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Va. Democrats sending gun control bills to Gov.

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Dozens of pieces of gun-related legislation that advocates say will bolster public safety are winding their way through Virginia's Democratic-controlled General Assembly, including a measure that would halt the sale of certain semi-automatic firearms.

The question hanging over all the bills is: Just how many will Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin veto?

Youngkin, who generally toed the GOP party line on firearms rhetoric in his campaign but notably did not receive the endorsement of the National Rifle Association, is a former private equity executive whose first two years in public office were spent with a GOP majority in the state House of Delegates that largely prevented Democratic gun bills from reaching his desk.

After that chamber flipped in November's elections, the governor signaled to lawmakers

in a speech on the session's opening day that he wanted to see bills that would tighten the penalties on criminals who use guns rather than legislation further restricting the purchase and use of firearms. Still, he's been assiduously quiet about where he might wield his veto pen, as he navigates a divided government dynamic and negotiations with the new Democratic legislative majority over a proposed sports arena deal in northern Virginia.

Youngkin's press office did not directly respond to questions about his position on a range of bills but said he would review any legislation that comes to his desk.

The administration's silence has left advocates on both sides of the issue uncertain of the final outcome.

"He basically telegraphed a message of, 'If you're going to send me more gun control, I'm not going to be happy with it.' But that's all we know," said Philip Van Cleave, president of the Virginia Citizens Defense League, a grassroots gun-rights group.

Among the dozens of gun bills sponsored this year by Democratic lawmakers — who do not have the numbers to override a Youngkin veto — is legislation that would prohibit the importation, sale, manufacture, purchase or transfer of an "assault firearm" made on or after July 1 of this year. Possession of such a weapon would be banned for those under 21, and the measure would also prohibit the sale of certain ammunition-feeding

See GUNS, page A2

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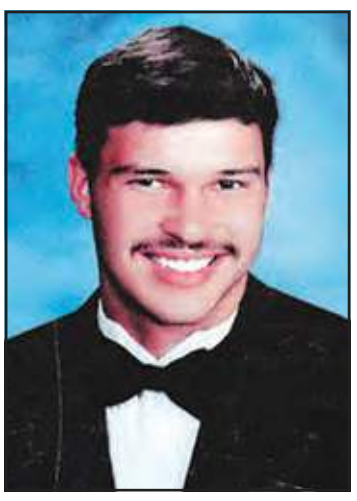
PCHS' Camden Hite selected as DAR Good Citizen of Year

Camden Thompson Hite, a senior at Pulaski County High School, has been selected as the DAR Good Citizen for this school year, sponsored by the Count Pulaski Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Hite is the sone of Jamie T. Hite of Fairlawn.

Camden has been an exceptional student and has participated in many extracurricular activities both at school and in his community. He has organized Christmas food drives for the past 11 years, been a church greeter and church nursery school volunteer. As well as being an honor student, his high school activities include National Honor Society, varsity



Camden Thompson Hite

tennis, honor roll for four years, NRV Leading Lights Nominee for 2022 and a member of the Homecoming Court.

He exemplifies the qualities which the Good Citizen program recognizes.

He plans to attend college after which he plans to explore all career opportunities and be a successful and giving community member.

The DAR Good Citizen program recognizes outstanding young people who exhibit the qualities of good citizenship in their homes, school and communities and is intended to encourage and reward these students. This program is open to all high school seniors in public or private schools accredited by their state board

See HITE, page A2

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Guns

Continued From Page A1

devices that can hold over 10 rounds.

Republicans and other opponents have questioned the constitutionality of the measure that would impact the sale of new models of the popular AR-15.

Proponents have argued it would limit the number of "weapons of war" available for sale in the future, along with high-capacity magazines that have been used in mass shootings.

On Wednesday, the Senate passed the legislation on a party-line vote after a lengthy debate in which one GOP legislator warned it would ultimately be vetoed. A House version cleared that chamber last week, also along party lines.

Other gun-control proposals making their way through the General Assembly with Democratic support include measures that would ban assault weapons in public areas, ban plastic guns able to be missed by metal detectors, and prohibit the concealed carry of a gun by most people onto the premises of a restaurant or club that sells alcohol. Additional bills would create a civil penalty for people who leave guns unattended and visible in a motor vehicle, and require people purchasing a gun to complete a firearms safety course or otherwise "demonstrate competence" with a firearm.

"We're hopeful that if the governor wants to keep Virginia safe that he'll sign these bills into law," said Mike Fox, a volunteer who helps lead the Virginia chapter of Moms Demand Action.

Meanwhile, a small handful of bills are moving toward Youngkin's desk with broad bipartisan support.

One would expand the types of firearm safety devices eligible for a previously enacted tax credit. Another would ban auto sears, which convert semi-automatic handguns into automatic weapons. Older ones permissible under federal law would be allowed, according to Van Cleave.

A third measure aims to provide a legal mechanism for parents to be charged with a felony under the state's child abuse and neglect law if they allow a child who is known to be a danger to have access to a firearm, said the measure's sponsor, Democratic Sen. Schuyler VanValkenburg.

VanValkenburg said he worked on the bill with the family of Lucia Bremer, a 13-year-old suburban Richmond girl who was shot nine times after she and a friend walked home from school in 2021.

A teenager, who was 14 at the time but was tried as an adult, pleaded guilty last year to first-degree murder and other charges in Bremer's killing. But the teen's legal guardian, who was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, a misdemeanor, on the basis of the boy having access to the gun, was found not guilty.

"Lucia died on the floor of a garage while I stroked her hair and I tried to will her back to life. Lucia is dead in part because an adult gun owner made a choice to leave his firearm easily accessible to his teenager," Bremer's mother, Meredith Bremer, told a Senate committee.

The bill cleared a Senate committee on a bipartisan 13-0 vote with two Republican abstentions.

When Van Cleave stood to speak against the bill, he faced sharp questioning from Sen. Mark Peake, a Republican of Lynchburg, who asked that gun-rights groups meet with VanValkenburg to find compromise.

The Democratic legislative majorities have also rejected a range of GOP-sponsored gun bills, including a measure that would have increased the mandatory minimum sentence for the use or display of a firearm during the commission of certain felonies.

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The Patriot

Country star, Keith dies of cancer at 62

By KRISTIN M. HALL
AP Entertainment Writer

Toby Keith, a hit country crafter of pro-American anthems who both riled up critics and was loved by millions of fans, has died. He was 62.

The "Should've Been a Cowboy" singer-songwriter, who had stomach cancer, died peacefully Monday surrounded by his family, according to a statement posted on the country singer's website. "He fought his fight with grace and courage," the statement said. He announced his cancer diagnosis in 2022.

