24084
540-674-6061
secretary@dublinbaptistchurchva.org
Website: dublinbaptistchurchva.org
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday Adult Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Tuesday Women's Bible Study: 11 a.m.
Wednesday Youth Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Food Pantry: Wednesdays 10 a.m - 2 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)
135 Fourth St., NW - Pulaski (mailing)
Pastor's Name: Josh Kilbourne
Sunday Service: 10:00 AM
Hispanic Service: 3 p.m.
Contact Info. Phone: 540.980.3331
e-mail: office@fumcpulask.org
website: www.fumcpulask.org
FACEBOOK@FirstUMCPulaski and
WBLB 10:00 am

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

**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

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

First Missionary Baptist Church
7318 Manns Drive
Fairlawn, Virginia 24141-8524
(540) 639-5331
email: fimb1872@verizon.net
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.

Draper's Valley Presbyterian (PCA)
2755 Old Baltimore Road,
Draper, VA 24324
Senior Pastor: Rev. Roland Mathews
Interim Pastor: Rev. David Gilleran
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 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
Pastor: Rev. Jessica Darty
trinitypulaski@gmail.com
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
(Sept. - May)
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
(June - Aug.)
Sunday Worship Live stream on Facebook
Bible Study: Wednesday, Noon
www.trinitypulaski.org

Trinity United Methodist
Pastor: Bill Schoeneman
540-695-0054
Sunday Worship - 9:45 a.m.
Bible Study - Wednesday, 7 p.m.
528 5th Street, S.E.
Pulaski, Va.
Phone - 980-0820

**Grace Ministries
Church of God of Prophecy**
1021 Macgill Street
Pulaski, VA 24301
Church: 540-980-2118
Cell: 276-233-8083
Bus Ministry: 540-230-2485
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.
Men's & Women's Ministry Wed. 6:30

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

Grace Episcopal Church
210 Fourth Street, Radford
Welcoming and accepting, we have been a
part of the Radford community for more than
130 years.
ALL ARE WELCOME.
We offer an 8:00am Contemplative Eucharist
service and a 10:30am Eucharist service with
organ music and a Choir, with refreshments
served after. The 10:30am service is
live-streamed for those who cannot attend in
person.

**Mountain View
United Methodist Church**
6648 Wilderness Road
Dublin, Va 24084
Pastor: Darlene Marshall
Phone: 540-392-2702
Sunday School - 9:45am
Sunday Service - 11:00am

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

Trinity Baptist Church
4008 Robinson Tract Road
Pulaski, VA 24301
Telephone: 980-8186
Pastor Johnny Howlett
Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study - 6 p.m.
Wednesday - Adult Bible Study and Youth
Group - 7 p.m.

Bob White Boulevard Baptist Church
3826 Bob White Boulevard
Pulaski, VA.

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 Dublin Presbyterian Church (ECO)
409 Church Street, Dublin, Va. 24084
P.O. Box 2027, Dublin, Va. 24084
first-dublin-presbyterian-church-eco.com
Pastor:
Mary Ann Armbrister
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Dublin Christian Church
5605 Dunlap Road
P. O. Box 1330
Dublin, VA 24084
(540) 674-8434
www.dublinchristianchurch.com
Charles Pruett
Minister
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Youth and Children's
Meetings 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study, Youth and Chil-
dren's Classes 7:00 p.m.

**Snowville Christian Church
(DOC - Disciples of Christ)**
5436 Lead Mine Rd.
Hiwassee, VA 24347
Pastor: Jerry King
Website:
www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com
(and Facebook)
Office: 540-633-3761
Email:
office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m.
“Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith,
and sharing God’s love with others!”

Dublin United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 577
424 East Main Street
Dublin, VA 24084
Pastor: Rev. Don Shelor
540.674.5128
email: dublinumc@gmail.com
Sunday Worship Times: 9:00 & 11:00 am
Sunday School: 10:00 am

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.

