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Council honors employees, says good-bye to Burcham

By **WILLIAM PAINE**
Patriot Publishing

The meeting of the Pulaski Town Council began a little earlier than usual last Thursday Feb. 8, as Mayor Shannon Collins presented service awards to several long-term members of the Town of Pulaski's work force. Before Collins presented each town employee a plaque, a personalized statement was read detailing each recipient's service to the town.

Town employees recognized included:

Lt. R. Riddle - 20 yrs with the Town of Pulaski Pulaski Police Department

Capt. R. Kiser - 20 yrs with the Pulaski Fire Department

Capt. S. Grim - 15 yrs with the Town of Pulaski Pulaski Police Department

Justin Riggins - 15 yrs with

the Town of Pulaski Public Works Department

Angie Trail - 15 yrs with the Town of Pulaski Finance Department

Lt. J. Day - 10 yrs with the Town of Pulaski Police Department

David Peyton - 10 yrs with the Town of Pulaski Filter Plant

David Smith - 10 yrs with the Town of Pulaski Public Works Department

Sgt. D. Jones - 5 yrs with the Town of Pulaski Police Department

William Taylor - 5 yrs with the Town of Pulaski Public Works Department

The last award for service was given to outgoing Town Manager Darlene Burcham, whom, it was noted, was the first woman to ever serve in that position for the Town of Pulaski.

Town council member Jamie

Radcliffe had this to say about his first meeting with Burcham.

"It took me five minutes after hearing Ms. Burcham speak and I said, well you can just quit what you're doing because we found our town manager tonight ... I sat back and told her that! Mr. Day, the new Town Manager, has said that he's taken over some towns that have been fireball and really were not in very good shape. Here you can't even find a piece of lint! This is how she's put it in order ... Ms. Burcham, you've done an outstanding job. We're proud of you. I'm proud of you, I don't care about anybody else... I'm proud of you. I know what it was like before you got here. So, you've done an outstanding job. Good luck on your retirement."

After pausing for a few

See COUNCIL, page A8

Draper's Bakers offers up a new taste experience

By **DANIELLE REID**
Patriot Publishing

If you thought pretzels were those super-salty, crunchy, highly processed foods found in the snack aisle section of the grocery store, then get ready for a new taste experience.

Home-town entrepreneurs Sabrina and husband Kenneth Akers operate Draper's Bakers, a pretzel-lovers haven, on Main Street in Downtown Pulaski.

According to Akers, she and her husband started as a cottage-industry bakery out of their home in Draper, but have been located at 76 W. Main Street since August of 2023. The family-run business includes their son, Joseph Lamouroux who works the front counter and is responsible for customer service. Husband Kenneth, a.k.a. "the dough boy" prepares the daily selections of dough to make their gourmet pretzels.

When you enter Draper's Bakers, you walk into a conglomerate of tantalizing smells from freshly baking pretzels and home-made breakfast biscuits to fruit-filled hand pies and pie bites. There is something for everyone's tastebuds. Some items are dusted with cinnamon, like the popular cinnamon sugar pretzel that comes with sweet cream cheese icing or the cinnamon sugar bites. Some pretzels



Danielle Reid/Patriot Publishing

Draper's Bakers opened their gourmet soft Pretzel store on 76 W Main Street in August 2023.

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General Assembly reaches halfway point of session

By Morgan Sweeney

(The Center Square) — This week marked the halfway point of Virginia’s 2024 legislative session.

Both chambers have passed no legislation yet, but here’s an update on tax and public safety legislation showing promise and some notably failed bills.

Taxes

Sunsetting the car tax - Failed: Despite the governor’s stated support for eliminating or phasing out Virginia’s “most hated tax,” the Senate passed a bill 38-0 that would keep the existing policy alive. A similar bill in the House made it through its first reading.

Retail sales tax holiday - Passed: A law reestablishing the annual retail sales tax holiday weekend in August after legislators mistakenly let it lapse in 2023 passed unanimously in a block vote in the House. The companion bill also passed unanimously in the Senate.

The holiday will occur from Friday through Sunday during the first weekend in August. It will apply to certain school supplies, clothing and footwear,

Energy Star or WaterSense products, portable generators and hurricane preparedness equipment.

Limited local sales and use tax increases - Passed: Companion bills in the House of Delegates and the Senate would authorize a voter referendum in certain localities* wanting to raise their sales and use tax by up to one percent for school construction and renovation projects.

*Under current law, only Charlotte, Gloucester, Halifax, Henry, Mecklenburg, Northampton, Patrick and Pittsylvania counties, and the city of Danville are authorized to impose such a tax.

The bills have done well in their respective chambers. SB 14 passed the Senate 27-13, and HB 805 was read for the first time in the House on Friday.

Public Safety

Drug possession - Passed: Under current state law, possession of any amount of a controlled substance is a class 5 felony. The bill would make possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance a class 1 misdemeanor.

It passed the House 50-47.

Robbery offenses - Passed: Robbery was treated as a singular offense in the Code of Virginia before 2021, when the General Assembly enumerated degrees of robbery in the Code. But the penalties for robbery weren’t uniformly adapted throughout the law to the degrees of robbery; this law attempts to do that.

It passed the House 50-47.

Defendant’s immigration status - Passed: This bill prohibits inquiry into a defendant’s immigration status during a proceeding “unless otherwise admissible.” It would also require that all defendants be informed that criminal convictions could have immigration consequences, if applicable.

It passed the House 51-47.

Parental possession of substances - Passed: This bill protects parents in possession of alcohol, marijuana or prescription drugs from being denied custody or visitation of a child or being charged with abuse or neglect just because of that possession — though courts can consider possession with other factors when making

custody determinations. The bill updates the law due to marijuana becoming legal in Virginia.

It passed the House 56-43.

Juvenile, court fines and fees - Passed: The bill would eliminate court costs, fines and fees to juveniles or their caregivers for prosecutions of criminal offenses. According to Del. Irene Shin, D-Fairfax, if the bill passes, Virginia would become “the ninth state to eliminate fines and fees in its youth justice system.”

It passed the House 50-47.

Photo monitoring, traffic signals - Passed: This bill would allow state and local law enforcement to place cameras at high-risk intersections where traffic fatalities have occurred, capturing speeding violations.

It passed the Senate 22-18.

License Plate Readers - Passed: Virginia law enforcement already uses license plate readers, but a House bill would expand allowable use to state highway rights-of-way and create statewide regulations for the technology.

The bill says that LPRs can only be used in the case of a stolen vehicle, a wanted, missing or trafficked person, an active law enforcement investigation, “in the vicinity of a crime and may be connected to that crime.”

The bill passed the House 66-27.

Speeding cameras - Failed: Three similar Democrat-sponsored bills were incorporated into a bill by Michael Jones, D-Richmond, which would have authorized localities to place cameras along roadways to catch speeding violations. The bill was carried over to next year.



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Korona Candles factory in Dublin said to be closing in spring

According to social media reports making the rounds Wednesday, The Gala Group will close its Korona Candle

Factory in Dublin by the spring. Reports say the closing will affect 60 employees.

A German-based company, Gala Group is a leading major manufacturer of candles.

Gala North America, Inc. – operating under the name Korona Candles, Inc. – was established in Dublin in 2013.

According to the company, the Korona facility uses the latest machinery in the industry and remains one of the most modern candle factories in the U.S.

Town of Dublin lists holiday, garbage schedules

Dublin Town Offices will be closed Monday January 19, 2024.

Garbage scheduled for pick up on Monday will be picked up on Tuesday January 20th.

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Bakers

Continued From Page A1

are infused with japolinos or covered with various toppings as the pizza pretzel and the everything pretzel. Then there is their original pretzels-and-gravy recipe, and even a BLT pretzel.

“Everything we bake is from scratch. We were making muffins, hand-pies and other sweet treats, and taking custom orders from home, but needed something savory to round out the menu. That’s when we decided to experiment with pretzels.”

Sabrina was born in Germany where her father served in the military. Her mother was a German citizen and her family members were bakers and bakery shop owners. “Growing up, I was surrounded by pretzels and other delicious baked-from-scratch foods,” she stated. “We wanted to give our customers in Pulaski the same opportunity to experience pretzels and baked goods made daily from fresh dough. We developed a recipe that incorporates the Bavarian style pretzel from my childhood and the American style pretzel.”

“The pretzel was made by an Italian Monk who was living in Germany. The story is that he would use the leftover dough from all the other breads to make a special treat for children as a reward for saying their prayers and for good behavior in the sight of the Lord. If you look at the pretzel upside down, it looks like arms overlapping in prayer. Of course, there are other stories about the pretzel, but this is the one I’m familiar with,” related Akers.”

When Akers was a teenager, the family returned to the U.S., settling in the DC area. During the summers, they visited family members in Maine where the fresh air and mountains reminded her of Germany. The crowded D.C. Capital and fast pace was fun for a while, but as an adult, she remembered the beautiful mountains and more peaceful lifestyle of her childhood and decided to find that kind of location to raise her family.

“Since Maine was part of the Appalachian Mountains, I decided to Google areas of that mountain range, and stumbled across information in Craigs List about Pulaski County,” explained Akers. After moving to Draper, she and her husband-to-be met while they were both working at a local Waffle House. “He asked me out about a thousand times before I accepted one date. We have been together ever since,” she said, smiling and glancing over at Kenneth.

Once the decision was made to expand their business, the couple posted on Facebook, taking on-line custom and catering orders, and attending pop-up events like the Pulaski Train Station Farmer’s Market.

“The pretzels took over. We had a large demand for them and were making hundreds of them weekly, usually selling out,” Akers said. But at the end of the summer, when the market closed for the season, they looked for additional ways to “keep it rolling” and continue to sell their pretzels.

“We were approached by Pulaski Economic Development about getting into a store-front on Main Street,” commented Akers. It was a lot for the couple to consider, but they liked the idea of being part of the Main Street revitalization mission and felt the historic district had a lot of potential.

Their location makes it easy for people to find, and while there in the bakery, I spoke with several first-time customers who wandered in after finding Draper’s Bakers on Facebook. A family of four was excited to try the pretzels and fruit-filled hand pies. Another group ordered various gourmet pretzels, while a real estate agent stopped in for the first time to try a Valentine pretzel.

Draper’s Bakers has a following of loyal customers as well, like Debbie Bauer who placed an early Valentine’s Day order and was entered into the contest to win a free soft pretzel a day for a year.

“I’m so excited about my personal year of the pretzel,” Bauer exclaimed. Another satisfied customer was Carrie Sutherland who came in to pick up their family’s favorite BLT pretzel sandwich. “We’ve enjoyed everything we’ve tried. The BLT’s are delicious and

the hand pies are delightful,” commented Sutherland.

One of the family’s slogans is: “We bake to celebrate life’s little moments and make them even sweeter.” They can supply items from their menu for special events such as the Super Bowl and Valentine’s Day and can deliver using Door Dash. They invite you to visit them on their Facebook page or in person at Draper’s Bakers on Main Street in Pulaski and taste the difference that their made-from-scratch daily products can have on your celebrations. With a 24-hour advance notice, they can accommodate custom baked orders from their catering menu, offering carrot cake, pineapple upsidedown cake, German chocolate cake and a cake of the month variety.


Currently, they are open Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Beginning February 19th, they will increase their hours of operation and be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

“Thanks to our customers we have transitioned from doing pop-ups to having a store front on Main Street in six months. We are committed for the long term and feel very blessed to be here,” stated Akers.



Sabrina Akers of Draper’s Bakers, displays trays of their gourmet soft Pretzels available in their Main Street store in downtown Pulaski. Sabrina and her husband, Kenneth started the custom bakery from their home in Draper, then expanded to their current location at 76 W Main Street in August 2023. The family run business also has a catering menu in addition to many original pretzel items such as the BLT pretzel sandwich and the jalapeño pretzel. All items are baked daily.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF PETITIONS BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY AND APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, FOR DETERMINING THE TREATMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY CUSTOMERS’ RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATES FOR PURPOSES OF EACH UTILITY’S RPS PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

CASE NO. PUR-2024-00010

During its 2020 Session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted Chapters 1193 (HB 1526) and 1194 (SB 851) of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly. These duplicate Acts of Assembly, known as the Virginia Clean Economy Act (“VCEA”), became effective on July 1, 2020. The VCEA, *inter alia*, established a mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard (“RPS”) program (“RPS Program”) in § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia (“Code”), which requires Virginia Electric and Power Company (“Dominion”) and Appalachian Power Company (“APCo”) to procure and retire renewable energy certificates (“RECs”) for an increasing percentage of the utility’s total electric energy sold in the previous calendar year. The VCEA directed that all costs related to compliance with the mandatory RPS Program, including costs related to the retirement of RECs, shall be recovered from all retail customers as a non-bypassable charge, regardless of generation supplier, with certain limited exceptions.

Additionally, Code § 56-585.5 D requires Dominion and APCo to submit annually to the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) plans and petitions for approval of new solar and onshore wind generation capacity (“RPS Filing”). In APCo’s 2023 RPS Filing, two proposals were presented relating to the proper calculation of total electric energy for the prior compliance year. The first proposal was to count the RECs from Rider WWS and Rider REC towards APCo’s RPS Program compliance, and the second proposal was to remove the 100 percent renewable customers’ load from the calculation of “total electric energy,” thereby reducing the number of RECs required for RPS compliance. In its Final Order in that proceeding, the Commission found that the issue warranted additional consideration and directed APCo and Dominion to make a filing addressing these issues and presenting specific proposals for approval, including any proposed mechanism for netting the benefits of such RECs. Specifically, the Commission determined:

On or before January 16, 2024, APCo and Dominion shall make a filing, either jointly or separately, containing the proposed treatment of RECs associated with (i) customers taking service under each [utility’s] voluntary renewable tariffs [(“Renewable Utility Customers”)] and (ii) shopping customers purchasing 100 percent renewable energy, for purposes of RPS Program compliance [(“Renewable Shopping Customers”)]. Such filing shall include any associated proposal for netting the benefits of such RECs, including applicable tariff language.