The 6-foot-4 singer broke out in the country boom years of the 1990s, writing songs that fans loved to hear. Over his career he publicly clashed with other celebrities and journalists and often pushed back against record executives who wanted to smooth his rough edges.

He was known for his overt patriotism on post 9/11 songs like "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue," and boisterous barroom tunes like "I Love This Bar" and "Red Solo Cup." He had a powerful booming voice, a tongue-in-cheek sense of humor and range that carried love songs as well as drinking songs.

Among his 20 No. 1 Billboard hits were "How Do You Like Me Now?!," "As Good As I Once Was," "My List" and "Beer for My Horses," a duet with Willie Nelson. His influences were other working class songwriters like Merle Haggard and tallied more than 60 singles on the Hot Country chart over his career.

Throughout the cancer treatments, Keith continued to perform, most recently playing in Las Vegas in December. He also performed on the People's Choice Country Awards in 2023 as he sang his song "Don't Let the Old Man In."

"Cancer is a roller coaster," he told KWTV during an interview aired last month. "You just sit here and wait on it to go away. It might never go away."

Keith worked as a roughneck in the oil fields of Oklahoma as a young man, then played semi-pro football before launching his career as a singer.

"I write about life, and I sing about life, and I don't overanalyze things," Keith told The Associated Press in 2001, following the success of his song "I'm Just Talking About Tonight."

Keith learned good lessons in the booming oil fields, which toughened him up, but also showed him the value of money.

"The money to be made was unbelievable," Keith told the AP in 1996. "I came out of high school in 1980 and they gave me this job December of 1979, $50,000 a year. I was 18-years-old."

But the domestic oil field industry collapsed and Keith had not saved. "It about broke us," he said. "So I just learned. I've taken care of my money this time."

Hite

Continued From Page A1

of education.

The student selected as the school's DAR Good Citizen must have the following qualities:

Dependability (truthfulness, honest, punctuality, etc.)

Service (cooperation, helpfulness, responsibility, etc.)

Leadership (personality, self-control, initiative, etc.)

Patriotism (unselfish loyalty to American ideals.)

Camden will be recognized by Count Pulaski Chapter in April and will be presented with a pin, certificate and other gifts. He will be recognized at the Pulaski County High School Awards Assembly at the end of the school year.

The Count Pulaski Chapter is one chapter of the National Society of the American Revolution which strives to preserve the heritage and history of the United States of America. This chapter meets on the first Monday of every month at the Wilderness Road Regional Museum in Newbern at 1 p.m.

Membership in the Society if open to any female over 18 years of age.

Please contact Chapter Regent Pegg Hemmings at 540-674-6125 if interested in joining.

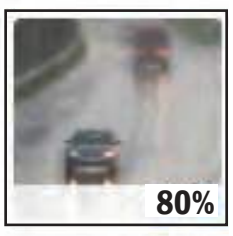
WEATHER

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy, with a high at 62.Chance of rain 60%.

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy, high near 58. Chance of rain is 30%.



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Many Americans now saddled with credit card debt

NEW YORK (AP) — While the U.S. economy is broadly healthy, pockets of Americans have run through their savings and run up their credit card balances after battling inflation for more than two years.

Experts worry that members of these groups -- mostly lower- and middle-income Americans, who tend to be renters -- are falling behind on their debts and could face further deterioration of their financial health in the year ahead, particularly those who have recently resumed paying off student loans.

"The U.S. economy is currently performing better than most forecasters expected a year ago, thanks in large part to a resilient consumer," wrote Shernette McLoud, an economist with TD Economics, in a report issued Wednesday. "However, more recently that spending is increasingly being financed by credit cards."

Americans held more than $1.05 trillion on their credit cards in the third quarter of 2023, a record, and a figure certain to grow once the fourth-quarter data is released by Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. next month. A recent report from the credit rating company Moody's showed that credit card delinquency rates and charge-off rates, or the percent of loans that a bank believes will never be repaid, are now well above their 2019 levels and are expected to keep climbing.

These worrisome metrics coincide with the average interest rate on a bank credit card of roughly 21.5%, the highest it's been since the Federal Reserve started tracking the data in 1994.

"Overall, the consumer is credit healthy. However, the reality is that there are starting to be some significant signs of stress," said Silvio Tavares, president and CEO of VantageScore, one of the country's two major credit scoring systems.

Most analyses of Americans' financial health tend to tell a tale of two consumers. On one side are the roughly two-thirds of Americans who own their homes and those who've invested in the stock market and done substantially well. They generally had the savings cushion necessary to weather high inflation. Delinquency rates on single-family homes remain at near historic lows and home prices have continued to climb.

But for the rest of America, things are looking rough.

"You have these noticeable pockets of consumers -- mostly middle- and lower-income renters who have not benefitted from the wealth effect of higher housing prices and stock prices -- who are feeling financial stress and that's driving up these delinquency levels. They've been hit very hard by inflation," said Warren Kornfeld, a senior vice president at Moody's, in an interview.

Kornfeld, who co-wrote a report last week looking at the climbing levels of delinquencies, expects them to keep climbing this year.

Consumers' financial health could play a big role in the 2024 election. President Joe Biden is running in part on his efforts to bring down costs for U.S. families. Republicans counter that Biden is to blame for higher costs in the first place.

One way to gauge this bifurcation of the American economy is by looking at the results of some major credit card companies. The customers of Capital One, Discover Financial and Synchrony have historically been those with lower credit scores, while American Express typically serves the wealthiest and well-to-do.

At Synchrony Bank, the largest issuer of retail co-brand credit cards, the charge-off rate jumped from 3.5% to 5.6% in a year. Meanwhile, roughly 4.7% of Synchrony customers are 30 days or more behind on their bills, which is also up from a year ago.

Discover's customers are carrying $102 billion in balances on their credit cards, up 13% from a year earlier. Meanwhile, the charge-off rates and 30-day delinquency rates have climbed. Executives say they can see the impact of inflation.

"Think about a consumer that makes $50,000 a year," said John Green, Discover's chief financial officer, at an investor conference in December. "When inflation outpaces your wage growth, they're making choices in terms of what they're going to spend, what bill they're going to pay and what they're going to frankly put on their table."

Inflation peaked at 9.1% in June 2022 and is now slightly above 3%. But the costs of many goods and services remains elevated. A loaf of bread that cost $1.54 in December 2020 cost $2.02 at the end of last year, and a gallon of gas has risen from an average of $2.17 to $3.29 in the same timeframe, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Renters in particular have felt the pinch. The median rent for a property with up to two bedrooms has jumped from $1,424 at the end of 2020 to $1,713 at the end of last year, according to realtor.com.