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

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

Dora Highway Baptist Church
321 Dora Highway
Pulaski, VA 24301
Pastor: Harry Gunter
Worship Service: 11 a.m.
Phone: (540) 320-0738

Family Worship Center
First Pentecostal Holiness
955 Memorial Drive, Pulaski
980-7287
www.fwcpulaski.church
Jeff Willhoite, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Worship 10:45 am
KidsZone 10:45 am
Alpha & Omega Pentecostal Spanish service
10:45 am
Sunday Evening Worship 6 pm

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

New Hope Church
3050 Lee Highway
Pulaski, VA 24301
Services:
Sunday's 1st Service - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday's 2nd Service - 11 a.m.
Wednesdays - 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
For: Kids, Teens, Adults
Lead Pastor: Rev. Randy Lawrence Jr.
Church Phone: 540-980-5506

Sonshine



evil. Without the Sonshine, people lie, cheat, steal, hurt others, and commit murder. When Jesus comes into our lives, He brings light. He dispels the darkness of sin. The Apostle Paul said, "Ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:11) Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12) If you are living in darkness, this is a good time to come into Jesus' marvelous light.

When the Son shines, things grow. When the sun shines, plants, grass, and trees grow. The sun is a blessing to all of us. When the Son of God shines, we grow Spiritually. Just as my wife puts her plants where the sun will shine on them, we need to put ourselves where the Son will shine on us. I encourage you to attend Sunday School, Bible Study, and Worship Services each week. Anywhere you find God, let His Son shine on you, and you will grow. I love to have the Son shine on me.

McCraw

Continued From Page B6

us, but He will go with us, all the way. He will never let us down. He will never betray a confidence. He is the One who will stand with us, for us, and beside us, when everyone else walks away.

One of my favorite gospel songs of all time was written by Joseph M. Schiven.

"What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear; What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer."

John 15:13-15. "Greater love has no one than this that someone lay down his life for his friends. Ye are My friends, if you do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you."

Jesus is the best friend that you and I can ever have. He is our Friend, our Savior, our Lord, our Deliverer, our Advocate with the Father, our High Priest, and the soon coming King of Kings.

Bless His holy name, forevermore!

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. The main Christmas story is paraphrased from what two New Testament books (KJV)? Mark/ John, Acts/Romans, Matthew/ Luke, Jude/Revelation
2. Who visited Jesus on the night of His birth and found Mary, Joseph and the babe lying in a manger? Innkeeper, Shepherds, Herod, Magi
3. Where was the young child when the Magi came to visit Him to present gifts? Manger, Under the stars, House, Temple
4. How many times does the word "Christmas" appear in the Bible (KJV)? Zero, 1, 2, 7
5. Who was King of Judaea at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem? Solomon, Herod, Balak, Belshazzar
6. What animals were present at Jesus' birth? Lions and bears, Sheep and goats, Cows and donkeys, No mention of animals

ANSWERS: 1) Matthew/ Luke, 2) Shepherds, 3) House, 4) Zero, 5) Herod, 6) No mention of animals (in Bible)

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

Remember Your Loved One On A Special Day With An In Memoriam Notice.

Call 540-808-3949.

Deadline Is Noon Wednesday.

The Patriot

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.

Hilltop Pentecostal Holiness Church
4892 Veterans Hill Road
Pulaski, VA
Pastor Todd Garwood
(540) 250-3741
ttgarwood674@gmail.com

First Christian Church of Pulaski
524 N Jefferson Ave
Pulaski, VA 24301-4618
(540) 980-7144
www.firstchristianpulaski.org
Pastor: Timothy Moore
Men's Sunday School: 10 am
Worship: 11 am

Community Christian Church
5382 Grace Street, Dublin VA, 24084
540-674-4308
Pastor: Bill Neeley
Children's Director: Kristen Edwards
Youth Director: Ashley Coake
www.C3family.org; Facebook: Community Christian Church|Dublin, VA;
email: triplecsecretary@gmail.com
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting at 6:30 p.m.; C3Kids and C3Youth meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Thursday 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:45 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 Morning Worship: 11 a.m.
Tuesday Evening Worship Service: 6 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