On January 16, 2024, in Case No. PUR-2024-00009, APCo submitted its petition (“APCo Petition”), which stated that the Commission should exclude the load associated with the Renewable Utility Customers and Renewable Shopping Customers from the calculation of APCo’s annual RPS requirement, thereby allowing them to bypass VCEA compliance costs, if the Commission finds that approach to be permissible under current law. APCo asserts that using RECs to meet the utility’s RPS requirement that have either been dedicated to one of its voluntary renewable energy riders or have been purchased by Renewable Shopping Customers is an impermissible double-counting of the RECs. Further, APCo claims that participants in voluntary renewable energy programs would effectively subsidize non-participants to meet the utility’s RPS compliance requirement.

Also on January 16, 2024, in Case No. PUR-2024-00010, Dominion submitted its petition (“Dominion Petition”) (collectively with the APCo Petition, “Petitions”) requesting that the Commission reconsider its decision in Case No. PUR-2020-00164, in which the Commission held that RPS Program compliance requires recognition of RPS eligible renewable sales from competitive service providers (“CSPs”). Dominion requests that the Commission instead find that the RECs of Renewable Shopping Customers cannot be used by the utility for its RPS Program compliance. Dominion further asserts that, if the Commission determines that Renewable Shopping Customer RECs may be used for a utility’s RPS Program compliance, their load should be deducted from the utility’s calculation of “total electric energy” and they should be excluded from paying Rider RPS. Dominion further states that if the RECs of Renewable Shopping Customers can be used for compliance, the RECs of other similarly-situated customers, specifically Renewable Utility Customers, should also be used to reduce the utility’s compliance obligations.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petitions and supporting documents in full for details about these and other proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, consolidated the two Petitions into one case, Case No. PUR-2024-00010, and scheduled public hearings on the Petitions. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Petitions shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on July 31, 2024. On or before July 24, 2024, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission’s website at sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@sec.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on July 31, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On July 31, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petitions from the Petitioners, any respondents, and the Commission Staff (“Staff”).

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the Dominion Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the utility: Elaine S. Ryan, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or eryan@mcguirewoods.com. An electronic copy of the APCo Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the utility: Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, Three James Center, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or njcoates@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the Petitions from the Commission’s website: sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before July 24, 2024, any interested person may submit comments on the Petitions by following the instructions found on the Commission’s website: sec.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00010.

On or before March 28, 2024, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Petitioners. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Rules of Practice”), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00010.

On or before June 5, 2024, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness’s testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Staff, the Petitioners, and all other respondents simultaneously with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00010.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The Petitions, the Commission’s Rules of Practice, the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY and APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

OBITUARIES



BONNIE SUE NELSON
Bonnie Sue Nelson, 78, of Pulaski, Virginia, passed away peacefully in her sleep on December 5, 2023 at the residence of her dear friends and caregivers Carmen Dunagan and Jordon Anderson. She was born on April 25, 1945 in Giles County, Virginia. Bonnie had a heart of gold and tremendous strength.

Bonnie was the last remaining sibling as she was preceded in death by her Sisters Betty Jane Albert, Mary Elizabeth Nelson, Edna Mae Nelson, and one Brother Olaf Sylvester “Buster” Nelson Jr. Also, preceding her in death were her parents Mary Elizabeth Whittaker and Olaf Sylvester Nelson Sr. and one Niece Angela Pennington Parker.

She is survived by her Son Jason Nelson of Pulaski, Virginia. Her Nephews, Michael Albert of Belspring, Virginia, Tristan Nelson of Fairlawn, Virginia, Shannon Nelson of Fairlawn, Virginia and Nieces, Kimberly Moore-Ortiz of Cabot, Arkansas, Katina Moore of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Crystal Pennington Carlson of Tinley Park, Illinois and several other family and friends.

A private graveside service will be held at a later date.

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



SHIRLEY DULANEY GEARHEART
Shirley Dulaney Gearheart of Dublin, Virginia left us Tuesday February 12, 2024. She was born February 22, 1944 in Roanoke, VA, a 1962 graduate of Andrew Lewis H.S. and a 1966 graduate of Mary Washington College.

Shirley was a loving and devoted wife, mother of two, and grandmother to four grandchildren. She was a passionate, lifelong educator serving as a math teacher at William Byrd, Graham, and Radford High Schools, navigating many students through AP Calculus success, serving as a championship academic team coach, and was highly engaged with the Philanthropic Educators Opportunities organization. Shirley continued working with students within the schools and community throughout her entire life.

Just as she nourished her students, Shirley was an avid gardener with a skilled green thumb and deep admiration for nature and the outdoors. Shirley was raised in the Peters Creek Church of the Brethren. When the family moved to Dublin, membership was moved to New Dublin Presbyterian. She was a dedicated and faithful member serving as a ruling elder and on the member care committee. She also taught Sunday school and volunteered at Daily Bread in Pulaski. Full of sincere love, compassion, hope, and positivity; Shirley has touched the lives of many and will be missed by all who knew her.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, Clinton Silas and Mary Chaffin Dulaney, brothers Jack and his wife, Ilunka and Wayne and his wife, Judy Dulaney; sisters Glenna Hammond and Carmen Stephenson; brother-in-law Randolph Allen Gearheart; and her son Rex Andrew Gearheart. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Rodney Rex Gearheart; son, Latha Allen and Kerri Weddle Gearheart and their children Samuel Latha and Gemma Leigh of Clinton, SC; daughter-

See GEARHEART, page A5



PHYLLIS DELORIS ROBINSON HAWKINS
Phyllis Deloris Robinson Hawkins, age 86 of Pulaski passed away Monday, February 12, 2024 at her home. Born January 5, 1938 at home on Sinai Mountain in Goodwell, West Virginia she was a coal miners’ daughter of the late Mitchell Preston Robinson & Della Mae Bailey Robinson. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Roy Hawkins (2-12-2023), sisters, Joyce (Coy) Bevins, Carrie Mae (Carl) Kunkle, Eunice (Walter) Lilly, Mary Woodard, Lorrian (Howard) McKeever, Elizabeth Jones; brothers, Dale (Harriet) Robinson, Joe (Betty) Robinson, Floyd (Edna) Robinson, Charlie (Brunena) Robinson and many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Phyllis was a nurse in the with the United States Army, serving as a Lieutenant during the Vietnam Era. Upon getting out of the service she worked at the Pulaski General Hospital on Randolph and the Pulaski Community Hospital for over 30 years. When she retired, she worked part-time for home health and the Pulaski Health and Rehab.

She is survived by
Daughter – Rhonda Hawkins Quesenberry and husband, Danny – Pulaski
Sister – Earlene Foreman – FL

Funeral services will be held 2:00 PM – Friday, February 16, 2024 at the Bower Funeral Home-Chapel, Pulaski with Chaplain Robbie Vance officiating. Interment will follow at the Highland Memory Gardens, Dublin.

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

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

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

PAULETTE DENESE MARTIN
Paulette Denese Martin, age 69 of Fayetteville, NC, and formerly of Pulaski, VA died Monday, February 12, 2024 at her daughter’s home in Fayetteville.

Arrangements are pending with Seagle Funeral Home, Pulaski.

www.seaglefuneralhome.com 540-980-1700

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EVELYN “SUE” BAILEY WALKER
Evelyn “Sue” Bailey Walker 86 of Dublin, VA (formerly of Bastian, VA.) passed peacefully on February 10, 2024. Sue was born April 12, 1937, in Premier, WV to the late Walter Edgar Bailey and Zelpha Holloway Bailey.

She was proud to be a coal miners’ daughter and granddaughter. She grew up in the coal camps of West Virginia where her father was a mining superintendent. This upbringing gave her gifts she carried her entire life. There wasn’t anything she couldn’t do – from working on cars and carpentry to cooking and sewing. She loved horses and flowers almost as much as she loved her family. She valued learning about her ancestors. She is a direct descendant of Richard Peyton Bailey who settled Mercer County, WV and Tazewell County, VA.

In addition to her parents, Sue was preceded in death by her son, Darren Reed Walker, her sister Florence Holleman, and her brothers, Jack Bailey and Kerry Bailey. Her husband Kenneth Walker passed away on June 17, 2023, after 63 years of marriage.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Carla and Dennis Dean, Draper VA, son, Kevin Walker, Johnson City, TN. Five granddaughters, Audra Walker, Johnson City, TN, Allissa Walker, Johnson City, TN, Emily Dean, Winston-Salem, NC, Amanda and Brad Osborne, Johnson City, TN, Morgan Dean, Richmond, VA. One great granddaughter, Flora Osborne and great grandson, Holland Osborne. Her brother and his wife, Timothy and Jamie Bailey, Vinton, VA. Sisters-in-law and husband, Patricia and Gerald Thomason, Bluefield, WV and Deborah Mathews, Indiana. Special niece, Barbara & Bill Weber, Baltimore, MD, special nephews, Paul & Betty Holleman, Jr., Pineville, WV, Barney & Linda Holleman, Wichita, KS, Blake & Terri Thomason, Bluefield, WV.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at Bower Funeral Home, 1631 Bob White Blvd, Pulaski, VA. The burial took place at Rose Hill Cemetery, Bastian, VA after services.

To sign Sue’s online guestbook, visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com

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

www.pcpatriot.com
540-808-3949



JAMES “JIMMY” LOGAN CHITWOOD, JR.
James “Jimmy” Logan Chitwood, Jr., age 69 of Pulaski, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at Carrington Place in Daleville. Jimmy was a devoted father, brother, uncle, Pulaskian, Elk, and friend.

He was born in Pulaski, Virginia on October 12, 1954 to the late Dr. James Logan Chitwood and the late Bonnie Jean Painter Chitwood. Jimmy was a proud member of the Pulaski High School Class of 1973 and went on to attend Randolph-Macon College, then Ferrum College, where he played tennis and earned an associate’s degree in 1976. He finished out his education at Emory and Henry College, graduating from there in 1978 with a Bachelor’s Degree in History.

Jimmy then returned home to the New River Valley to help his father manage farm land in Wythe County, in particular, the farm at the Major Graham Mansion, where Jimmy also lived for a number of years and hosted numerous friends and visitors for lively times. After selling the Major Graham Farm and other real estate, Jimmy continued his farming endeavors, helping to work cattle and land for Dr. James Hylton.

When health challenges sidelined Jimmy and his farming career, he worked as a real estate agent with Century 21 Hometown Realty for 18 years. After his career as a relator, Jimmy began caregiving for those in need of some extra assistance. It was during this time that Jimmy developed a special friendship with the late Dr. John Johnston. Jimmy concluded his working years at Martin’s Pharmacy where he delivered not only medicine but smiles to numerous Pulaski residents.

Jimmy also found a sense of pride and purpose as a member of the Pulaski Elks Lodge, #1067, joining the Lodge in September of 1993, following in his father’s footsteps. He rarely missed a Lodge meeting and served an extraordinary 12 terms as the Lodge’s Exalted Ruler. Jimmy also proudly served as the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Southwest Virginia District. He was also the Sergeant at Arms for the Virginia Elks Association and he also served as the State Youth Director and was active in organizing and championing the Hoop Shoot Competition, not only for Pulaski County Schools but schools throughout Virginia. Jimmy was also a board member for the Friends of the Pulaski Theatre for a number of years, helping in a number of roles to get the Theatre and its performances up and running.

Family members left to cherish his memory include: his daughter, Elizabeth Logan Chitwood, son-in-law, Patrick “Rick” Newlun, sister, Pam Chitwood Moore, brother-in-law, Gene Moore, and niece, Maia Logan Moore, along with numerous loving cousins. Others that will mourn his loss include his Pulaski childhood friends, his college friends, his Elks friends, Karen Largen and her daughters, Kelly and Amy, and many Pulaski residents along with all of those who were fortunate to cross paths with him.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 2 pm at the Pulaski Theatre in Downtown Pulaski. A reception will immediately follow in the Pulaski Elks Lodge where family and friends will gather.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Jimmy’s honor to the Elks National Foundation Scholarship Fund.

Arrangements handled by Seagle’s Funeral Home, Pulaski, Virginia.

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A Tradition Of Trust



**DOUGLAS CHAFFIN
UMBERGER, SR.**

Douglas Chaffin Umberger, Sr., age 76 of Pulaski, passed away peacefully on Saturday February 10, 2024. He was born on September 24, 1947 in Pulaski. He was preceded in death by his parents, Allen Chaffin Umberger and Mary Sue Roseberry Umberger, and brothers, Jimmy Umberger and Alvin Umberger and daughter, Sherry Gayle Umberger and granddaughter, Kayla Nicole Umberger. He was a truck driver for Pulaski Furniture Corporation for 38 years and then retired from Ryder Inc.

He is survived by his dear and loving wife; Patty Burton Umberger, son, Douglas Chaffin Umberger, Jr. and his wife Lori, and daughter, Vickie Sue Umberger Clark and her husband Bruce, granddaughter Amber Noel Umberger Cadiero and her husband, Aaron of Bedford, granddaughters, Adriel Renae Reed and Ashley Nicole Reed of Snowville, and grandson Tyler Clark and Great Granddaughter, Olivia Grace Clark. Sister Mary Umberger Sayers (Kermit), sister Barbara Umberger Fitzgerald, and sister-in-law, Jane Sutphin Umberger, great-great niece, Everleigh Albert, and a very special friend, Randall Jones.