VantageScore's Tavares worries that the recent reintroduction of student loan payments could more acutely impact these customers in their ability to repay their debts.

"Folks are scrambling to pay these obligations that they haven't had to pay in three years, and it's hitting exactly the demographic we are talking about here: the younger folk, less affluent folk," Tavares said.

American Express has also seen its charge-offs and delinquencies climb in the past year, but not as much as its competitors. Historically, AmEx has catered to customers with higher credit scores who pay off their cards at the end of each month. But even AmEx customers are now carrying a balance more regularly.

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Pulaski County land transfers

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

Charlee Nicole Saul to Maya Devi Detmold, property at 1377 Lakewood Drive, Pulaski, $184,900.

James R. Brewer to Matthew C. Linkous, property at 1608 Peppers Ferry Road, Pulaski, $214,900.

H&L Properties Section B, LLC to Nicci D Meredith, property at 403 S. Madison Avenue, Pulaski, $123,000.

Barney R. Moore to Cassandra M. Ramos, property at 644 Cardinal Drive, Pulaski, $300,000.

Wendy M. Hodge to Lucas Edwards, property at 121 8th Street N.E., Pulaski, $198,500.

Gary Hancock to Hunter K. Arehart, property at 2664 Old Baltimore Road, Draper, $375,000.

Nancy Ellen Vest to Laura D. Turner, property at 3638 Draper Lane, Pulaski, $85,000.

Danny A. Simmons to Curtis Corvin, property at 4471 Draper Valley Road, Draper, $160,000.

Jesse Lee Gates to Ashley Wyrick, property at 1017 Wisler Place, Pulaski, $90,000.

Terri B. Shelor, Executor to Wayne Burnett Heath, property in Fair Acres, Dublin, $250,000.

Derek L. Tate to Cody Russell Hamilton, 9.7 acres at 3580 Waveland Farm Lane, Draper, $26,500.

Derek L. Tate to Carrie L. Gilboy, 33.4 acres at 3580 Waveland Farm Lane, Draper, $265,000.

Dwane L. Williams to Samuel Jacob Gemoets, property at 4521 Draper Valley Road, Draper, $307,000.

Joseph E. Roop to Dwane L. Williams, property at 5839 Douglas Street, Dublin, $239,000.

H&L Properties Section A, LLC to Damion Oakley Wheeling, property at 4849 Veterans Hill Road, Pulaski, $125,000.

John S. Edwards to Victoria Mabry Smith, property at 4615 Clarks Ferry Road, Draper, $245,000.

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

The Patriot
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Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY
FOR A PRUDENCY REVIEW,
PURSUANT TO § 56-585.1:4 H OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA,
WITH RESPECT TO THE PURCHASE OF ENERGY,
CAPACTIY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES
FROM SOLAR FACILITIES THROUGH
POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS
CASE NO. PUR-2023-00212

On January 11, 2024, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company"), pursuant to § 56-585.1:4 H of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), filed a petition ("Petition") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for a prudency determination with respect to three power purchase agreements ("PPAs") that the Company seeks to add to its portfolio of renewable energy used to comply with the Renewable Portfolio Standards ("RPS") established by the Virginia Clean Economy Act. Pursuant to Code § 56-585.1:4 H, the Commission must issue a final order regarding the Petition within three months of the date of filing.

The Company states that the PPAs and the solar projects ("Projects") that are the subject of this Petition are:

• Elliot Solar, which is a 5 megawatt ("MW") solar facility located in Tazewell County, Virginia, with an expected commercial operations date in late 2025. APCo and the developer, Inovateus, entered into a 20-year PPA for the facility's output.

• County Line Solar, which is a 150 MW solar facility located in Charlotte County, Virginia, with an expected commercial operations date in late 2026. APCo and the developer, Competitive Power Ventures, entered into a 20-year PPA for the facility's output.

• 7 Bridges Solar, which is an 80 MW solar facility located in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, with an expected commercial operations date in late 2026. APCo and the developer, Longroad, entered into a 30-year PPA for the facility's output.

The Company asks that the Commission determine that the execution of the PPAs will be prudent additions to the Company's RPS compliance portfolio. The Company asserts the PPAs were selected after a competitive and robust bidding process, due diligence and contract negotiations. According to the Petition, the Projects will help the Company comply at a reasonable cost with the RPS requirements (by producing approximately 1.0 million renewable energy certificates annually on a Virginia retail basis). The Company asserts that the PPAs will also allow APCo to reduce the amount of power purchased from the PJM energy markets. APCo further asserts that the PPAs will produce carbon-free energy thereby advancing the Commonwealth Clean Energy Policy.

According to the Petition, as the Projects are not expected to go online until after the rate year in the Company's next RPS compliance filing, expected to be filed in April 2024, the Company will not seek cost recovery related to the PPAs from Virginia customers until 2025.

The details of these and other proposals are set forth in the Company's Petition. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Petition and supporting exhibits for the details of the proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo's Petition. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Company's Petition shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on March 6, 2024. On or before February 26, 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 scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on March 6, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On March 6, 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 Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission 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.

Electronic copies of the public version of the Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, Noelle J. Coates, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, njcoates@aep.com.

On or before February 26, 2024, any interested person may submit written comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.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 comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00212.

On or before February 16, 2024, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.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 Company. Pursuant to Rule 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 Rule 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00212.

On or before February 16, 2024, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.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 Company, and all other respondents simultaneous 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-2023-00212.

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

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

OBITUARIES

DALLAS EVANGELINE TOWNLEY

Dallas Evangeline Townley, age 78 of Dublin passed away Monday, February 5, 2024 at her home. Born February 13, 1945 in Patterson, Virginia she was the daughter of the late Jessie Harmon Young and Polly Nancy Henley Young. She was also preceded in death by her sisters Charlotte Clark, Bonnie McGraw, Wilma Nester and Louise Hubbard.

She is survived by her

Sons – Cletis Townley – Pulaski, Jeffrey "Jeff" (Becky) Townley – Salem

Grandchildren – Cletis "CJ" Townley, Jr., Alex Townley, Samantha Townley, Riley Roberts-Townley

Sister – Brenda "Fye" Spencer – Max Meadows

Niece – Amy Clark Katt – Patterson, VA

Many other family members throughout Virginia and Baltimore

Dallas will be laid to rest at the Dry Pond Cemetery (Carroll County).