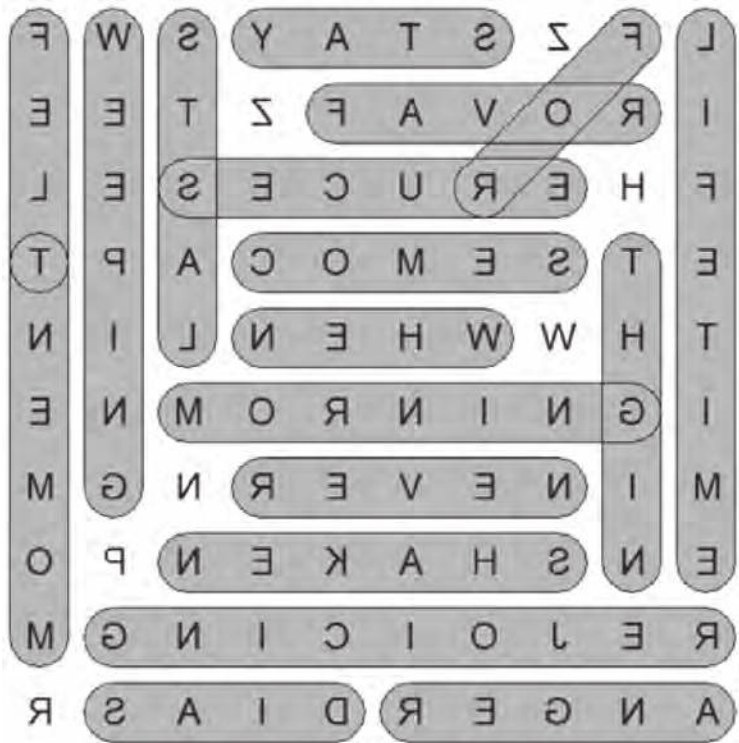
New Dublin Presbyterian Church
5331 New Dublin Church Road
Dublin, VA 24084
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Worship: 11 a.m.
Phone: 540-674-6147
www.newdublin.org

Newbern Methodist Church
5151 Wilderness Road
Dublin VA 24084
Pastor: Dave Adkins
540-230-9264
Worship: 9:45 AM
Sunday School : 11:00 AM

Visit The Church Of
Your Choice This
Week

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Answers



BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 30:5-6

For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. When I felt secure, I said, "I will never be shaken."

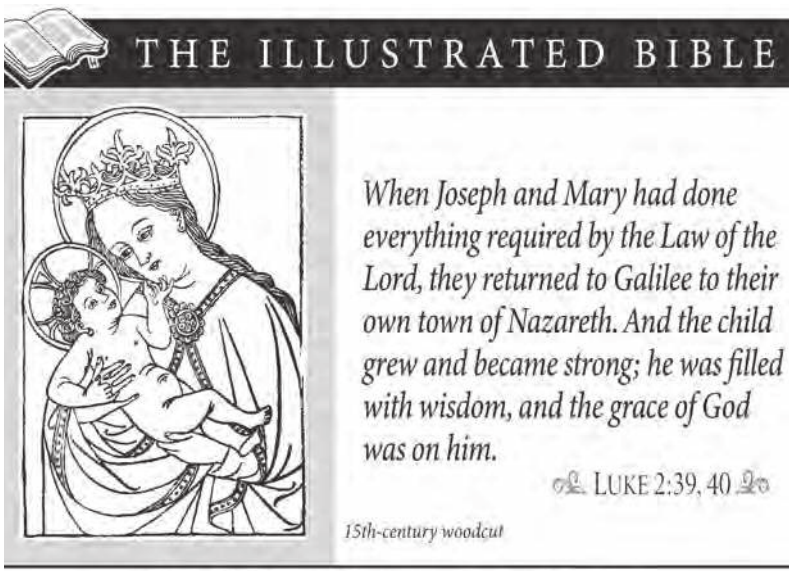
NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION



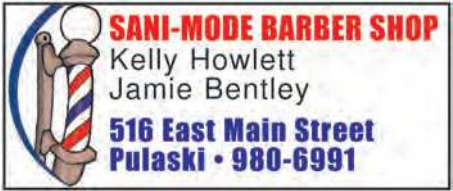
Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