Funeral service was held on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at Seagle Funeral Home. Interment followed in Memorial Christian Church Cemetery in Draper.

The family would like to thank the staff of Medi Healthcare and Hospice, and the Pulaski Health and Rehabilitation Center for the excellent care. A special thank you for the excellent care given by caregiver Kristin Albert.

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



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*Kylene
Lawson Waldron*

You left us a year ago on February 15. Your death impacted us in ways we did not expect. You made such an impact on so many people's lives.

You will never be forgotten and your memories will live on forever.

RIP Our Vibrant Kylene

Much love,

Dad, Mom, Kloie, Jason, Ashton, Heather, Miracle, Bryson and Randy.



**CORY MICHAEL
CASSELL**

Cory Michael Cassell, age 49 of Dublin, died Friday February 2, 2024 at his residence. He was born in Radford on January 6, 1975, and is the son of Robert Armond Cassell, Sr. and the late Carol Ann Gadbois Cassell. Cory was an excellent construction worker. In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by a son; Michael Trae Edwards, and one brother and one sister.

Cory was passionate about his family, friends, fishing and his construction jobs.

He is survived by his wife Bobbie Jo Edwards Cassell of Pulaski; daughters; Terri Jo Edwards of Pulaski, and Morgan Brooke Hill of Bluefield, WVA, and Kylie Suzanne Gallimore of Pulaski; one brother; five sisters, and four grandchildren and many nieces and nephews and his step-mother, Pearl Cassell.

Memorial services will be held privately.

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

Gearheart

Continued From Page A4

in-law Ashley Gearheart and her daughters Baylee Joann and Daelan Marie of Asheville NC; sister-in-law Madeline Gearheart Terry of Greensboro, brother-in-law Charles Edward and his wife Melody Counts of Meadowview, VA; brother-in-law Bill Hammond of Salem, VA; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at New Dublin Presbyterian Church. A reception will follow in the church fellowship hall. The family will receive friends at Seagle Funeral Home on Friday, February 16, 2024 from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to New Dublin Presbyterian Church.

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

Former NRCC President, Barnes, dies at age 86

Former New River Community College president Dr. Ed Barnes has died.

The following was posted this week on the college's Facebook page:

The NRCC community is saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Ed Barnes, NRCC's fourth president. Dr. Barnes served as the college's fourth president from 1991-2000.

Edwin L. "Ed" Barnes, 86, of Winston-Salem, died Wednesday morning, February 7, 2024. Ed was born July 24, 1937, in Roseboro, and was the son of Rufus Edwin Barnes and Annie Mae Lewis Barnes. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley Norris Barnes; two sisters, Doris Fincannon and Jo Ann Horne; and two brothers, Joe Barnes and Ray Barnes. Following ten years of service with Cone Mills and Burlington Hosiery, Ed spent the remainder of his career in the North Carolina and Virginia Community College Systems, where he served as president of two Virginia community colleges and as interim president of another Virginia community college. He was a passionate advocate for education and believed in its power to transform lives. Born into poverty as the son of sharecroppers in eastern North Carolina, he attended college for 20 years as a part-time student while working full time and earning three degrees, including a PhD from Virginia Tech. He often referred to himself as a slow learner. He was known best for his mechanical ineptness.



Following graduation from high school, he scored in the eighth percentile on a mechanical aptitude test and spent the remainder of his life validating the test. Among other frustrations, he once blew up a hot water heater, was almost injured by a flying spark plug which he had forgotten to tighten in a garden tiller, poured four quarts of oil directly through an auto engine onto a new driveway because he failed to install the oil plug properly, and failed in every plumbing job he attempted. He finally acknowledged that mechanical knowledge was unachievable for him and began to hire technicians who knew what they were doing. He was also a prolific storyteller and was often the brunt of his own stories. However, he was not the least bit timid about making others the brunt of his stories. Most of his stories carried a thread of truth in them but some required intense study to find any evidence of truth. He is survived by his children and their spouses, Stephen and Babbe Barnes of Galax, VA,

Michael and Marie Barnes of Ronceverte, WV, and Cynthia and Jon Palmer of Greenville; his grandchildren, Zachary Barnes and his spouse, Martin Herrera, Blake Barnes and his spouse, Macy Barnes, Bridgett Barnes, Katie Barnes, Brandon Barnes, and Julia Palmer; his great-grandchildren, Remington Cox and Brinleigh Barnes; his sisters-in-law, Phyllis Barnes of Charleston, WV, and Sallie Edwards of Oklahoma City, OK; his brother-in-law, Richard Norris of Sacramento, CA; and many, dear friends. A service of remembrance honoring Ed and Shirley will be held Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 2:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Mount Airy. Dr. David Johnson, former president of Wytheville Community College in Wytheville, VA, and Johnston Community College in Smithfield, will preside. The family will receive friends Saturday from 12:30 until 2:00 PM at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Shirley N. Barnes Scholarship Fund, Camp Community College Foundation, 100 North College Drive, Franklin, VA 23851; The Barnes Family Scholarship Fund, New River Community College Educational Foundation, 5251 College Drive, Dublin, VA 24084; The Barnes Family Scholarship Fund, Wytheville Community College Educational Foundation, 1000 East Main Street, Wytheville, VA 24382; or the Alamance Community College Foundation, P.O. Box 8000, Graham, NC 27253-8000.

How to Get Financial Help

A survey released last month indicated that consumer sentiment was higher than it's been in quite a while, since the summer of 2021. This is supposed to be a good thing.

The first thing I needed to do was look up the definition of "consumer sentiment." It's how we feel about the state of the economy and our own finances, how positive we are about short-term and long-term economic growth. According to the survey, that positivity occurred everywhere, and income, education, age and location didn't matter.

I'm guessing they didn't survey participants in my area. However, I did. In one of my informal polls of local friends and acquaintances, I learned that:

-- Going to the grocery store is still an experience filled with tension and anxiety. We never know what prices will be this week, whether we'll be able to buy what we need and stick to a budget or whether we'll need to have soup and sandwiches for dinner three times this week instead of two.

-- Going to the food bank is

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

still embarrassing, but we do it anyway, usually before making a trip to the grocery store and planning meals around what we get from the food bank.

Then there are basic expenses like utilities and transportation ...If this describes your situation, consider looking into the National Council On Aging Benefits

CheckUp. Every year billions of government dollars aren't claimed, mostly because seniors don't know about it. Specifically, there is money out there to help us pay for groceries, utilities, prescriptions, etc.

To get help, call the Benefits CheckUp helpline at 800-794-6559. You can also go online directly to benefitscheckup.org to see if you're eligible for any of the help. You don't need to sign up. You will still be shown a list of help options. I ended up with a list of over 80 programs.



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EDITORIAL

FDA’s Foreign Drug Inspection Program

I recently chaired a hearing in the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, in which we examined the effectiveness, and shortcomings, of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) foreign drug inspection program.

Since 1955, the FDA has conducted international inspections on products regulated by the agency to ensure foreign facilities, laboratories, processing sites, etc. comply with U.S. law.



Morgan Griffith

9th District Representative

As according to the FDA, Americans should have confidence that products manufactured outside the U.S. meet the same safety and quality standards as those manufactured

domestically.

But, in the program’s current state, this is far from the case. In fact, the FDA’s lack of foreign inspections is alarming, and its consequences can be deadly.

The Subcommittee held a hearing on this subject in December 2019 in which we discussed a number of issues with the program. For example, all of the FDA’s foreign inspections were pre-announced, giving foreign facilities 10-12 weeks advanced notification (U.S. facilities do not get advanced notification). And even with prior notification, the FDA found deficiencies during 66% of foreign inspections, including serious deficiencies in 16% of those inspections.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, challenges with the program only increased.

From March 2020 through February 2022, the program essentially ceased functioning. For example, from March to October 1, 2020, the agency performed only three foreign inspections. In 2018 and 2019, the agency performed more than 600 inspections during that same time period.

Additionally, pre-announced in-person inspections were replaced by zoom calls.

Though zoom certainly has its benefits, what do inspectors miss when they aren’t on site to see the interworking of how a facility is being operated?

Over zoom they can not see if a rat skitters across the floor or if documents are being destroyed in a barrel out back.

Currently, I am most concerned by the FDA’s lack of inspections in India and China, as these two countries comprise the majority of foreign manufacturing sites of generic drugs on the U.S. market.

In a recent analysis of data by ProPublica, it was shown that the FDA only inspected three percent of Indian manufacturers in 2022, while in 2019 they inspected 45 percent.

As I mentioned above, this can lead to deadly consequences, as was seen in 2023, not with drugs but with eyedrops. Eyedrops produced in a plant in Tamil, India infected 81 people in the U.S. with a rare strain of extensively drug-resistant P. aeruginosa; three died and eight were blinded. The plant in which they were manufactured never received an inspection from the FDA.

With more and more of our drugs being made overseas, this lack of FDA oversight is unacceptable.

There have also been recurrent reports of data destruction and falsification by Indian and Chinese manufacturers, which is extremely alarming.

The FDA attributes its challenges, specifically its low inspections rates, to not having enough investigators within the agency.

One idea I mentioned during our hearing, to help alleviate this problem, is to have preliminary inspectors within the agency, someone who might not meet the educational or training standards of a full-fledged inspector, but who can at least go into facilities and do cleanliness inspections.

These preliminary inspectors can be people who have just graduated college or those who have a desire to see different parts of the world. They can be paid a low-cost stipend while helping Americans receive safe medicines. After a few weeks’ training they can begin preliminary inspections of foreign drug manufacturing sites. They can then report on how clean a facility is and whether they saw anything that looked amiss. This will give the FDA information to prioritize full inspections, as a facility that doesn’t have clean bathrooms and floors likely has other issues on the processing line.

Regular reviews by Congress on the current state and effectiveness of the foreign drug inspection program are essential to ensuring work is being done to improve the program, especially given the setbacks from COVID-19. I was very disappointed that the FDA did not send a witness to testify during our most recent hearing, as Congress, and Americans, should hear directly from the agency on what steps they are taking to improve the program.

I will continue to provide oversight over the program and plan to have more hearings on the subject. If the FDA proves unwilling to work with the Subcommittee, I will move to other means within the Subcommittee’s power to ensure they cooperate.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact my office. You can call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405 or my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671. To reach my office via email, please visit my website at <https://morgangriffith.house.gov/>.

Whose Opinion Matters?

As we have read in previous articles of One Nation Under God, many of the Christian denominations were protesting the laws requiring citizens to acknowledge and support the Church of England/Anglican Church as the only legally recognized denomination in the Colonies. The Revolution opened the way to redress what they considered religious inequities decreed by Great Britain.

What has become the “standard” for religious liberty in America is attributed to Thomas Jefferson in his 1779 bill known as the Virginia Statute. However, the bill was not passed; and subsequently lost until it resurfaced through James Madison in 1785.

Dr. David Barton’s research reveals that while the Supreme Court’s decisions recognize Jefferson as the standard bearer for religious liberty, this was already accomplished in other states prior to the Virginia Statute.

“For example, a decade earlier in 1776, North Carolina had enacted a disestablishment constitutional clause declaring: ‘There shall be no establishment of any one religious church or denomination in this state in preference to any other, neither shall any person, on any pretence whatsoever, be compelled to attend any place or worship contrary to his own faith or judgment, nor be obliged to pay for the purchase of any glebe, or the building of any house of worship, or for the maintenance of any minister or ministry contrary to what he believes right, or has voluntarily and personally engaged to perform; but all persons shall be at liberty to exercise their own

One Nation Under God

By Danielle Reid

mode of worship.”

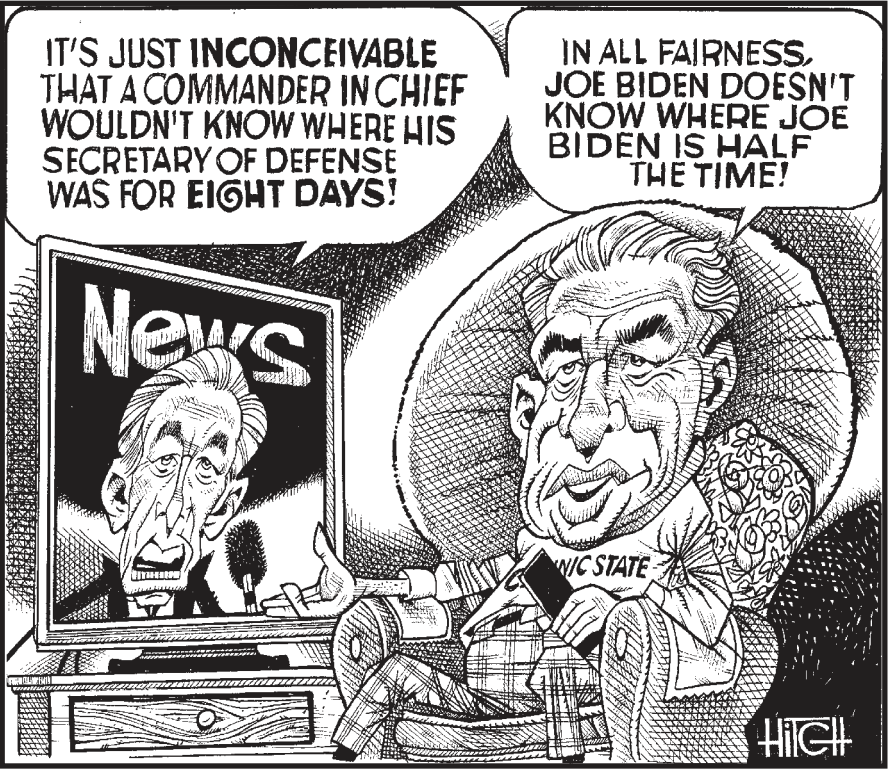
“Also in 1777, the New York Constitution disestablished: ‘Whereas we are required by the benevolent principles of rational liberty, not only to expel civil tyranny, but also to guard against that spiritual oppression and intolerance, wherewith the bigotry and ambition of weak and wicked priests and princes have scourged mankind; this convention doth further, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this state, ordain, determine, and declare, that the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever hereafter be allowed within this state to all mankind.’“

New Jersey had enacted disestablishment in its constitution in 1776; and in 1777, so did Vermont. Likewise, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Georgia established religious liberty prior to the Virginia Statute.