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

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

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KENNETH WAYNE BRIM

October 19, 1940
February 4, 2024

Kenneth Wayne Brim, 83, of Christiansburg, passed away Sunday, February 4, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph C. and Janie Mae Brim; brothers-in-law, James "Jim" and Harold Thomas "Tom" Blankenship. Survivors include his wife, Rebecca Brim; sisters-in-law, Barbara, Jean and Michelle Blankenship; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Kenneth was a member of Mt. Tabor UMC, the A.L.P.C.A. (Automobile License Plate Collectors Association), McDaniel Masonic Lodge #86; Grand Chapter of Royal Brick Masons, Bland Chapter #41 O.E.S.; and the Mechanicsburg Ruritan Club.

He enjoyed watching and attending NASCAR, especially Dale Earnhardt and Dale, Jr., bowling and the Kansas City Chiefs.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the Bland VFW Post #7969, c/o Stephen Kelley, 3505 E. Blue Grass Trail, Bland, VA 24315 or to the Christiansburg Rescue Squad.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024 at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford with Pastor Kenneth Farrar and Pastor Shake Smith officiating. Interment with full military honors was held at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

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DAVID ROONEY

David Rooney, age 72 of Dublin passed away Saturday, February 3, 2024 at the New River Valley Medical Center. Born March 14, 1951 in Roanoke, he was the son of the late John Jerome Rooney & Geneva Alice Akers Rooney.

David is survived by his

Love of his Life – Kathy Dunford – Dublin

Stepchildren – Silena Rash, Clarissa Davis, Richard Dunford

Sisters – Brenda R. (Roy) Hamblin – Newbern, Gail Sutphin – Dublin

Brother – Mark (Susan) Rooney – Fairlawn

Nieces and Nephews

Memorial services will be held 4:00 PM – Saturday, February 10, 2024 at the Allisonia Pentecostal Holiness Church.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorials be sent to the funeral home to help with funeral expenses.

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

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

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EMMA JEAN HATFIELD REPASS

Emma Jean Hatfield Repass, 87, of Pulaski, Va., passed away surrounded by her loving family February 1, 2024 at Highland Ridge Rehab Center, Dublin, Va. She was born on November 11, 1936 in Baileysville, WV.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Carl and Minnie Hatfield, her kind and gentle husband of 68 years, William David (Bill) Repass, brothers, Rhondall Hatfield, Kurt Hatfield, Harold Hatfield, Fred Hatfield, Paul Hatfield, Carlos Hatfield, sister, Virgie Hatfield and granddaughter, Allison Nixon.

Jean was an avid cook and loved nothing more than sharing her amazing food and wonderful sense of humor with her family, friends and neighbors.

Survivors include her sons, Michael Repass (Vanessa), of Pulaski, Virginia, Bill Repass (Tamela), of Princeton, WV, Brian Repass (Robin) of Claremont, NC and Johnny Repass (Rhonda) of Corinne, WV, sister, Sandra Repass of Itmann, WV, sister-in-law, Athelene Hatfield, Alderson, WV, 10 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, February 10 at Cassell Memorial United Methodist Church, RR 10, Itmann, WV, with the Rev. Lewis Arnold officiating. The family will gather at 11a.m. with public visitation at 12 p.m. and services beginning at 1 p.m. Burial will follow at the Hatfield Family Cemetery located in Baileysville, WV.

The Repass family is in the care of Tyree Funeral Home, Mount Hope, WV.

NRCC Concert Series holding free event Saturday at 6 p.m.

New River Community College's Concert Series brings you a night of music featuring Adam McPeak & Mountain Thunder and Gap Civil.

Doors open at 5 p.m. Admission is free; donations will be accepted to help with travel expenses for the musicians.

The Concert Series events are held the second Saturday of each month, October through April at NRCC, a Crooked Road affiliated venue.

The show is in 117 Edwards Hall. All are welcome!

www.nr.edu/concerts

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BRENDA GAY (BEA) CLAXTON

July 13, 1948
February 1, 2024

Brenda Gay (Bea) Claxton, 75, of Elliston, went to be with the Lord on Thursday February 1, 2024. She was born July 13, 1948. She was a lifelong and dedicated member of the First Baptist Church of Elliston where she served as an usher and a member of the church choir. She will be remembered for her selfless dedication to her family and friends. She was preceded in death by her mother and father, Hattie and James Claxton, brother, Ronnie Ford and nephews Bill Ford and Reggie Ford.

Left to mourn are her nieces, Darlene (Rev. Tyrone) Carter of Salem and Kathy Ford and nephew Kenny Ford of Elliston; great nieces and nephews, Dominque Ford, Jennifer Ford Papenfuse, Ty Carter, T'Neece Ford, Stacey Carter, Alica Ford, KJ Ford, Jason Ford, Ron Ford and Maria Ford; special cousin Doug Dow; best friend Geri McGarry Janzef; goddaughters Eliza Janzef and Isabella Janzef; and a host of great-great nieces and nephews and cousins.

Brenda was a dedicated VA Tech Hokie fan. She retired from Volvo in Dublin, Va. The family would like to express gratitude to all the doctors and nurses at Richfield Living, Salem, Va.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to First Baptist Church, PO Box 568, Elliston, Virginia 24087.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at the First Baptist Church in Elliston. Funeral services will begin at 12 p.m. Rev. Vivian Simmons officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

The Claxton family are in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

www.Mullinsfuneralhome.com

TINA WYSOR ROBINSON

March 10, 1951 –
February 1, 2024

As a gun owner, "Miss T" was quite a pistol herself. She was always quick with a smile, a joke or a helping hand.

Tina despised "uppity food" like hummus (which her friends called bean dip for her benefit), and which she consequently loved.

Tina graduated Pulaski High School in 1969, then went on to East Tennessee State where she obtained her degrees majoring in chemistry.

She retired early as the senior research scientist for the Bayer Co. where she was in charge of pesticide and herbicide research and development. She retired early to keep from being transferred to India, but was subsequently re-hired by the same company in Raleigh, N.C. as a part time consultant with a higher salary!

She always said "surround yourself with great people, then stay the helluva out of their way."

Everyone has regrets and one of Tina's was not training her alcoholic terrier named Henry to detect cancer cells in a rotisserie hot dog she bought in a convenience store in 2019.

See ROBINSON, page A5

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A Tradition Of Trust

More in GOP back spending on child care

By MORIAH BALINGIT
AP Education Writer

Like a lot of mothers, North Dakota state Rep. Emily O'Brien struggled to find infant care when her daughter Lennon was born in 2019. So O'Brien, a Republican who represents the Grand Forks region, brought Lennon along to meetings with local leaders and constituents.