WWW.SEARCHING-FOR-JESUS.COM

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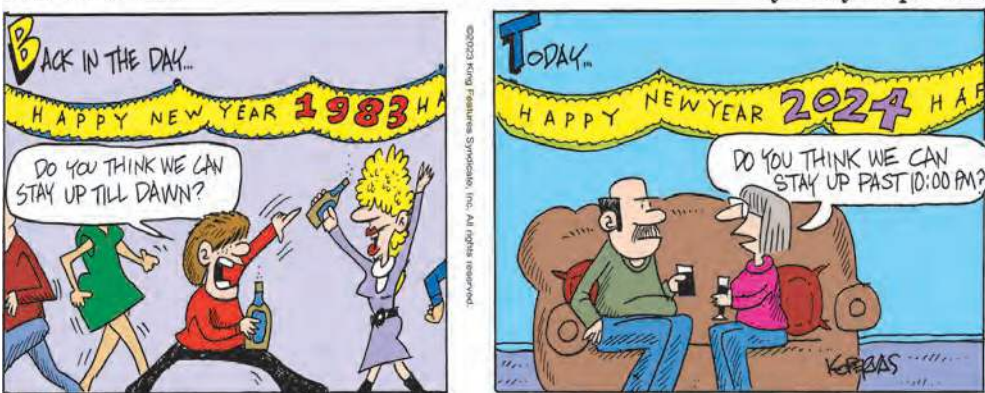
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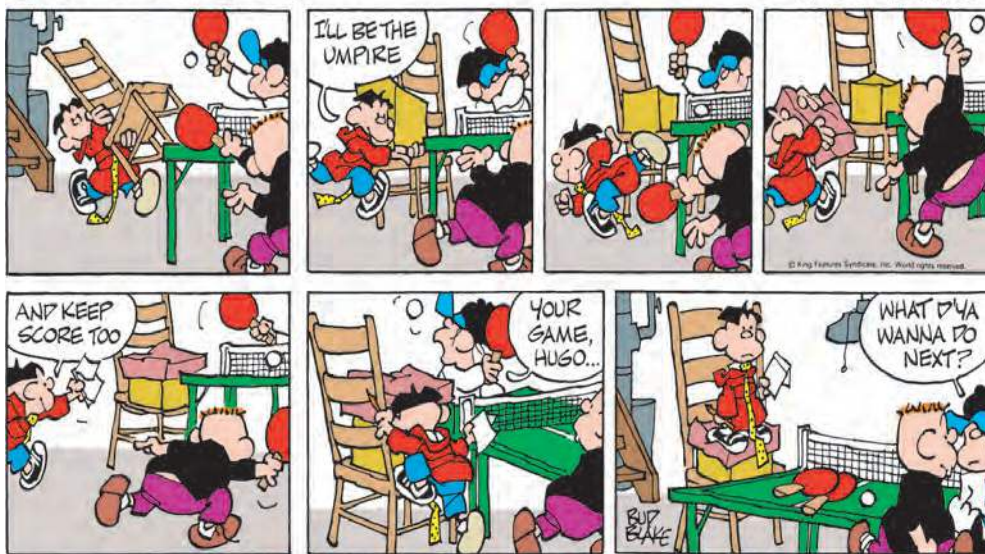
Out on a Limb



The Spats



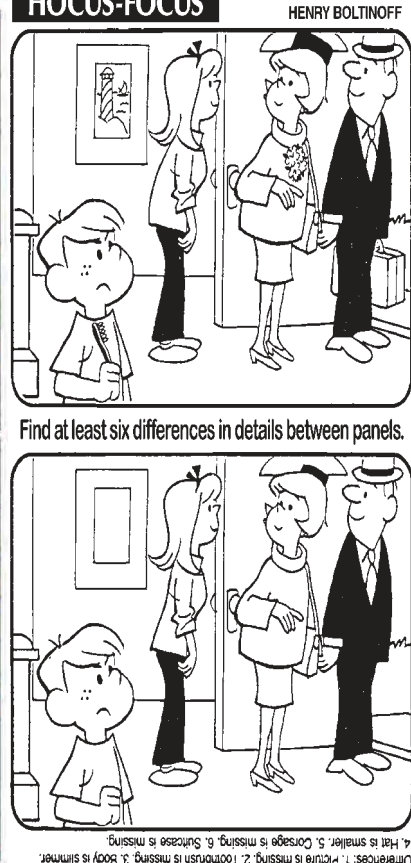
TIGER



OLIVE



HOCUS-FOCUS



Just Like Cats & Dogs



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: X equals T

VLXXLSI ILZX XP NMSR QULVVLSI

MAPBX WPSILI XWMX IXPJ MZQ

SLNBIL XP FLLJ UMFVHZT:

AMVF RMHV.