The state of Maryland led the fight to end the system of state-ordered tithes, which Jefferson and Madison did not attempt in Virginia until several years later.

“Further confirmation that Virginia did not lead the nation was provided at the Constitutional Convention. The

See NATION, page A7



Crossover Week

Last week was Crossover, the deadline at which House bills needed to successfully “cross over” to the Senate to receive further consideration in the 2024 legislative session (and vice versa). This means that the typical daily hustle and bustle of committee meetings was temporarily paused while we spent long hours on the House floor, considering and debating the hundreds of bills that reported from their committees of origin in time to meet this deadline. As the minority party, Republicans needed to gain bipartisan support in order to have any chance at our legislation passing. Six of my bills passed from the House out of the twenty bills I submitted – a success rate that I’m proud of in this politically polarized legislature. I encourage you to visit lis.virginia.gov to view all the legislation I filed this session.

As the saying goes, elections have consequences, and some legislation passed by the Democratic majority will have lasting consequences should they become law. This includes HB 455, which would downgrade from a class 5 felony to a class 1 misdemeanor for possession of 1 gram of a controlled substance. This means that an individual can be apprehended with enough fentanyl to kill 500 people, and they would be charged under the same penalty structure as someone who is caught driving with a suspended license. This is an ill-advised attempt by the Democrats at criminal justice reform to say the least, and it will do absolutely nothing to aid our ongoing battle against opiates in Virginia. Perhaps less dramatic – albeit still a bad idea – is HB 617, which would allow high school students to cash in on “Name, Image, and Likeness” (NIL) contracts that are currently limited to college students. I’m all for students being able to make money, but extending the NIL

Delegate Jason Ballard

42nd District

scheme to high schoolers under the age of 18 could erode the educational experience for hundreds (if not more) students. School – especially in K-12 – should be about education first and foremost. If our students lose focus on that, learning will suffer, and educational outcomes will deteriorate.

Perhaps most troubling of all was House Democrats’ refusal to provide a hearing for critical legislation dealing with the fentanyl crisis and child safety. HB 450, patroned by my colleague in the district next door, Delegate Chris Obenshain, would have raised the penalties for those who attempt to distribute fentanyl in our communities to anywhere between 5 to 40 years in prison. This bill never received a hearing in the Democratic-led House. Equally troubling, HB 1026, patroned by Delegate Tony Wilt, would have banned anyone convicted of offenses involving children, including kidnapping, trafficking, sex crimes, and commercial sex crimes from working or volunteering at schools. Inexplicably, this bill also failed to receive a hearing from the Democrats. It makes you wonder, why are House Democrats afraid to give these bills the hearings they deserve?

As the Delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, your concerns are my

See BALLARD, page A7



Rich Lowery

Editor, National Review

Kids shouldn’t be on social media at all

Mark Zuckerberg is very sorry.

His apology at a Senate hearing to the families of victims of online child sex abuse was dramatic, and the human thing to do in the moment, although he was pressured into it under persistent questioning from Sen. Josh Hawley, a Republican from Missouri.

Zuckerberg’s contrition -- whether real, fake or somewhere in between -- doesn’t really matter one way or the other, though. The key question is why we are subjecting our children to a vast, real-time experiment in exposure to a radically new medium that evidence suggests is harmful to their emotional and mental health.

This dubious venture is unquestionably a boon to the bottom line of Meta and its peer companies, but it’s doubtful that any parent in America has ever thought it was good for their kid. “Gosh, how can I get my tween to spend more time on Instagram?” is, needless to say, a thought most parents don’t have.

Social scientist Jonathan Haidt has been on this case for some time now and points out a marked increase in teen depression and anxiety that coincides with the rise of social media, particularly among girls. It is, to be sure, difficult to nail down with absolute certainty a direct relationship between social media and these distressing outcomes, but many studies find a connection, and the lived experiences of families is, overwhelmingly, that the takeover of adolescence by social media hasn’t been a healthy phenomenon.

At the very least, social media is addictive and represents an opportunity cost compared to time that could be spent talking with friends, going outside or even reading a book.

Congress should press the brakes on the revolution that has given Mark Zuckerberg and other tech titans an outsized role in raising our kids and require that users of social media be age 18 or older. Surely, it’s not too much to ask that Zuckerberg and Co. make their fortunes exclusively off adults.

Congress has already imposed an age limit, just in the wrong place. The Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act prevents the companies from collecting personal information from children under age 13, effectively prohibiting them from social media. But 13 draws the line much too young.

Regardless, the companies have been happy to make a mockery of the rule. About 40% of kids age 8-12 use social media, while usage by teens age 13-18 is nearly ubiquitous.

For social-media companies, these kids are just another market. According to a Wall Street Journal report a couple of years ago, “Inside the company, teams of employees have for years been laying plans to attract preteens that go beyond what is publicly known, spurred by fear that Facebook could lose a new generation of users critical to its future.”

Let’s say the research and everyone’s intuition is wrong, and social media isn’t driving worse outcomes for kids.

What’s the harm in staying off social media until they’re older? That kids will miss out on the latest absurd and perhaps

See LOWERY, page A7

Pulaski County land transfers

Pulaski County property transfers for December 2023 as reported by the Circuit Court Clerk’s Office.

Theresa G. Adams to Raquel Rabago, property at 405 Maple Street, Dublin, \$265,000.

Jeremy M. Krafft to Erick E. Delgado, property at 8379 Blackfish Drive, Snowville, \$217,000.

CMH Homes, Inc. to Megan G. Bolt, property at 5186 Baskerville Street, Dublin, \$197,222.

Emily S. Simpson to Derek Tate, property at 3880 Chestnut Ridge Road, Pulaski, \$125,000.

Joseph Hoff to Mark A. McLaughlin, property at 601 Stuart Avenue, Pulaski, \$148,900.

Terri Compton to LB Roberts LLC, property off Locust Avenue, Dublin, \$80,100.

Judith F. Haga to Christopher Ryan Haga, property at 3626 Little Creek Road, Dublin, \$85,000.

Kelsi Breann Lilly to Ketherine Reneil Burton, property at 4765 Robinson Tract, Road, Pulaski, \$200,000.

Dennis A. Green to Graham Gravley, property at 4593 Mallard Point Way #30, Dublin, \$621,000.

Robert Brian Pennington to Timothy O. Cox, property at 4330 Little Creek Road, Dublin, \$94,000.

Casey Jean Calfee to Barron Blevins, property at 320 Darst Avenue, Dublin, \$160,000.

AAD, LLC to Casey Jean Calfee, property at 5731 Lee Highway, Dublin, \$468,000.

Olen Keith Webb to Elaine Marie Huff Webb, property at 1113 Macgill Street, Pulaski, \$111,000.

41 Properties, LLC to Prince David Harding, property at 2606 Kirby Road, Draper, \$285,000.

Natasha Rene Dalton to DJJG, LLC, property at 6102 Danny Avenue, Dublin, \$75,000.

Deborah Sedgeley Bacik to Stuart Graham, property at 414 Graham Street, Pulaski, \$90,000.

More property transfers will be published in next week’s edition.

Man who led law officers on manhunt sentenced to 12 months

Patriot Staff Report

A man who led police on a multi-county manhunt for 20 days back in August of 2022 will serve 12 months in jail – the maximum sentence that could be imposed for the conviction.

Pulaski County Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Nicole S. Cumberland reported Friday that Shawn Tolbert elected to be tried by a jury of his peers on Feb. 7.

After hearing the evidence, the jury found Tolbert guilty of obstructing justice in Pulaski County on Aug. 30, 2022.

The judge in the case sentenced Tolbert to serve 12 months in jail.

Cumberland noted that several law enforcement agencies were involved in locating Tolbert and taking him into custody. Specifically, she said, the Virginia State Police and Dublin Police Department were crucial in finding Tolbert and ensuring the community’s safety while making the arrest.

The Patriot reported in 2022 that on Tuesday, Aug. 30 of that year, a Town of Dublin citizen contacted the Dublin Police Department and stated that based upon photos from the local news, he observed someone that appeared to be Shawn Michael Tolbert, a



New River Regional Jail
Shawn Tolbert

wanted fugitive of Craig and Montgomery counties.

Local agencies, including the U.S. Marshals Service, Pulaski County Sheriff’s Office, Virginia State Police and the Virginia Conservation Police came together to look for Tolbert.

A Dublin Police Officer in an unmarked vehicle had a second sighting of Tolbert and all the units were deployed to where he was staying, which turned out to be a bus in a back yard in Dublin.

The Virginia State Police deployed a tactical team, and they safely took Tolbert into custody.

Arrest made in Radford break-ins

RADFORD - On February 8, 2024, Radford City Police Department officers were dispatched to the 100 block of Buckeye Lane located in the College Park neighborhood for a report of breaking and entering into a residence along with multiple car break-ins.

RCPD was able to develop, locate, and arrest the suspect on February 9, 2024, without incident. Mr. Richard Allen Cherry, age 23, of Goodview, Virginia was arrested on one

count of breaking and entering (18.2-89) and is currently held at New River Valley Regional Jail with no bond. Additional charges are pending as detectives complete their investigation.

The Radford City Police Department has recovered several pieces of unaccounted property that was found with the confirmed stolen property. RCPD is requesting anyone who has been the victim of a suspected car break-in or



Richard Cherry

residential burglary in the College Park neighborhood or surrounding area is encouraged to contact the Sergeant Detective Cox at (540) 267-3711.

Ballard

Continued From Page A6

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.

Nation

Continued From Page A6

other delegates rejected the Virginia plan in preference for the Connecticut plan and voted down forty of Madison’s seventy-one proposals (sixty percent),” writes Barton.

I thank God for the insight, courage and acumen of both these patriots. Their leadership helped ensure a free and independent America; but we also need to give credit to those other patriots whose influence has been felt but who have not been properly acknowledge.

This (newly discovered for me) information brings up the question of why Thomas Jefferson is considered by the modern courts to be the standard of religious liberty and the authority of the First Amendment’s Religious Rights clause?

In Jefferson’s own words, he refuted the claim asserting that he was not an authority on the Constitution or the Bill of Rights. When a supporter of Jefferson wrote that he was, Jefferson quickly responded: “One passage, in the paper you enclosed me, must be corrected. It is the following, ‘and all say it was yourself more than any other individual, that planned and established it, i.e., the

Constitution. I was in Europe when the Constitution was planned, and never saw it till after it was established....On receiving it [the Constitution while in France] I wrote strongly to Mr. Madison urging the want of provision for the freedom of religion, freedom of the press, trial by jury, habeas corpus, the substitution of militia for a standing army, and an express reservation to the States of all rights not specifically granted to the Union This is all the hand I had in what related to the Constitution.”

In actuality, Jefferson was on a diplomatic mission to France when the Constitution and Bill of Rights were being written. He arrived back in America two years after the Constitution was signed, and two months after the First Amendment had been written.

According to Barton’s research, there were a total of 126-individuals who were responsible for the writing of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Although Jefferson was not among them, and despite Jefferson’s own words, the Courts often cite him as the authority of the First Amendment’s Religious Clause.

Lowery

Continued From Page A6

dangerous TikTok trend? That they won’t get to envy people posting photos on Instagram to make themselves look more interesting and beautiful than they really are? That they will talk to their families and friends more and engage in more activities in the real world?

As Yuval Levin of the American Enterprise Institute points out, there are ways to put teeth in a more stringent age restriction, create a reliable mechanism for age verification, and give those parents who desperately want their young

kids on social media a way to opt in. Once every teen isn’t on social media, it becomes easier to stop teens from using social media.

Perhaps, over time, it will become clear that the teen mental health crisis wasn’t driven by social media and -- more improbably -- being on TikTok is good for 15-year-olds. If so, we can go back and repeal the age-18 restriction -- and apologize, if we must, to Mark Zuckerberg.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

LEGAL NOTICE

NEW RIVER RESOURCE AUTHORITY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE OF PROPOSED WASTE DISPOSAL AND TIPPING FEE RATE INCREASES

New River Resource Authority (“NRRRA”) provides, among related services, waste disposal services for the businesses, citizens and communities of the City of Radford, the Town of Dublin, Giles County, Pulaski County and within the jurisdictional boundaries, and incorporated jurisdictions therein, of Montgomery County and the Counties of Wythe, Bland, and Floyd. Pursuant to Va. Code § 15.2-5136 and § 15.2-5114, NRRRA proposes the following changes to the waste disposal and tipping fees:

Tires (per pound) from \$0.12 per pound to \$0.15 per pound

Fees proposed not to change:

Municipal Solid Waste	\$34.00 per ton
Construction Debris	\$34.00 per ton
VPI Ash	\$10.00 per ton
Non-Friable Asbestos	\$54.00 per ton
Unsecured Loads	\$25.00 each
Minimum Ticket Fee	\$ 5.00 each
Admin (Copy) Fee	\$ 0.25 each
Clean Wood	\$25.00 per ton
Appliances	\$34.00 per ton
Recycling	\$60.00 per ton
POTW (Sludge)	\$24.00 per ton

A public hearing on the rates set forth above will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at Noon, or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the administrative conference room of NRRRA at 7100 Cloyd’s Mountain Road, Dublin, Virginia.