O'Brien had her second daughter, Jolene, in 2022, not long before legislators were due to meet. Wanting more time to bond before returning to work, O'Brien brought the newborn with her to Bismarck, where she snoozed through Gov. Doug Burgum's State of the State address on her mother's desk.

Not long after, O'Brien persuaded her colleagues to back a plan to invest $66 million in child care, an unprecedented sum for a state that had, like others with Republican leadership, long resisted such spending. But O'Brien argued it could help the state's workforce shortage by helping more parents go to work and attracting new families to the state.

"It was definitely not, you know, an easy sell, because this is probably somewhere where you don't want the government to get involved," O'Brien said. "But it's a workforce solution. We have people that are willing and able to work, but finding child care was an obstacle."

Republicans historically have been lukewarm about using taxpayer money for child care, even as they have embraced prekindergarten. But the pandemic, which left many child care providers in crisis, underscored how precarious the industry is and how many working parents rely on it.

In 2021, Congress passed $24 billion of pandemic aid for child care businesses, an unprecedented federal investment. Now, as that aid dries up, Republican state lawmakers across the country are embracing plans to support child care — and even making it central to their policy agendas.

To be sure, the largest investments in child care have come not from Republicans but from Democratic lawmakers. In New Mexico, the state is covering child care for most children under 5 using a trust funded by oil and natural gas production. In Vermont, Democratic state lawmakers overrode a Republican governor's veto to pass a payroll tax hike to fund child care subsidies.

Red states are following suit with more modest — but nonetheless historic — investments in child care.

In Missouri, Republican Gov. Mike Parson has proposed spending nearly $130 million to help low-income families access child care once the pandemic relief money dries up and to create tax credits to support child care providers.

Republican state Rep. Brenda Shields, who sponsored the tax credit bill, said she tells conservative colleagues that child care accessibility is critical to grow the state's economy.

"Child care is a critical infrastructure, just like roads and bridges and ports and trains," Shields said. "Businesses have been saying, 'What are you doing about child care?' So I'm trying to be part of the solution."

Elsewhere, Louisiana last year approved an unprecedented $52 million for child care subsidies for low-income families. Alabama provided $17 million worth of incentives for child care providers to get licensed. And Texas voters approved a property tax cut for some day care centers.

More Republicans have pledged to tackle the child care crisis this year. In Missouri, Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden, a Republican, said he hoped the Statehouse would focus less on culture war issues — like criminalizing drag shows and censoring library books — and more on expanding access to child care and school choice. Nebraska and Indiana have both pitched programs to make child care free for child care workers. Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, a Republican who ran on a conservative education agenda, pitched boosting the state's child care and education spending by $180 million.

Child care advocates say the investments are not enough and called on Congress to authorize a new round of money to keep the child care industry afloat. Already, day care centers report they are raising tuition and losing workers because they are no longer receiving federal subsidies. Some have folded.

GOP resistance to child care spending dates to the 1970s, when President Richard Nixon vetoed a bill to establish a national child care system, invoking fears of communism and saying it had "family-weakening implications." Many of those arguments persist. Some conservative lawmakers have panned child care funding as " socialist," arguing that people who can't afford day care should not have children. Two years ago, an Idaho state lawmaker apologized after he opposed federal early childhood money because it encouraged women to " come out of the home and let others raise their children."

The new and expanded funding reflects a growing sentiment that the nation's broken child care system will not be fixed without public support. Families have long faced issues finding affordable, reliable child care. But during the pandemic, many child care workers left the industry for better-paying jobs, and some child care centers closed for good, exacerbating the problem.

OBITUARIES

DWIGHT HENSEL FUNK JR.

Dwight Hensel Funk Jr. a proud veteran of the United States Army, went to his heavenly home on January 16, 2024, after battling many health afflictions.

Dwight was a brave and loyal soldier, as well as a patient and loving Father, Husband, Grandfather and Brother. He married Paula Aileen Dunagan in Pulaski, VA in 1974. They would be celebrating their 50-year Anniversary this May. He loved his "Lady" with all of his heart and taught his children the significance of love. His pride and joy was his children and grandchildren. He was so proud of each and every one.

Dwight was born on November 02, 1954, to Dwight Hensel Funk and Mary Jane Fain in Pulaski, VA. After serving in the Army, he Graduated from New River Community College in 1981 with his Associates Degree. A natural working man and salesman who loved heavy equipment, he owned his own business, Southwest Equipment, for many years.

He is survived by his children Brittany Aileen (Sammy) Songer, Dwight Hensel (Melissa) Funk III, Christina Lee (Ricky) Byrd, and Michelle Marie (Stanley) Smith. A Very Special Brother-in-Law Phillip (Trey), (Victoria) Dunagan. His 14 grandchildren: Landyn, Lilyanna-Aileen, Natalie, Adam, Dakota, Austin, Jimmy, Justin, Matthew, Chelsea, Nicholas, Walter-Alexander, Macy, and Sadie. His Two Sisters, Linda and Kathy, Two Brothers, Mark and Timothy and one-Half Sister, Carla. His special love and Puppy Gracie Aileen.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Dwight and Mary Jane.

A graveside service will be held 12 noon Thursday, February 15, 2024 at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, VA. with a special Celebration of His Life. We would like to recognize the Wytheville Veterans Clinic, the Salem Veterans Hospital and Highland Ridge Rehab Staff and Nurses for taking such great care of him in the past few months.

If you would like to honor Dwight, he would have loved to have donations sent to St. Jude Children's Hospital. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.grubbfuneralhome.com

Grubb Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Robinson

Continued From Page A4

Tina was pre-deceased by her beloved parents, Joe and Irene Robinson of Pulaski, Va. and survived by a dysfunctional brother, Mark also of Pulaski.

Tina loved animals, especially her doggies, whose love proved as unconditional as a mother's love. She asked that any donations be made to the local Humane Society and, in advance, "Thank you!"

No service is planned.