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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!

Walk
RATED
Path
OUTER
Brand
BELLA
Figure
PHASE

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Jog
5 Cry
8 Goblet feature
12 Stead
13 Spanish aunt
14 Tortoise's opponent
15 Ride-sharing arrangements
17 Work units
18 Sixth sense
19 Forbidden acts
21 Stylish wrap
24 Flintstones' pet
25 Comic strip possum
26 "Yellow" band
30 Where Lux. is
31 Primitive
32 Brit. record label
33 Slapstick missile
35 Perched on
36 Evergreens
37 Icky
38 Where Gauguin painted
41 Pen name
42 Out of the storm
43 Temporary lodging
48 Furnace fuel

DOWN

1 Pampering, for short
2 Estuary
3 Not 'neath
4 Elvis' birthplace
5 Halt
6 Texas tea
7 Historic French prison
8 Cyndi Lauper hit
9 Poi base
10 Thus
11 Disarray
16 Sugary suffix
20 Tennis champ
21 Detail, briefly
22 Go sightseeing
23 Shrek, for one
24 Writer Lessing
26 Whims
27 Jared of

"Panic Room"
28 Book after Joel
29 Shriek barks
31 Send forth
34 Off course
35 Sagittarius
37 USO audience
38 Dash gauge
39 Skin soother
40 Make well
41 Hardly hirsute
44 Old Olds
45 Layer
46 Pub order
47 " — Kapital"

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top ten

AIRLINES IN THE WORLD: 2023

1. Singapore Airlines
2. Qatar Airways
3. ANA All Nippon Airways
4. Emirates
5. Japan Airlines
6. Turkish Airlines
7. Air France
8. Cathay Pacific
9. EVA Air
10. Korean Air

Source: Skytrax

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: In which city is the Brandenburg Gate located?
2. TELEVISION: Which 1990s TV show catapulted actor George Clooney to fame?
3. MOVIES: Which department store is featured in the 1947 holiday film, "Miracle on 34th Street"?
4. LEGAL: What kind of legislative body is bicameral?
5. FOOD & DRINK: What is the main ingredient in guacamole?
6. LITERATURE: In "The Night Before Christmas" poem, how many reindeer does Santa Claus have?
7. CHEMISTRY: Which chemical element's symbol is C?
8. HISTORY: Who is the first female chancellor of Germany?
9. MUSIC: Which female French singer had a hit song with "La Vie en Rose"?
10. SCIENCE: When did the Krakatoa volcano have its last major eruption?

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WORD LADDERS

Can you go from **BILLS** to **STARS** in 6 words?
Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

BILLS

STARS

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SCRAMBLERS

1. Tread 2. Route; solution
3. Label; 4. Shape
Today's Word
LOSER

Answer
BILLS, BELLS, SELLS, SEALS, STARS

King Crossword

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

Americanisms

"Last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another voice."
—T.S. Eliot

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Letters sent to farm dwellers about horses that stop and refuse to keep walking.
balk mail.

PULASKI COUNTY PULSE

On going:

Ballroom Dancing
Ballroom Dance every first Saturday of the month at the Carroll County Virginia Senior Center @ 7pm. Find us on Facebook @ Ballroom Dance in Hillsville.

Alcohol Anonymous
Alcohol Anonymous meet

Mondays at 8 p.m. (closed meeting); Wednesday (noon) and Thursday at 8 p.m. (open meetings) at Pulaski Presbyterian Church of America located at 975 Memorial Drive. Contact number is 540-440-0066.

Pulaski Al-Anon Family Group
Pulaski Al-Anon Family Group

(a support group for friends and families of alcoholics) meet every Monday night at 8 p.m. at Pulaski Presbyterian Church of America located at 975 Memorial Drive. Contact number 540-818-0621.