Interested persons may appear at the aforementioned time and place to present their views or may submit written comments prior to the hearing. Accommodations for disabled persons can be made with the Deputy Director by calling (540) 674-1677 at least five (5) days prior to the hearing date.

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Council

Continued From Page A1

minutes following the ceremony, the Town Council officially went into open session, which began with a Native Tree Grant Project presentation by Outdoor Services Coordinator Nathan Repass. Kathy Hanks, President of the Friends of Peak Creek, was in attendance and listed on the agenda along with Repass, but did not address council.

“The New River Conservancy, at the request of the Friends of Peak Creek, has applied for and secured funding for native tree plantings in the disadvantaged federal census district that covers the south side of Pulaski,” said Repass, as he addressed council. “Tom Saxton of the New River Conservancy is the grant writer in this case, and he’s going to come back into town in March to revisit these sites and work out the specific plan for planting.”

The Virginia Department of Forestry is providing the \$87,000 in grant money for the native tree project, but these funds will be shared with the county, as part of the project area extends beyond the town limits.

Repass went on to list several prospective tree planting sites, which include the banks of Peak Creek, the train depot, Kiwanis Park and along the Dora Trail. Repass also brought up the possibility of planting flowering Dogwood trees along Dora Highway to “kind of spruce up that area a little bit.”

The newly constructed bicycle park was another area where newly planted trees could replace unhealthy and non-native trees on the property.

A separate grant was also secured which covers areas in the northern part of town, but only covers tree repairing and restoration and not urban forestry for visual appeal. Sproule’s Run is a prime candidate for tree planting for this side of town, as it would serve to stabilize the creek bank.

The Native Tree Grant Project is designed to serve disadvantaged areas and does not require matching funds by the town.

Next, Project Manager Austin Painter updated the council on Asset Essentials, the town’s recently purchased asset management and work order software. An asset is anything the town owns, such as property or equipment, which provides value to the town and its citizenry.

According to Painter, this software can inventory, manage and track every one of the town’s assets and the condition of those assets.

“You can’t know what you need to order, if you don’t know what you have,” said Painter. “This software can track whether or not a part is in the inventory and when it’s time to order that part.”

The Asset Essentials software also schedules regular maintenance checks for machinery, while giving real time updates on those checkups. It is now fully integrated into the town’s Critzer Pump station and implementation into other infrastructure systems is ongoing.

“One of the main reasons why we were initially wanting to find some asset management software is to move from reactive to preventative maintenance,” said Painter. “A lot of grants and other money opportunities require an asset management program.”

Using GIS integration, the software will eventually be able to pinpoint exact locations for work orders or emergencies and be able to message department supervisors with this information.

When asked if any other localities were using the software, Scott Aust of the engineering department said that Dublin and at least one municipality within Montgomery County was using it, and they were very pleased.

“The hard part is getting all your assets input and in there to start with,” said Aust. “Once you have those assets in there, you can determine the lifespan of equipment.”

The meeting continued with the passage of a resolution appropriating funds totaling \$191,106.30 from the



Town Honors Town Manager Darlene Burcham. From left: Brooks Dawson, Jeremy Clark, Tyler Clontz, Greg East, Darlene Burcham, Shannon Collins, Michael Reis, and Jamie Radcliffe.

VDOT Street and Highway Reimbursement to the General Fund.

“Annually we budget for VDOT reimbursement funds,” Burcham explained. “We had a pleasant surprise the first quarter of our fiscal year in that the amount that we received on a quarterly basis was higher than we had anticipated.”

These monies are designated to be used for future street improvement projects within the town.

The council also voted to appropriate \$250,000 to the town’s Economic Development Authority. Though not alluded to specifically, at least some of these funds are to be used as a loan to help expand a local business in town.

The council subsequently passed a resolution to open a bank account with the National Bank of Blacksburg, which is to be under the control of the town’s Economic Development Authority.

Council members also made several appointments at Thursday’s meeting including Jenny Shepherd, who was appointed to the Agency on Aging, Rachel Nelson, who was appointed to the Planning Commission and Peter Huber, Roger Bell and Collette Hash, who were appointed to the Economic Development

Authority.

In order that these terms be on a staggered basis in the future, two members of the EDA will serve shorter terms until being reappointed, after which all members of the EDA will serve four-year terms.

All council votes were passed unanimously.

Greg East began the council comment period by saying, “I would like to thank Ms. Burcham for her wonderful service to the town of Pulaski. We certainly owe our fiscal health, our outstanding staff and the condition of our town to you. Thank you.”

“It was all of us, including council,” Burcham responded.

“Under your guidance,” East replied and then added. “Mr. Day, welcome. We’re excited to have you here and look forward to great things.”

Other council members expressed similar sentiments of appreciation, but were brief in their remarks.

“I don’t know if anyone has said it yet, but Darlene, thank you for all you’ve done,” said Mayor Collins with tongue in cheek. “We do appreciate everything you’ve done. You’ve left this town in good hands and I know you left it in a perfect place for him (Day) to start. We appreciate everything you’ve done. It’s not always been easy.



From left: Mayor Shannon Collins and Justin Riggins (15 years).



From left: Mayor Shannon Collins and Dustin Jones (15 years).



William Paine/Patriot Publishing

It wasn’t always what everyone wanted because people don’t like change. But in the long run, I think things ... our town is in better shape than we were and we appreciate it. Mr. Day,

thank you for stepping into this little area of crazy that we call home. I think that you’ll enjoy it and from what I’ve seen already, I think you’re gonna fit in. I mean, I’m not saying you’re crazy or anything like that ... But thank you for coming on board.”

In response, incoming Town Manager Day had this to say.

“I’m glad to be here ... I’m absolutely amazed, for lack of words. Usually when you have a town manager come in, there’s a reason for it. So, to look at the finances of the Town of Pulaski ... I’ve actually spent a lot of time trying to find what I’m missing. I know there’s got to be a catch there but I’ve absolutely looked at about everything I can find just so I can have a little thunder ... and I’m impressed. I mean the Town of Pulaski financially is very stable. The projects on the table had been budgeted and planned for and thank you, Darlene. Thank you very much. It’s the first time in a transition that I’m excited. I’m really excited. I don’t know if I can say much more than that. It’s a good team, a good locality and I look forward to the change. So, thank you very much.”



From left: Mayor Shannon Collins and Robbie Kiser (20 years).



From left: Mayor Shannon Collins and David Smith (10 years).



From left: Mayor Shannon Collins and Angie Trail (15 years).

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I am the softly falling snow.
I am the gentle shower of rain.
I am the fields of ripping grain.



Gov. School continues Science Fair tradition in new home

By WILLIAM PAINE
Patriot Publishing

The Southwest Virginia Governor's School (SWVGS) held its annual Science Fair this month at Edwards Hall on the campus of New River Community College in Dublin. Students from nine different school divisions attend the SWVGS, where they take college level courses in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). The Southwest Virginia Governor's School is a shared time program where students attend in the morning and return to their home high schools that afternoon. The SWVGS is one of only 19 Governor's schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Currently, there are 91 students attending the SWVGS and all but two of those students submitted projects to this year's science fair. As a measure of the importance of this annual scientific ritual, this year marks the 33rd edition of the SWVGS science fair.

"The science fair process is a unique part of the Governor school experience and it's always been a core part of the program here at the Governor's School all the way back to when the school was started in 1990," said SWVGS Director Rebecca Phillips. "It's an important part of learning how to practice science and implement a lot of the content that's in their coursework here at the Governor's School."

Students at SWVGS spend weeks preparing for the science fair by researching subject matter ranging from Animal Science to Environmental Chemistry to the Psychology of Social Interaction. Experimentation is also part and parcel of every science fair project and based on these experiments, students make theoretical conclusions related to their project and then present their findings to the judges.

"It's meant to be a commitment to investigating long term questions, coming up with solutions and identifying valuable ways to apply new information," said Phillips about the science fair. "The whole process really allows students to develop a lot of skills related to how to ask good questions and how to sort through information. You make a plan of how you're going to collect data and how you're going to evaluate the information that you've been able to collect. You might troubleshoot and go back and figure out how to solve a problem. It also develops a lot of skills in terms of focus and perseverance. A lot of dedication will help you to solve things eventually and sometimes you'll surprise yourself with the results that you're able to achieve."

Since last year's science fair in 2023, the Southwest Virginia Governor's School has relocated from its former home at the Northwood Elementary School building in Pulaski to Godbey Hall on the New River Community College campus. Just as was the case in 2023, the annual science fair took place at Edward's Hall on the NRCC campus. As a result, SWVGS students had the advantage of setting up their project displays in adjacent Edwards Hall, as opposed to having to travel several miles down Route 11 to make their projects ready.

"Since our school is on site here at New River Community College, we decided to take advantage of the fact that our students are here each day and we decided that we would change things around this year," said Phillips. "Instead of setting up and taking the fair

down in a single day, we set it up on Tuesday afternoon and took advantage of the fact that our students would be here on Wednesday morning. That way, they could go over and stand in front of their own project displays and practice their presentations with their peers. We call it a practice presentation day. Every student got to present their project to three different peers and also got to listen to three classmates describe their own research. They could figure out how to deliver the information a little more clearly, as they wanted to describe the process of their research and their findings and conclusions. It was, I think, an excellent experience for them. We're looking forward to being able to continue that in the future."

Moving from Northwood Elementary to the NRCC campus took much time and energy from the seven faculty members who teach at the SWVGS, as well as those making arraignments to accommodate them.

"First, I'd like to say that everyone at New River Community College has been incredibly welcoming, very inclusive and always supportive of our students," said Phillips. "We're just incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be here. Being here on a college campus, it's a bigger institution and there are lots of resources that are available to help facilitate student research in new ways."

What kind of resources? "Having chemical hoods in the chemistry lab, that vent outdoors ... that was something that we never had at our previous location," Phillips replied. "That has an impact on some of the organic solvents you can use, so that you can conduct certain chemical experiments safely. So, it was nice to have those on site each day."

"We've also had some other people who've reached out to us here at New River and offered some of the instruments that they have for analysis," Phillips continued. "The Administration of Justice Forensic Science Department offered us the use their Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometer for analysis of organic materials and just brought some more sophisticated tools and made those available to some of our students who needed that."

So, our readers know, Mass Spectrometers convert molecules into ions, which are then manipulated by magnetic fields and Gas Chromatography is an analytical technique used to separate and detect chemical compounds of a sample material and to determine their quantities.

Governor's schools offer demanding and difficult subject matter, which often requires copious amounts of homework but there is a payoff.

"When they (students) come here to the Governor's School they are taking very challenging classes and some of them are unique offerings that wouldn't commonly be available at the high schools," said Phillips. "It gives students an opportunity to demonstrate that they're willing to pursue a rigorous course load and that they want to engage in learning opportunities among highly motivated peers. Many college recruiters come to visit our school each fall. And yeah, we're really pleased that there's so many opportunities available to our students. We have a student accepted to Stanford this year, and that's wonderful. We also have someone who's been accepted to Harvard. It's always different, sometimes it's Yale or NYU. We have great partnerships with Virginia Tech, UVA, Radford University,

William and Mary ... So lots of great opportunities for students and we're always excited when they apply and get accepted to their dream school."

Phillips also noted that Gov School students who get accepted at places like Georgia Tech or Concord University will be able to transfer most or even all of their Gov School credits into college credits, so that they would have the opportunity to acquire their degree in a timelier fashion.

"We're really grateful at the Governor's School to have an opportunity to work with very talented, highly motivated students and to be able to draw students together from across southwest Virginia," said Phillips.

Pictured on page A10

Southwest Virginia Governor's School Class of 2024
Front row, left to right-- Katelyn Melton, Ruby Hoerter, Jordan Lucas, Enzo Nuñez, Em Paul, Disha Talajia, Phoebe Fant, Naomi Black, Weston Smith, Charlotte Phillips, Gana Ghoneim, George Black

Second row, left to right-- Austin Quesenberry, Nyjah Da'Mes, Casey Felts, Carrie

Sage Dalton, Andrew Clark, Jack Wilder, Swati Aggarwal, Emma Ebel, Emily Jones, Jacey Hendrix, Laurin Irvine, Hunter Miller, Lili Whitesell, Kailin Phillips, Natalie Tassar, Sebastian

Gomez, Lathom Barbieri, Nicholas Thompson, Harjot Rai

Third row, left to right-- Hank Schroeder, Matt Bravo, Ethan See FAIR, page A10

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Bowser! Bowser is a 1.5 year old, neutered male looking for a FURever home! He loves being around people, doesn't mind cats, and enjoys other dogs. Bowser is a playful pup still full of puppy energy!



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Fair

Continued From Page A9
Easter, James Paine, Connor Beasley, James Riffe, Sophie Perdue, Ally Swenson, Asher Porter, Isaac Little, Trent Hollandsworth, Bisan Rai, Quinlan Beegle

Back row, left to right-- Finn Lucas, Eli Tomiak, Kyle Stephens, Oscar Montgomery, Nick Nista, Garreth Rudd, Jesse Dulaney, Tripp Umberger, Derek Dunford, Caleb Whitman, Cole Abbott



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SPORTS

Daytona 500 kicks off racing season

From NASCAR

It is time for all eyes to be on the World Center of Racing, as the competitors get ready to jump start the 2024 season, with the NASCAR Cup Series' biggest event, the DAYTONA 500 at Daytona International Speedway this Sunday, February 18 at 2:30 p.m. ET on FOX, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio.