CORY MICHAEL CASSELL

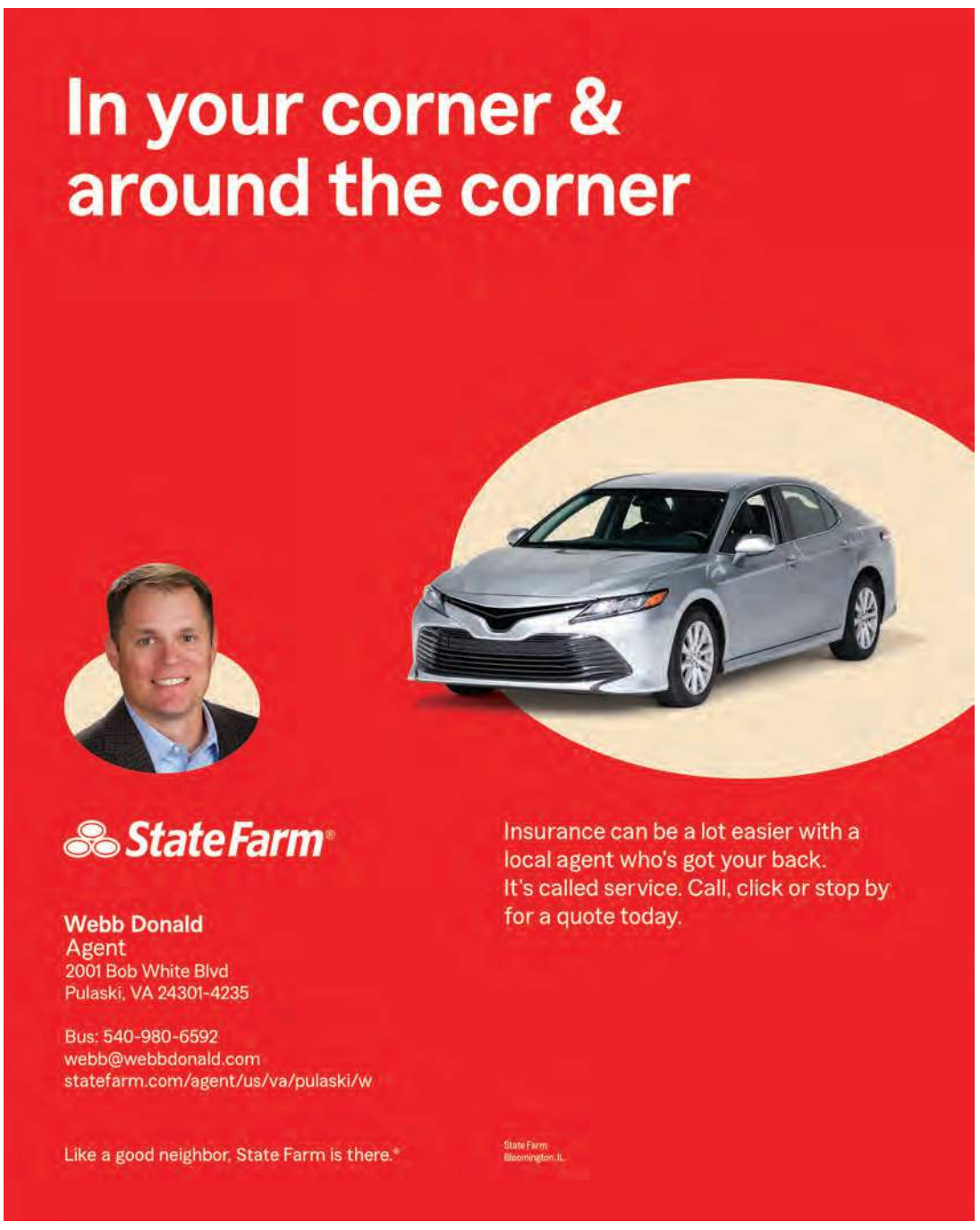
Cory Michael Cassell, age 49 of Dublin, died Friday, February 2, 2024, at his residence.

Arrangements are pending with Seagle Funeral Home, Pulaski. www.seaglefuneralhome.com 540-980-1700

In Loving Memory

Benny F. Hancock Sr.

Though it's been 10 years that you've been gone and no longer with us, your spirit lives on in the laughter, love and cherished memories we hold dear. Your legacy is a testament to the incredible father, pawpaw and husband to our mother you have been. We love and miss you. Until we meet again you are forever in our hearts. Love your loving wife, Freda; son, Benny Jr. and wife, Trish; daughter, Becky Williams; Grandchildren, David Godwin III, Devin Davis, Sierra Hancock-Baldwin, Suzie Hancock, Harlee Johnson and Kandice Johnson-Mcdonald.



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EDITORIAL

Push Me, Pull You

Morgan Griffith

9th District Representative

I am often asked by friends and constituents how things are going in Washington. I have to say I am doing my best, but sometimes I get frustrated.

We know that there can be partisan gridlock that slows things down in Washington, but right now frustrating and nonsensical decisions are coming from the Biden Administration.

The way they decide policy reminds me of the Doctor Dolittle character, the Pushmi-Pullyu, an animal with two heads at opposite ends of its body.

Currently, the Administration is trying to push billions and billions of taxpayer money out the door to fund new-fangled energy technologies that are not fully developed, while at the same time closing a door on the natural gas industry that brings down costs for families and helps our national security interests.

Recently I chaired a hearing in the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, in which I questioned a Senior Advisor at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about the agency's new Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The fund was authorized by the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, which has $27 billion for Green New Deal projects. (A recent report in the Daily Caller even says they are going to deem the playground for the wealthy, Martha's Vineyard, as "low income" to push EV charger subsidies.)

According to the law, the agency must award all the funds by September 30th. That is a staggering amount in the next eight months.

While I did not vote for the Inflation Reduction Act and don't agree with many of the policies, the fund is set to hand out $27 billion in taxpayer funds in a short amount of time and we must ensure there are proper protocols put in place to limit waste, fraud, and abuse of this money.

During the hearing, I asked our witness about the specific audit and debarment measures the EPA will use to ensure compliance by grantees, but also sub-grantees.

I also asked him to ensure that both grantees and sub-grantees will be responsive to this Oversight Subcommittee.

I asked this because unfortunately the federal government has run into issues in the past when funding and overseeing new types of energy and environment projects. A prime example was when the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) gave loans to Solyndra from 2009 to 2011. Abuse by DOE and their failure to properly administer the program cost the American taxpayers an additional $170 million.

And pulling in the other direction, Biden recently announced that he would be instituting a ban on permits for new projects that export U.S. Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) to countries that do not have free trade agreements with the U.S., including all of Europe.

Unfortunately, limiting LNG exports will not only have negative effects here at home, but also internationally.

Blocking new LNG projects will damage future natural gas infrastructure and kill thousands of good paying American jobs. Before Biden's ban, a 2017 report by ICF International indicated that by 2040, the U.S. LNG industry was projected to support between 220,000 and 452,000 additional U.S. jobs. Additionally, the report projected the industry would add between $50 billion and $73 billion to the U.S. economy.

U.S. exports of LNG also help protect ours and other countries' national security interests.

After Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, U.S. companies increased their LNG exports so that European countries would not have to rely solely on Russia.