Lifestyles Changes
If you are currently trying to lose weight, we may have what you need. Contact Bill Brewer

at 540-813-1605.

Celebrate Recovery
Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered 12-step program where people gain freedom, healing and accountability for life's hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Group Meeting at 6:15pm every Thursday at Valley Harvest Ministries, 1 Harvest Place, Dublin.

Heritage Cares Food still distributing food
Heritage Cares Food Pantry at Heritage Church is still distributing food on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The church is located a half-mile past the New River Valley Airport on Route 100 North of Dublin.

Send Your Pulse Items To:
pulaski@pcpatriot.com

Praise in Desperate Times

“If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest. Take the yoke I give you. Put it on your shoulders and learn from me. I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest. This yoke is easy to bear, and this burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30 (CEV)

It’s during hard times that my mind quickly turns to the Lord. When everything is going well, I’m not too worried about my work or relationships, and I just party on! But when things get dark and discouraging, I’m on my knees.


I think that is true for most of us. Because of that, I have learned to give praise in dark times. Thank you, Lord, that you bring me close to you in times of fear or anxiety. It is only in You that I find that inner peace that only you can give to us.

“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7 (NIV)

I call it “crazy peace,” It’s peace that comes in the middle of chaos. How could I possible have peace in the middle of upheaval, and yet - there it is! A stillness, a knowing, a tenderness deep within my soul that radiates His precious love.

It’s in the dark times that I am desperate for Him. He can use those dark times to pull us to Him, to make us stop, pray, and seek His face. For those who don’t know our Lord, it is a time of going down every wrong road trying to find peace only to discover the roads are a blind end. The Lord is there always wooing the soul back to Him. As Pastor Rick Warren writes, “A breakdown is always the door to a breakthrough.”

Knowing this, let’s apply it to relationships. When my own family members or close friends experience depression or

 **Journey To Faith**
By Pat Priddy

anxiety (as we all do), they may pull back, not call or correspond in text or in person. It’s then that I praise God for using that time to pull them to Him. It’s in those times of not knowing what to do and where to turn that He will sit a little closer and whisper a little louder.

Thank You Lord for good times as well as desperate and dark times. In all of our lives, when we get tired of despair and betrayal, let us turn to You the giver of peace and maker and lover of our souls! We will praise Your Name!

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” John 14:7

Patricia Priddy Farrell’s gifts and talents include being a coach, speaker, retreat leader, student, teacher, and Certified Lay Minister for the United Methodist Church. Finding her own life’s purpose came in the desert of her life. She has survived and endured many hardships and lives to help others know they are enough, and they not only can survive but also thrive.

Pat speaks from the heart to women and men in an effort to help them understand the power they hold to change other’s lives. There is no meeting by coincidence, and there are incredible opportunities for us to share and grow as we journey through life.

Pat Priddy (Farrell), RN, MSN, CPVA, CEP
Life Coach, Certified Lay Minister for the Wytheville District UMC

Kirtner on Dean’s List at Lee University

CLEVELAND, TN -- Lee University congratulates Ashlyn Kirtner of Pulaski, VA, on earning Dean’s List honors during the Fall 2023 semester.