This year marks the 76th season for the NASCAR Cup Series (1949-2024). During that time, the series has run 2,750 points-paying races, and has crowned 36 different driver champions including the newest title holder, Team Penske's Ryan Blaney.



Blaney has joined an elite list of active champions that includes Jimmie Johnson (2006-2010, 2013, 2016), Kyle Busch (2015, 2019), Joey Logano (2018, 2022), Brad Keselowski

(2012), Martin Truex Jr. (2017), Chase Elliott (2020) and Kyle Larson (2021).

'Mr. Worldwide' to get the party started at Daytona The sunny beaches of Central

Florida will play host to the official kick-off of the 36-race points-paying NASCAR Cup Series championship season, and no better person to help get everyone 'feeling good' than multi-platinum recording artist Armando Christian Pérez, Pitbull, who will be performing the pre-race show on the ballfield prior to the DAYTONA 500.

"There's no better way to get the energy flowing than with Pitbull performing our pre-race concert for the Daytona 500," said Daytona International Speedway President Frank Kelleher. "Pitbull has continued to release major hits for over

See DAYTONA, page B3



Game Day Banter

Jeramey Fleenor

Most sports fans in limbo

We are finally here, at that moment in sports, when most sports fans are in limbo of what is next on the docket. The Super Bowl is finished, the NBA is in full swing (I'm not a big NBA fan, so that's not exciting), NCAA Basketball is nearing March madness, and pitchers and catchers are reporting for spring training. Though a lot of stuff is happening, we (I) have a few weeks of nothing fascinating happening. So, on that note, let's just take the shotgun approach and scatter things out!

First, good luck to our winter Cougars, who find themselves competing in the various district, regional, and even state events in the upcoming weeks. Good fortune is wished to all our spring Cougar hopefuls who will try out for spring sports in the next couple of weeks.

Second, let's take some time to rejoice in the fact that pitchers and catchers are at spring training. For me, this marks a significant moment in the year. A moment that has nothing to do with a groundhog and everything to do with the fact that spring is on the way. The closer we get to spring, the closer to baseball season! Personally, it's my favorite time of year. I'm sure there will be plenty to talk about as we move forward, but for now, just know it's almost time!

Finally, let's indulge in some game-day banter from Super Bowl Sunday. As much as it pains me to say, the Chiefs proved why they are the best in the NFL (at least this year). Both teams fought hard, but in the words of Connor MacLeod, "There can be only one," and KC is the one! So, in no particular order, I offer the following opinions.

There is this ongoing debate among coaches over the concept of moral victories. As I coach myself, I will admit there are times when moral victories are the only victory you can find, so you take what you can get. So, we will log in the moral victory column for the Niners, especially for Brock Purdy. This young man took to the battlefield like a champion and conducted himself the same before, during, and after the final seconds ticked off the clock. Of all my hopes for Purdy, I do hope the front office will give this young man a raise or that Vegas will pay what he is worth (no talks with Vegas, but a guy can hope). Fun fact: ESPN reports that Brock's yearly salary comes in at \$870K; now I know what you are thinking, and yes, that's a lot of money. But to keep it in perspective, 19 QBs in the league made more than that in the season's first game. Though I will not mention all of them, I will say for some of them, it has to be a case of "It's not who you know, but who knows you." So, Niner fans, talk to your GM and get that guy paid!

The biggest takeaway, and unfortunately the event that has placed itself on the podium beside the presentation of the Lombardi Trophy, is the Kelce freak out during the game. Now, I am not here to say he was right or wrong. It's not my call to justify his actions because

See BANTER, page B4

Hokies end skid against FSU

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Hunter Cattoor scored a season-high 20 points, Lynn Kidd added 12 points and matched a career best with 15 rebounds, and Virginia Tech never trailed in the second half and beat Florida State 83-75 on Tuesday night.

Sean Pedulla made 14 of 16 free throws and finished with 19 points for Virginia Tech (14-10, 6-7 ACC), which ended a three-game skid. Tyler Nickel added 15 points. Cattoor and Nickel combined for seven of the Hokies' 11 3-pointers.

Jamir Watkins hit three buckets from distance, made 9 of 11 free throws and scored 26 points to lead Florida State (13-11, 7-6). Darin Green Jr. chipped in with 14 points.

Kidd scored on an alley-oop dunk and Nickel hit consecutive 3-pointers as the Hokies opened the second half on a 10-2 run for a 49-41 advantage and led the rest of the way. Cam Corhen made back-to-back dunks to pull Florida State to 52-51 with 12:04 remaining, but the Seminoles didn't get closer.

It was tied 39-all at halftime. Watkins led the Seminoles with 13 points. Cattoor and Pedulla



Brian Bishop/Patriot Publishing

See HOKIES, page B3 MJ Collins looks for someone to pass the ball to under the basket for Virginia Tech vs. Florida State.

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REAL ESTATE

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Cemetery Plots for sale: Two each, side-by-side located in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin. Lot No. 220, Block D, Units 1 and 2, Section 6 in Garden of the Gospels. Asking \$1,850 each. Call 336-858-8265.

ESTATE SALES

Estate/Yard Sale: 1508 Overton Drive, Pulaski, February 24, 2024, 8:00 AM to 4:00. A large sale, including all household items, furniture, refrigerator, garden tools, dishes, china, linen, etc. Too much to list.

WANTED

Looking for experienced seamstress in Pulaski County and towns of Pulaski and Dublin. Disabled Veteran needs adjustments to back braces, etc. Will bring work to your door if needed. Serious inquiries only please. Call anytime between 9 am and 10 pm 276-620-0591

FOR SALE: MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: 27.1 cubic foot Whirlpool two-door freezer and refrigerator with water and ice in door. Great shape. Call 540-509-5496.

For Sale: Shark Deluxe Rocket vacuum cleaner. Harley Davidson motorcycle helmet – bought new for \$260. For sale for \$100. Furniture. Call 540-230-5386.

For Sale: Three gaming chairs. Sold together. Excellent condition. Black with cup holders that light up blue. Located in Radford. Asking \$500 for all three. 276-237-8747.

Four Sale: Igloo dog house. Fits two large breed dogs or three

small breed dogs. In good shape, great for winter! Must pick up. With heated water bowls also available. Call 540-639-1530.

For Sale: Hospital type bed, like new. \$175. Exercise stationary bike, \$150. Call 540-674-5636. New wheelchair for \$175.

For Sale: 12 acres of timber including white oak, yellow pine, pine, white pine, chestnut oak and red oak. Asking \$14,000. Serious inquiries only. Call 540-980-4122.

Pear shaped diamond ring, 14K yellow gold, size 7, price reduced to \$475. Includes information card with details about the ring. Call 540-980-5361.

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LEGAL NOTICE

TRUSTEE SALE 5603 Alum Spring Rd, Pulaski, VA 24301 Pulaski County

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of **\$50,000.00**, dated **May 20, 2006** recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the **Pulaski County, Virginia**, in **Document No. 060003660**, at the request of the holder of the Note, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance to the **Circuit Court Building, located at 45 Third Street, Pulaski, on February 26, 2024 at 11:00 AM** the property described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described as: **Containing 2.000000000000 Acres, as more particularly described in a Deed recorded in Book 2003 Page 824, with any improvements thereon**

Subject to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, affecting the aforesaid property.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH: A deposit of **\$20,000.00** or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, cash or certified check will be required at the time of sale, but no more than \$10,000.00 of cash will be accepted, with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of

sale. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale which affects the validity of the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we advise you that this firm is a debt collector attempting to collect the indebtedness referred to herein and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C.,
Substitute Trustee
This is a communication from a debt collector.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C.
(86741)
448 Viking Drive Suite 350
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
757-457-1460 - Call Between
9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
or visit our website at
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Daytona

Continued From Page B1

a decade and has shown tremendous longevity as an artist over the years. He'll bring all the South Florida vibes and culture up here to put on quite the show for the 66th running of The Great American Race."

Pitbull announced the next iteration of the "TRACKHOUSE" album series, set for release in February. The lyrics and cover of the EP titled "TRACKHOUSE: Daytona 500 Edition" reflect key elements of NASCAR's biggest race. Pitbull joined Trackhouse Racing as a co-owner in 2021, connecting the world of music and racing to unite and inspire fans globally.

"It's an honor to once again be part of the Great American Race, this time performing at the DAYTONA 500," said Trackhouse team co-owner Armando Christian Perez (Pitbull). "So, Everyone start your engines, Get Ready and Dale!"

"Mr. Worldwide" has earned 46 total awards throughout his career, sold 25 million studio albums, has over 40 million monthly listeners on Spotify, and passed 18 billion YouTube views. Most recently his Billboard Hot 100 global hit "Give Me Everything," featuring Ne-Yo, Afrojack and Nayer surpassed 1 Billion streams on Spotify, his third record to join Spotify's billion streams club.

Bowman can tie Yarborough, Elliott, Baker for series lead in DAYTONA 500 poles

Hendrick Motorsports' Alex Bowman will be hunting for three qualifying records this week leading into the DAYTONA 500. The first record would be if he wins the pole on Wednesday, he will tie NASCAR Hall of Famers Bill Elliott (1985-87, 2001), Cale Yarborough (1968, '70, '78, '84) and Buddy Baker (1969, '73, '79, '80) for the all-time lead in DAYTONA 500 poles with four each. Bowman posted his third

DAYTONA 500 pole last season (2018, 2021, 2023).

The next record Bowman will be aiming to accomplish, will be extending his record of six straight starts on the front row for the DAYTONA 500 to seven. Bowman has not qualified worse than second in the Great American Race since 2018. Prior to Bowman reaching five straight, the previous record of consecutive front row starts in the DAYTONA 500 was three and it had occurred five times – Fireball Roberts (1961-1963), Richard Petty (1966-1968), Bill Elliott (1985-1987), Ken Schrader (1988-1990), Dale Earnhardt (1994-1996).

The third qualifying record dangling for Bowman to grab this week is if he wins the pole again this season, he will become just the sixth different driver to win consecutive DAYTONA 500 poles; joining Fireball Roberts (1961-1963), Buddy Baker (1979-1980), Bill Elliott (1985, 1986, 1987), Ken Schrader (1988, 1989, 1990) and his Hendrick Motorsports' teammate Chase Elliott (2016, 2017).

No greater victory than the Great American Race

Known as the biggest race in NASCAR, the DAYTONA 500 holds a special place in every stock car driver's heart. It's an instant catapult to fame for the victor. It's the pinnacle of a racer's career, the crowning achievement that all other drivers aspire to possess, and fans and media admire. The NASCAR Cup Series season-opener is unlike any other event and holds the prestige among its competitors due to its ever-changing difficulty to master,

Hokies

Continued From Page B1

each scored 11 first-half points for the Hokies.

Florida State, which has lost four of its last five, hosts No. 9 Duke on Saturday. Virginia Tech plays at seventh-ranked North Carolina on Saturday.

The Patriot / The Southwest Times - February 16, 2024 - PAGE B3

much less finish. And this year's Great American Race will undoubtedly bring all the action and excitement we have all grown to love and feverishly anticipate.

"It's always, for me, one of those 'pinch me' moments the first lap or two," said Chase Briscoe. "The prerace is crazy just knowing how many people are there, first off, but then even when you're in the car and going around there, just knowing there are millions and millions of people watching the race on TV. I've made it a point every year before we take the green flag to look up at the grandstands to take it all in, just knowing you get to run that race. It's super cool. There aren't many races in the world that have that kind of feel and effect to it. Definitely a cool one, and I'm excited to run another one, truthfully."

2024 Sunoco Rookie of the Year Class: Berry, Grala, Smith, Hocevar

This season four drivers will compete for the Sunoco Rookie of the Year honors in the NASCAR Cup Series – Stewart-Haas Racing's Josh Berry, Rick Ware Racing's Kaz Grala and Spire Motorsports teammates Zane Smith and Carson Hocevar. Note: Grala will run

majority of the season with RWR but will be attempting the DAYTONA 500 with Front Row Motorsports.

The Sunoco Rookie of the Year point system mirrors the points structure that awards the season-long championship, including stage points and Playoff points, with the eventual Sunoco Rookie of the Year earning the most points throughout the season.

As is the case with the season-long points structure, a race win will earn a Sunoco Rookie 40 points and five Playoff points. A second-place finish will earn a Sunoco Rookie 35 points; a third-place finish nets 34 points, and so on. A Sunoco Rookie who wins a stage will earn 10 points and one Playoff point.

Josh Berry – No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford – takes over the No. 4 previously driven by the recently retired Kevin Harvick and will be working with crew chief Rodney Childers this season.

Kaz Grala – No. 36 Front Row Motorsports Ford.

Zane Smith – No. 71 Spire Motorsports Chevrolet.

Carson Hocevar – No. 77 Spire Motorsports Chevrolet.

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316, -317
Case No. CA# 24-01
Bland County Circuit Court

Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* SHANE ALLEN COCHRAN and MIRANDA LEIGH COCHRAN, husband and wife
In Re: Adoption of a minor child to be known as CRC; born 09/15/2016

The object of this suit is to: Obtain a final order of adoption by step-parent of CRG to be known as CRC born 09/15/2016.

It is ORDERED that DUSTIN DUANE GARLAND appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before APRIL 16, 2024.