This was in an effort to not only restrict the revenue Russia would receive from their LNG exports, but also decrease the likelihood that Russia could destabilize the region should they want to retaliate against Europe for supporting Ukraine.

Recently, I met with a few members of Bulgaria's Parliament who talked about Bulgaria switching from Russian to U.S. LNG and how they were glad to have U.S. energy sources to rely on.

So, on the one hand, the Administration is pushing billions of dollars to implement new and untested technology, and on the other hand they are pulling the benefits of technology that helps here and abroad.

Not only that, but the Administration has also now adopted this push/pull stance on foreign affairs. They have claimed to support Ukraine and previously advocated for exporting LNG in order to support Ukraine and the rest of Europe. Now they are stopping new permits, which will help Russia and hurt Ukraine.

How does any of this make sense?

It's time for the Biden Administration to stop these senseless decisions that push in one direction and pull in the other.

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/.

Christian Denominations Demanded Religious Liberty

One Nation Under God

By Danielle Reid

As Western European immigrants poured into America, mostly from England, Germany, Ireland, Scotland, France, Spain and Netherlands, they settled in different colonies, where they could worship and support their particular Christian denomination. They had escaped what they considered the tyrrany of rulers who controlled their very lives, and most importantly, their religious beliefs and practices.

Each colony would be comprised of predominant Christian sects: Lutheran, Presbyterian, Anglican, Menonite, Moravian, Baptist, Catholic, Protestent, Quaker, Episcopalian, etc.

Although there were many Christian denominations, they did seem to agree on one thing: they did not want to have or be forced to support a "national church" like the Church of England. To ensure their right to practice their Christian faith, church leaders would petiton their legislatures to protect all citizens' freedom of religion and conscience.

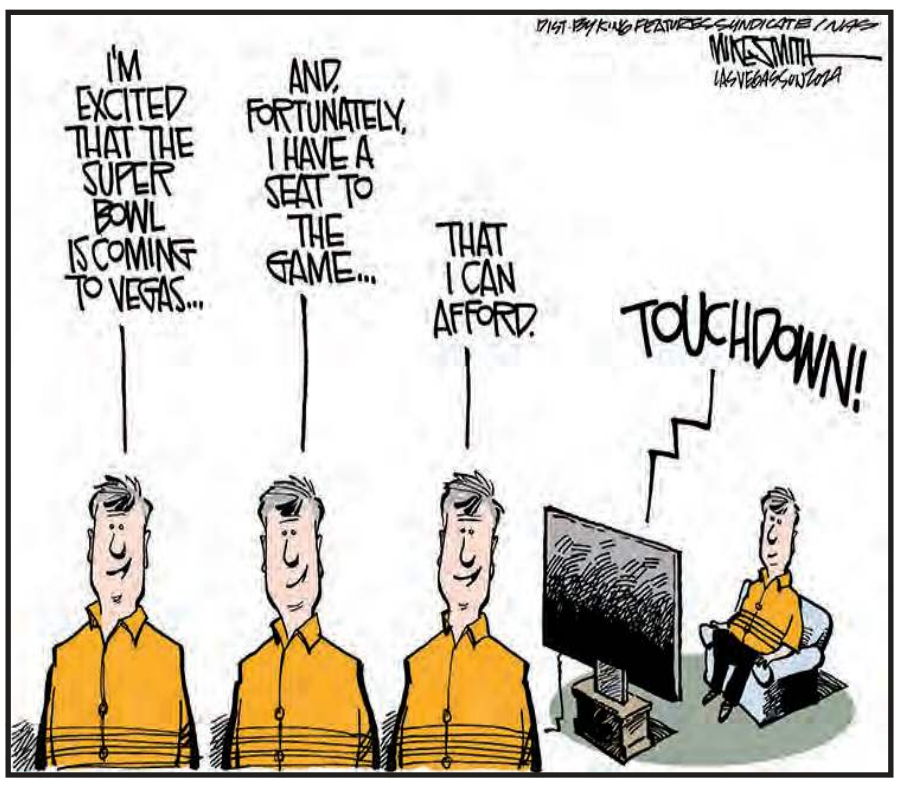
When Virginia's General Assembly sat for the first time in October 1776, petitions began arriving from groups of dissenters in support of religious freedom requesting relief from religious taxation and an end to laws supporting the Anglican Church.

"One such petition from "Dissenters from the Ecclesiastical Establishment, in the Common-wealth" arrived on October 16, 1776, and was "subscribed by near 10,000 Freemen." Baptists in Virginia had organized a widespread petition drive calling for an end to all government interference in the practice of religion. The 10,000 signers demanded that every religious denomination would be on an equal level. Government should have no role in religious matters unless it was in support of "their just Rights and equal Priveliges."

By 1776 in America, after legally challenging the established Church of England, the various demonimations were freed from paying religious taxes but there were still other restrictions such as paying for a license to preach. It took another ten-years before the adoption of the "Bill for Establishing Religious Liberty" authored by Jefferson and edited and presented by Madison, would promise an end to religious persecution. Interestingly, historic records attribute the language in this bill as a precedent for Madison's wording of the religion clause in the First Amendment. This "free exercise of religion" prohibited Congress from establishing a national denomination.

The issue of religious freedom centered around the God-given right to worship as their conscience dictates and the claim that the Gospel didn't need the

See NATION, page A7



Greeting the Home Folks

Delegate Jason Ballard

42nd District

This week, I welcomed visitors from the 42nd District to the Capitol, including local elected officials and Chamber of Commerce representatives from Pulaski County, representatives from Volvo/Mack Trucks, and a class of 60 students from Macy McClaugherty Elementary/Middle School in Giles County! I had a great time speaking with the class, taking them to the floor of the House of Delegates, and introducing them to Speaker Don Scott, who was kind enough to share some remarks with the group before session convened. The group also saw Governor Glenn Youngkin in the halls of the General Assembly Building, and he stopped for a picture with them. I appreciate the hard work our teachers do to instill civic education in our children, and these field trips do wonders to get youth interested in how our laws are created. I received feedback – including from the Speaker himself – on how well-behaved the group was during their trip. Great job to all!

Additionally, two more of my bills unanimously passed through the House of Delegates and will now be considered by the Senate of Virginia. The first, HB 306, establishes additional procedures for how court appointed counsel – usually a public defender – can manage his or her caseload for indigent clients when the defender's active caseload creates a conflict of interest. The other bill, HB 1373, is workforce development legislation that allows the Roanoke Higher Education Center to offer specialized, non-credit workforce training in situations where local community colleges may be unable to. This encourages all entities to work collaboratively to ensure that regional workforce development needs are being met, and I was pleased to see it pass through the House on a 99-0 vote.