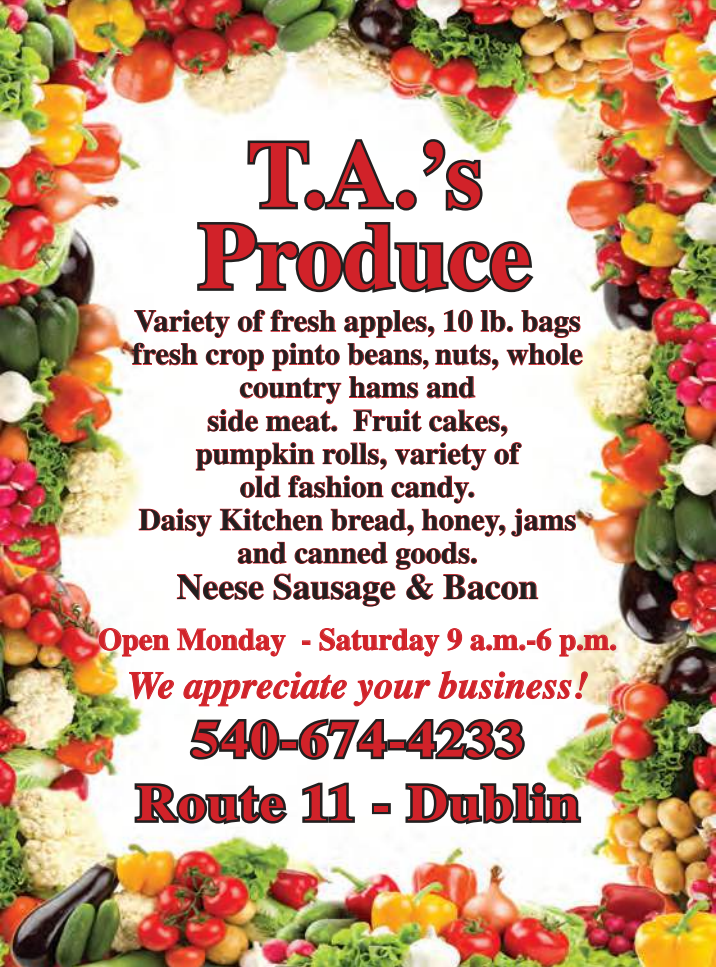
Dean’s List recognition is earned by full-time, undergraduate students with a semester grade point average between 3.7 and 4.00.

Congratulations on earning this academic achievement, Ashlyn!

Lee University is a private, Christ-centered university located in Cleveland, Tennessee, in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The university’s reputation as a quality institution is seen in the high caliber of faculty, students, and friends who are drawn to campus.

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Route 11 - Dublin

But will he listen?

Dear Dave,

My best friend is having financial problems, and I’m worried about him. He’s “between jobs” now and making less than \$600 a month through a part-time job. He says he’s holding out for his dream job, which is about ten hours away, but even when he’s working full time, he always asks to borrow money or says he’s running low. He interviewed for his dream job several months ago, and I haven’t got the heart to tell him he was probably passed over for the position. Is there anything I can do to help him?

Garrett



Dave Says

Dave Ramsey

Dear Garrett,

I assume that since you’re good friends, he’s willing to listen to what you have to say. There’s absolutely nothing wrong with having a dream job. You just have to be practical and realistic at the same time.

This next part is more observation than insult, so I hope you’ll understand. Your friend sounds to me like he might be a little impulsive and unrealistic. When it comes right down to it, maybe a touch immature, too. So, I think

what we’re talking about here is how to give your friend a gentle, well-intentioned nudge in a more realistic direction. He needs to open his eyes to some positive financial realities of life—like living on a written, monthly budget—and not making a habit of chasing rainbows and making excuses.

If he came to me for advice, the first thing I’d tell him is that the most employable people are ones who aren’t broke. When you go into a job interview and you’re broke, it’s easy to come off as desperate and tense. That doesn’t make for a very good interview.

The answer to that, when you’re essentially unemployed, is to work any legitimate full-time job. At the very least, two, three or even four part-time jobs. Deliver pizzas, wait tables and mow yards.

It’s doesn’t matter what you’re doing, as long as you’re generating a livable income for yourself. Smile and be professional at whatever you’re doing, too. You never know when you might come face-to-face with your next real employer. But none of this will happen if you’re working three or four hours a day, and spending most of your time at home in front of the television.

I hope this helps. I hope your friend will listen to you and understand you have his best interests at heart. But if he doesn’t, all you can do is hope for the best and pray for him.

Best of luck, Garrett. You’re a good friend.

—Dave

* Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.

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- Cancer of GI Tract	- Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy	- Soft Tissue Masses
- Colon Cancer Screening	- Mastectomy	- Telehealth
- Endoscopy: Colonoscopy with Polypectomy and EGD with Biopsy, PEG Tube Insertion	- Open Appendectomy	- Varicose Vein Surgery
	- Open Cholecystectomy	
	- Ostomies	

101 First Street NW, Suite 2 | Pulaski, VA

Phone: 540-509-5269 • Fax: 540-980-0515

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30