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

LISA A. HALL,
Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE



Public Notice Pulaski County Board of Supervisors

The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors will host a public hearing to consider this application for the Month of February. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, the Planning Commission will host a public hearing on this petition at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 26, 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. Special Exception Permit Application submitted by submitted by The Towers LLC d/ba/ The Towers of Virginia LLC ("Vertical Bridge") on behalf of Town of Pulaski located at Tax Map # 063-001-0000-0111, 3610 Robinson Tract Rd. Pulaski, VA 24301. Robinson District.
2. 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



Public Notice Pulaski County Board of Zoning Appeals

Notice is given pursuant to the Pulaski County Unified Development Ordinance and Section 15.2-2310 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, that a public hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, NW, Pulaski, VA 24301. The Pulaski County Board of Zoning Appeals is hosting a Public Hearing and will receive public comments in relationship to the applications as listed below:

1. Petition by AnB Investments LLC on behalf of T.J. Beckett & Wallace Andrus, Variance to Article 4.7 Minimum Lot Size and Minimum Structure Setback in a Low Density Residential Zone District, of the Pulaski County Unified Development Ordinance. The property is located at 5511& 5515 Dublin Dr. Dublin, VA 24084 Tax Map # 056-001-0000-0033, Draper District.

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, Pulaski, VA 24301.

If you are a disabled individual and would like special auxiliary aids or services, please contact the County's ADA Compliance Officer at (540) 980-7800 (TDD accessible) or (540) 980-7705, ten (10) days prior to the above meeting date.

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ003540-01-18
Radford Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court
Juvenile Division

Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* TALBERT, TRAVIS DEWAYNE, JR.

TRAVIS TALBERT AND SANDRA FLINCHUM v. RUBY LUCADO AND RUBY KATHERINE JONES

The object of this suit is FOR RUBY KATHERINE JONES TO APPEAR REGARDING A MOTION TO AMEND VISITATION FOR TRAVIS DEWAYNE TALBERT, JR.

It is ORDERED that RUBY KATHERINE JONES appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before MARCH 8, 2024 AT 10:30 A.M.

JANUARY 9, 2024

RUBY STUMP,
Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE



Public Notice Pulaski County Board of Supervisors

The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors intends to hold Public Hearings beginning at 7:00 p.m., or soon thereafter as can be heard, on Monday, February 26, 2024, in the Supervisors Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, N.W., Suite 1, in the Town of Pulaski to receive citizens' comments on the following matter:

- Adoption of a resolution by which the County of Pulaski would request the Commonwealth Transportation Board, and its designee, the Virginia Department of Transportation, (1) to prohibit use of Old Giles Road (Route 746) within the County of Pulaski by through tractor trailers, logging trucks, and similar large trucks (but not affecting pickup trucks and panel trucks), pursuant to Virginia Code §46.2-809; (2) to post appropriate signage on Old Giles Road (Route 746) (Giles Avenue) and Cleburne Boulevard of such prohibition ; and (3) to confirm that violation of such prohibition shall constitute a traffic infraction as provided in Virginia Code §46.2-830 (or any amendment thereto or replacement thereof).
- Adoption of the Proposed Amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance of the County of Pulaski, Virginia
- Adoption of Proposed Amendments to Ordinance Providing Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled

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

If you are a disabled individual and would like special auxiliary aids or services, please contact the County's ADA Compliance Officer at (540) 980-7800 (TDD accessible) or (540) 980-7705, ten (10) days prior to the above meeting date.

CHURCH

Church Directory



Journey To Faith

By Pat Priddy

Get Out Of Your Cage

It never ceases to amaze me how God uses different entities, objects, individuals, and even creatures to teach us as we strive to live out our lives on earth. If we will seek His wisdom and open our eyes and ears, He will speak to us. He recently taught me a powerful lesson through the life of my little cat, Ricky. Ricky has had many challenges in his life. He was hit by a car and injured as a young kitten. A good Samaritan found him and took him to a veterinarian for care. While Ricky was warm, well fed, and sheltered, he was in a cage most of his life. Though he had all his basic needs met for survival, what was missing was someone to want and love him for just who he was. The day I walked by his cage and he reached out for me with both arms, it was a match made in heaven. Bringing him home, Ricky has all his needs met, but most importantly, he also has my love and often undivided attention. Ricky is still affected by the trauma of his young life; he cannot stand to be in the house for more than 5 minutes before he is begging to get outside. Seemingly panicked, he must be free from what he perceives as another cage. Ricky lives to escape from any traps, and he cannot rest in any type of enclosed environment, no matter the size. His past continues to determine his future. The same may be true for you. Perhaps you were injured in your young life, and you are still trapped in its memories that affect your life today. I am here to tell you that the Lord died to deliver you from your traps. You are not who you were. You are not even who you think you were. You are a child of the living God who created you perfectly and lovingly in His image. His greatest desire is that you are freed from any past injuries or any sins committed against you. You have been chosen for a purpose far greater than you can imagine. Satan would like nothing better than to keep you in a cage of despair, grief, or even worthlessness. Break out of your cage! Your new life in Christ is before you! There is much work to do for the kingdom of God, and He is calling you to join forces with Him in this battle. May God continue to remind you of His great love for you. May His grace and mercy envelope you, and His compassion swell up in your heart. In Jesus Name, Amen

“Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.” Isaiah 49:13

Patricia Priddy Farrell’s gifts and talents include being a coach, speaker, retreat leader, student, teacher, and Lay Minister for the Global 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.

Patricia Priddy (Farrell), RN, MSN, CPVA, CEP
Life Coach, Lay Minister for the Global Methodist Church

- 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
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.
Tuesday Women's Bible Study: 11 a.m.
Wednesday Youth Bible Study, 7 p.m.
- Allisonia Pentecostal Holiness Church**
1560 Julia Simpkins Road
Allisonia, VA
Pastor Justin Phillips
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship: 6 p.m.
- First United Methodist Church**
301 N. Jefferson Ave. - Pulaski (physical)
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
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- 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
- Evangelists Jodie and Rosanna Whittaker**
Monday night services at 7 p.m.
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Conference Room
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services.
- 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
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**
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service and a 10:30am Eucharist service
with organ music and a Choir, with refresh-
ments 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.
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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

Mirrors



country appears to be coming apart at the seams. We have politicians who are as bad as the Scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees of the New Testament. Now we're hearing about artificial intelligence and the dangers it presents. Right now would be a good time for every one of us to look in the mirror and take stock of ourselves! We need to be brutally honest. Where do I stand with God?

I hope each of us see what the Apostle Paul saw, and can say what he said. In 2 Tim. 4:6-8 he said, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." He said I am ready, the time is at hand, I have fought a good fight, and I have kept the faith. What is waiting for you, a crown of righteousness or an eternity of darkness? Each of us would be wise to take a good look at ourselves and do whatever is needed to be ready for the rapture.

Hospital cyberattacks likely to increase

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cybersecurity experts are warning that hospitals around the country are at risk for attacks like the one that is crippling operations at a premier Midwestern children's hospital, and that the U.S. government is doing too little prevent such breaches. Hospitals in recent years have shifted their use of online technology to support everything from telehealth to medical devices to patient records. Today, they are a favorite target for internet thieves who hold systems' data and networks hostage for hefty ransoms, said John Riggi, the American Hospital Association's cybersecurity adviser. "Unfortunately, the unintended consequence of the use of all this network and internet connected technology is it expanded our digital attack surface," Riggi said. "So, many more opportunities for bad guys to penetrate our networks."

The assailants often operate from American adversaries such as Russia, North Korea and Iran, where they enjoy big payouts from their victims and face little prospect of ever being punished. In November, a ransomware attack on a health care chain that operates 30 hospitals and 200 health facilities in the United States forced doctors to divert patients from emergency rooms and postpone elective surgeries. Meanwhile, a rural Illinois hospital announced it was permanently closing last year because it couldn't recover financially from a cyberattack. And hackers went as far as posting photos and patient information of breast cancer patients who

Some people love mirrors, and some people hate them. The purpose of a mirror is to show you what you look like. There are thirteen mirrors in our house, not counting the hand-held ones. I don't like what the mirrors show me because they verify what the scales tell me. But, they are truthful. When speaking to the Corinthian church about communion, the Apostle Paul said that we should examine ourselves, or take a look in the spiritual mirror. James 1:23, 24 says, "For if any be a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." The NLT makes it a little clearer. It reads, "For if you listen to the Word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like." We need to take a good look at ourselves spiritually and see how we measure up according to God's Word.

The days in which we live demand we take a good look at ourselves. Everything seems to be saying, the rapture of the Church is about to happen and we need to be ready. Jesus shares some truths with us in the story of the ten virgins. (Mt. 25:1-10) Every person has to do their own preparations for the coming of the Lord. We must be awake, alert, and watching. It's a time to be listening for the call.

We have wars and rumors of wars. We have had a spy balloon be allowed to fly over our nation with no consequences. Most of the world is against God's chosen people. Our

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalms 31:7-8

I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul. You have not given me into the hands of the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place.

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I A A L O V E W D G
S C P S E T E E F L
H E S R N E V I G A
F O R E J O I C E D

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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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
Interim Pastor: Tupper Garden
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
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Week

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Answers

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

GOD
IS MY PEUGE
† AND MY †
FORTRESS
PSALM 91:2

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

For thus says the High and Lofty One
Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
"I dwell in the high and holy place,
With him who has a contrite and humble spirit,
To revive the spirit of the humble,
And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

ISAIAH 57:15-19

Detail of "Landscape with Sunset" by Herman van Swanevelt (1655)

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See ATTACKS, page B10

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Is the book of Valentin (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. From 1 John 3:18, "Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in ..."? Hope, Abundance, Touch, Truth
 3. In Proverbs 10:12, "Hatred stirreth up strifes, but love covereth all ..."? Sins, Beings, Creation, Enemies
 4. Which Old Testament book reads like a love story? Ruth, Daniel, Habakkuk, Song of Solomon
 5. Where does one find the phrase "God is love"? Genesis, Nehemiah, Hebrews, 1 John
 6. From Hebrews 13:4, what is honorable in all? Love, Trust, Marriage, Worship
- ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Truth, 3) Sins, 4) Song of Solomon, 5) 1 John (4:8, 16), 6) Marriage
- Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com.



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



OLIVE



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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: U equals H

SY CZJB T YOQ QCWPOWV
WOITSZOR TL LUO HOIOLOWB,
S'R HTJJ LUTL T VPOJOLCZ
HWOQ.

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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!

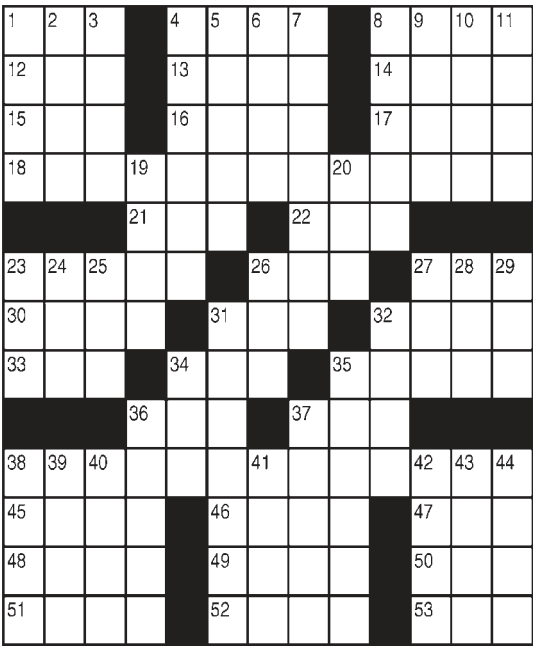
Native ITCHEN
Dismay LAMAR
Give ATONED
Force IPOEMS

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Kapow!"
4 React in horror
8 Pitcher Nolan
12 Flamenco cheer
13 Genesis shepherd
14 Spanish greeting
15 Squealer
16 Drive- -- window
17 "-- the picture!"
18 2014 biopic about actress Kelly
21 Rowing tool
22 Expert
23 Japanese verse
26 Glutton
27 Ultramodernist
30 Rhine feeder
31 Golf prop
32 Basketball tactic
33 Tibetan beast
34 4, on a phone
35 Dollar divisions
36 Observe
37 Texter's chuckle
38 Where something is created
45 QB Tony
46 Ocho --,



- Jamaica
Hollywood's Thurman
Country singer Jackson
Gaelic
Fuel stat
Partner
Bump into
Sound from a hot wok
McEnroe's rival
Winged
Transcending (Pref.)
Fancy cake
Loathe
Lowly worker
Fruit-filled dessert
Horned beast
Meditative practice
Mr. Guinness
Post-WWII alliance
Pepsi rival
URL ending
Stable diet?
Small battery
Annoy
JFK Library architect
Convent resident
Tolkien creature
Approves
Math statement
Sub shop
"My word!"
Waist-cinching garment
Tea biscuit
Unfettered
Baby carriage
"Damn Yankees" role
Latin 101 word
Blaze
Periodontist's concern
Rapsallions
Kvetches

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top ten
Most Common Causes of
HOUSE FIRES
1. Equipment and Appliances
2. Electrical Devices and Systems
3. Candles
4. Smoking
5. Chemicals and Gas
6. Holiday Decorations
7. Lightning
8. BBQ Grill
9. Children
10. Ordinary Fires That Go Wrong
Source: National Fire Protection Association
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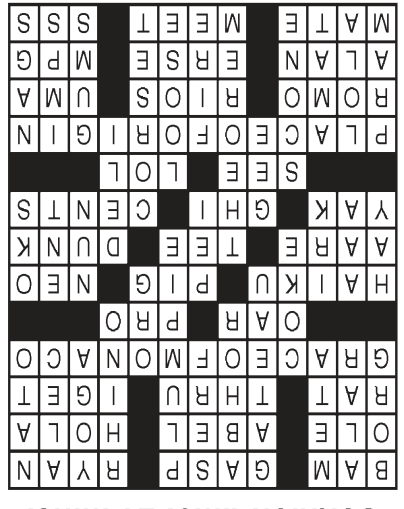
? Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez
1. TELEVISION: Which popular Netflix series features groups of teens nicknamed "Kooks" and "Pogues"?
2. HISTORY: When did Facebook launch?
3. MUSIC: Which pop music singer had hits with songs like "Changes" and "Let's Dance"?
4. GEOGRAPHY: What country possesses the Isle of Wight?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of peacocks called?
6. AD SLOGANS: Which company's advertising slogan is "the ultimate driving machine"?
7. LANGUAGE: What is the Latin phrase often shortened to "i.e."?
8. MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the maze that confined the Minotaur?
9. MOVIES: Which movie has the tagline, "Mischief. Mayhem. Soap."?
10. LITERATURE: Shakespeare is believed to have written approximately how many plays?

WORD LADDERS
Can you go from PEAKY to PARIS in 6 words?
Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.
PEAKY

PARIS
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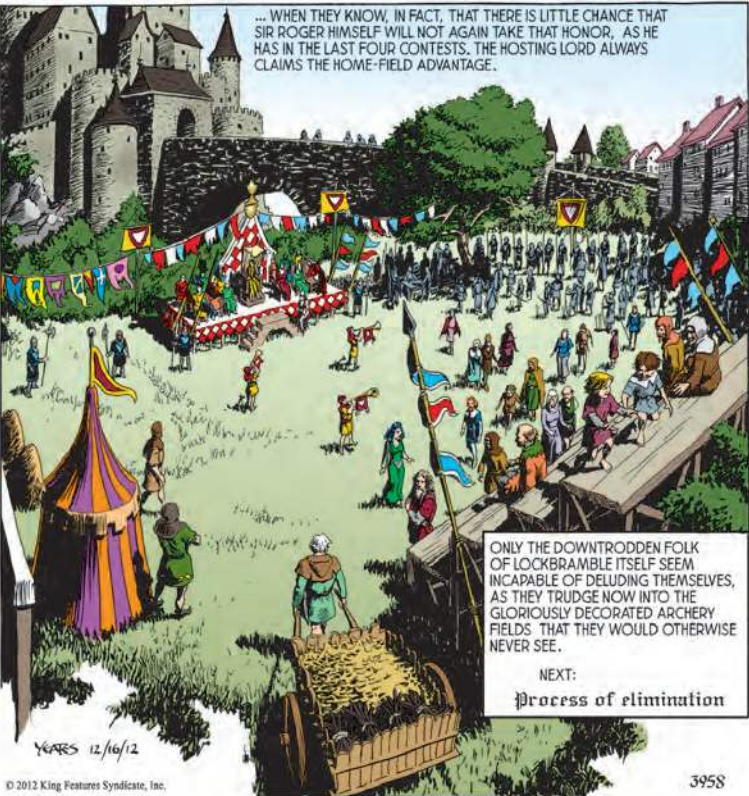
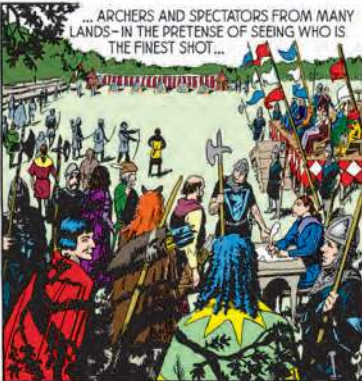
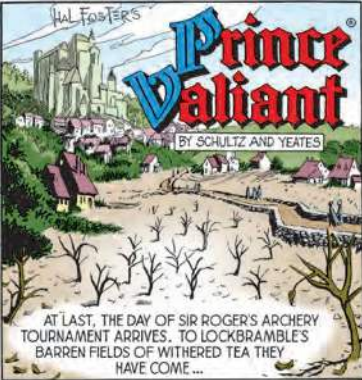
SCRAMBLERS
Today's Word
1. Alarm
2. Alarm
3. Donate
4. Impose
MOTHER

WORD LADDER
Answer
PEAKY, PERKY, PERKS, PARKS, PARTS, PARIS



Solution time: 21 mins.
Answers
King Crossword

Americanisms
"We are apt to forget that children watch examples better than they listen to preaching."
— Roy L. Smith
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Here's a Tip!

* From L.D.W. in Illinois: "When I have a recipe, I put all the ingredients on the counter, and as I use each one, I put it away. My daughter and daughter-in-law like the idea, as they at one time or another forget an item." I like that one, too, L.D.W. A well-prepared cook makes a delicious meal.

* "To wrap a baby gift in unforgettable gift wrap, circle the announcement in the paper with a colorful marker, then use the newsprint to wrap your package. It has always gotten rave reviews from recipients." -- R.L. in Virginia

* Another reason to get the newspaper: Crushed newspaper makes a great rag for shining windows in your home and in the car. No lint left behind!

* "When thickening soup, don't overlook instant potato mix. It's perfect for making a thin broth into a nice, thick stew sauce, and it's pretty cheap. It only takes a couple of tablespoons." -- I.F. in Utah

* Want delicious fried chicken crust but not the dripping oil? Baste chicken pieces with mayonnaise, then dredge in crushed cracker crumbs mixed

with a bit of flour. Bake and enjoy.

* If your plastic food containers develop an unpleasant odor, never fear: Scrub with a paste of baking soda and lemon juice. Rinse and air-dry.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

The Patriot
540-808-3949

Top Ten in Movies

- Argylle (PG-13) Henry Cavill, Bryce Dallas Howard
- The Chosen: S4.E1 NR Shahar Isaac, Paras Patel
- The Beekeeper (R) Jason Statham, Emmy Raver-Lampman
- Wonka (PG) Timothee Chalamet, Gustave Die
- Migration (PG) Kumail Nanjiani, Elizabeth Banks
- Mean Girls (PG-13) Angourie Rice, Renee Rapp
- Anyone But You (R) Sydney Sweeney, Glen Powell
- American Fiction (R) Jeffrey Wright, Tracee Ellis Ross
- Poor Things (R) Emma Stone, Mark Ruffalo
- Aquaman and the Lost

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HEBYVTQOALHIGDB
YWTRPMKITFDSPMU
BYWUSQGNIHCR AOS
MKIFDBZNF SYARSM
XWUSQOISITCHEDA
NLJHFADCELANGYE
WVTSRQPNDGLGNUR
LKIHFECBZLAOART
YWVUSRQPIYAWRIA

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: **Falling Condensed Moisture**

- Ages

Airway

Archery

Art
- Ashes

Illness

Itched

Ranger
- Ratified

Rays

Reams

Rolling
- Rung

Umps

Utter

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CryptoQuote

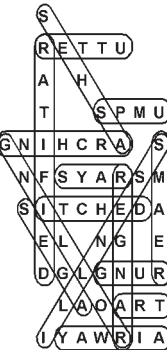
AXYDLBAAXR is **LONGFELLOW**

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

G BT HFX PGEXEH TBO BIGUX,
KWJ G VOWP WOX HFGOY, BON
HFBH GE HFBH G VOWP
OWHFGOY.
— EWMJBHXE

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START WITH AN "ST" TO MAKE A NEW WORD



Noon Wednesday
Is Our Deadline Each
Week For News & Ads
The Patriot
&
The Southwest Times
540-808-3949

CryptoQuote

answer

I am the wisest man alive,
for I know one thing, and
that is that I know
nothing.
— Socrates

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**The Patriot**
540-808-3949

PULASKI COUNTY PULSE

Feb. 19

Monday Gospel Sing

Monday Gospel Sing Gospel Sing 9:30-11:00 a.m. every Monday, Pulaski Church Of God, 1621 Bob White Blvd., near Food City. Enjoy great traditional music and fellowship. Come and go as you please. Great way to start your week and make new friends. Park in lower lot and use elevator to second floor.

Feb. 25

Special Service

Pastor Bill Schoeneman and congregation of Trinity United Methodist Church invite you to a special service

on Feb. 25 at 9:45 a.m. See, hear and experience a blank, gray canvas transform into a beautiful illustration of scripture with Evangelist Dwight Haynes of www.chalktalks.net The church is located at 526 5th Street S.E. in Pulaski. Snowdate is March 3. For more information call 540-695-0334.

On going:

Monday Services

Evangelists Jodie and Rosanna Whittaker - Monday night services at 7 p.m. at the Quality Inn in Dublin Conference Room. 540-674-1100 - You're invited to attend powerful spirit-filled

services.

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.

Double Benefits for Education

Per a Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General (VAOIG) report, veterans who are enrolled at the same time in two different education programs are receiving housing allowance benefits from both.

The two programs are the Post-9/11 GI Bill and VET TEC. Oddly enough, there's no prohibition against the double payments because the way that the VET TEC program was established isn't the same as other education programs (such as the Montgomery GI Bill) that specifically ban dual benefits. In other programs, a veteran must choose between one set of benefits or the other.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill program consists of three or four years of benefits that include books and supplies, tuition and a housing allowance.

The VET TEC program focuses on high-tech training through specific providers. Benefits include the cost of classes and a housing allowance.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) took 30 random veterans to study and determined that all of them received dual housing allowance benefits, averaging \$3,100.

They were also able to identify 249 veterans whose training and education programs overlapped,



by Freddy Groves

and calculated how many days that included and how much in housing benefits were paid. In the first example in the OIG report, the veteran received over \$12,000 for 105 overlapping days. In the second example, the veteran received nearly \$11,000 for 58 overlapping days.

The VBA tried, says the report, to halt the dual housing payments. They were informed by attorneys that it wouldn't be "veteran-friendly" to reduce benefits and that no laws were being broken in paying the dual benefits. Only in other programs was the veteran required to only pick one program for benefits.

Congress stepped in with bill amendments to continue the VET TEC program past the end of the pilot period (the five-year pilot will end in April 2024), but according to the OIG report, the bills don't prevent "the concurrent receipt of educational benefits, including monthly housing allowance payments."

If you'd like to read the whole report, go to <http://tinyurl.com/43z96am2>.

Dear Dave,

I'm a single mom, and I opened my own small business last year. The business isn't growing at all, and my mom and dad are helping me with the bills. On top of all this, I don't receive any child support payments from my ex-husband. But my biggest concern is our home. I bought it four years ago, and when I opened my business, I did it with a home equity loan. Do you have any advice?

Tammy

Dear Tammy,

You need to close up your business, at least temporarily, and go find some money-making work. I'm sorry to be so blunt, but you've got a really big mess on your hands.

Long story short, the money you make at another full-time job is likely to decide whether you can stay in your home. If you've got a mortgage, home equity loan and business debts hanging over your head, the chances of this are slim. You probably need to consider the idea moving into a small, affordable apartment for a while, too. If you do this, get your debts paid off and your finances back in order—which includes living on a budget and saving—you might be able to buy a house again in a few years.

I know the idea of giving up your home and business is hurtful, but sometimes when you have a serious illness, extensive surgery is needed to fix the problem. And right now, you've got a very serious financial illness.

I want you to understand how I'm looking at this, Tammy. The house alone is not the problem. You borrowed money to open a business, and that was your first mistake. You also have no savings, which is another mistake, and now your business isn't making a profit. See how all of it combined adds up into one big mess?

I love your spirit, and the fact that you want to be an



Dave Says

Dave Ramsey

entrepreneur. But you've got to get control of your money first. If you don't, this thing will eat you alive.

—Dave

Dear Dave,

Our son has been married for about three years, and he and his wife are having

financial problems. He wants to live on a budget and save money, while she hates the idea of budgeting, and always wants to buy expensive things. They make enough to get by, but they're not rich. How should we handle it when he asks us for advice?

Stan

Dear Stan,

If he can't get her to realize these habits are hurting them and their financial future, and if it's an issue they're going to continually butt heads over, it would be smart for them to sit down with a good marriage counselor or pastor.

Attacks

Continued From Page B7

were receiving treatment at a Pennsylvania health network after the system was hacked last year.

Now, one of the top children's hospitals in the country, the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, has been forced to put its phone, email and medical record systems offline as it battles a cyberattack. The FBI has said it is investigating.

Brett Callow, an analyst for the cybersecurity firm Emsisoft, counted 46 cyberattacks on hospitals last year, compared with 25 in 2022. The paydays for criminals have gotten bigger too, with the average payout jumping from \$5,000 in 2018 to \$1.5 million last year.

"Unless governments do something more meaningful, more significant than they have done to date, it's inevitable that it'll get worse," Callow said.

Callow believes the government should ban cyberattack victims such as hospitals, local governments and schools from paying ransoms. "There's so much money being paid into the ransomware system now there's no way the problem is going to simply go away on itself," he said.

The dramatic increase in these online raids has prompted the nation's top health agency to develop new rules for hospitals to protect themselves from cyber threats.

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FEBRUARY IS TAJI 100 MONTH!

Since 2010 Taji 100 has promoted health and fitness while supporting military related nonprofit charity organizations

The mission of Taji 100 is to encourage health and fitness by promoting an active lifestyle. Taji100 raises awareness and support for American military service men and women.

<https://taji100.com/race/>

The U.S. Veterans Network is a peer support group of veterans and service members networking together to help veterans and service members to find resources and help while transitioning back into civilian life.

<https://www.usvn.org/>

The USVN has a discord server for fast communication and assistance

<https://discord.com/invite/usvn>

In February 2024 The USVN is running, walking, cycling, swimming, and rowing to raise support and awareness for Team Red White & Blue. All support goes directly to Team RWB

<https://taji100.com/teams/united-states-veterans-network-usvn/sponsor/>

Team RWB is a registered non-profit organization helping service members and veterans transition back to civilian life through health, wellness, and fitness.

<https://teamrwb.org/mission>

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