However, I was disappointed this week when my HB 300, which would have allowed 9-1-1 dispatchers to qualify for enhanced retirement benefits, was "continued to 2025" in the Democratic-controlled House Appropriations Committee on a party-line vote. This means the bill is dead for the year. Our 911 dispatchers encounter untold amounts of stress on the job and deserve retirement benefits that acknowledge their invaluable contributions to our communities. Dispatchers often encounter individuals having the worst days of their lives, and this can weigh on them heavily. I'm hopeful that my Democratic colleagues will reconsider their opposition and pass this important bill next year.

Also puzzling was the defeat of Delegate Mark Earley Jr.'s HB 882, which would have created a model policy to prohibit K-12 students from using cell phones during instructional time. This is a serious issue, and most reading this article (myself included) never had these distractions in the classroom when we were young. Our teachers work hard to prepare our students for the future, and in the aftermath of COVID-19 induced learning loss, we should be ensuring that all barriers to learning are removed. Our children are counting on it! Again, I'm hopeful that my Democratic colleagues will reconsider their opposition to this legislation.

See BALLARD, page A7

Rich Lowery

Editor, National Review

'Masters of the Air' does a public service

Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks have once again done a public service.

Like "Band of Brothers" and "The Pacific" before it, the new series "Masters of the Air" is a profound act of devotion to the memory of the men who won World War II, this time focused on the air war in Europe.

Telling the story of a nation's history will always depend on popularizers more than academic historians (especially when the latter don't like their country's history very much), and Spielberg and Hanks are better popularizers than anyone has cause to expect.

"Masters" tells the story of the 100th Bomber Group of the 8th Air Force, known as the "Bloody 100th," not for the destruction it wrought, but the punishment it took in some of the most hazardous duty of the war.

No one has ever reproduced the story, the machines, the conditions and the missions of this aspect of the war as accurately and carefully before, and we can assume, no one ever will again.

Ten years in the making with a $250 million budget, this is a production at the very highest level of technical proficiency. The B-17s -- the long-range bombers known as Flying Fortresses, or "Forts" for short -- steal the show. They are lovingly reproduced and often look like something out of a painting.

Which doesn't obscure their deadly purpose or the deadly business of flying one over hostile territory.

If nothing else, "Masters" brings home the experience of flying in a tin can breathing through primitive air masks in below-zero temperatures, while getting shot at by German anti-aircraft guns and trying to fend off ferocious assaults from much faster German fighters.

It is as terrifying as it sounds.

Relying on Air Force records, the show's makers have obsessively reproduced the exact position of each plane and its precise fate during missions. As the screenwriter John Orloff has explained, they felt a factual rendering was mandatory; this wasn't "Star Wars" -- a made-up conflict involving fictional people -- but real battles in which Americans gave their last full measure of devotion.

Orloff notes that about three months after its arrival in England, 34 of the 100th's 36 crews had been shot down. The tour of duty was 25 missions, but the aviators made it through just 11 on average.

In contrast to the British who bombed at night, the U.S. engaged in daylight bombing that was supposed to be precision in nature. Without protection from fighter planes, which wasn't available at the beginning, this made the B-17s sitting ducks. Sometimes the missions involved hitting industrial sites, sometimes they targeted cities themselves and German morale, sometimes they were designed to bait the Luftwaffe into combat so it could be degraded.

With the introduction of the long-range P-51 fighters that could properly defend the B-17s, the balance of the air war shifted decisively in 1944.

There's been a long-running debate about the morality and efficacy of the Allied bombing campaign. There's no doubt

See LOWERY, page A7

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First Friday at the FAC is filled to capacity

By WILLIAM PAINE
Patriot Publishing

William Paine/Patriot Publishing

Musicians Al Coffey and Leslie Brooks filled the Fine Art Center's Edna B. Love Gallery to capacity at February's First Friday concert event. The walls of the Gallery are lined with artwork from the Southwest Virginia Scholastic Art Awards Show, which is currently on display at the Fine Arts Center for the NRV.

The Fine Art Center for the New River Valley's first, First Friday's concert of the year featured veteran musicians Al Coffey and Leslie Brooks, who filled the Edna B. Love Gallery to capacity.

The Fine Arts Center for the NRV hosts the First Friday's concert series, which features local, and sometimes regionally based musical acts from 6 p.m. till 8 p.m. on the first Friday of every month.

Coffey and Brooks played a variety of tunes, many of them originals, in two sets, which included a ten-minute intermission. Many of those present are First Friday regulars but Coffey, who hails from Roanoke, and Brooks, a Blacksburg-ian, drew some followers from their side of the mountain, as well. This included Lauren Brooks Roberts, Leslie Brook's daughter, who occasionally provided percussion by thumping on a floor drum.

"Al and I have been playing together since Lauren was in the second grade," said Brooks.

"She's 24 now."

Since their early gigs at a place called the Green Dolphin, Brooks and Coffey have played at numerous venues in the NRV including multiple dates at Wytheville's Chautauqua Festival and the Sinkland Farms Pumpkin Fests. They once even opened for famed blues musician 'Steady Rollin' Bob Margolin.'

As such, the duo are well familiar with each other's original songs.

"We respect each other's writing," said Brooks. "When you honor someone you work with, you want to play for the sake of the song and take your ego out of it."

"That's the whole thing," Al affirmed. "It's not about any one person, it's about whatever makes the song sound better."

"That's the beauty of working with Al," said Brooks. "He's a songwriter and so he doesn't step on the lyrics. He plays around them. He plays off the lyric instead of over it."

It's a good thing, too. While both musicians are multi-instrumentalists, Al Coffey takes this notion to the extreme, oftentimes changing instruments in mid song.

"We were doing a show and we were playing Moondance by Van Morrison," Coffey recounted. "I started off on flute then I went to guitars and then fiddle and then finally to saxophone."

When the two play a song entitled, "Ode to Billy Joe," Al is known to start playing slide guitar before switching to fiddle, then mandolin before grabbing his harmonica for the finale. At Friday's show, Coffey played guitar, slide guitar, fiddle, mandolin, saxophone and flute, often changing instruments as the song progressed.

Brooks provided most of the harmonica riffs to accompany her strumming on rhythm guitar. While both sang, Leslie Brooks sang the lion's share of the songs, as she paired her animated stage presence with her expansive vocal range.

Ben Slaughter came to the performance with several family members in tow and it wasn't long before Leslie Brooks convinced Slaughter to take a seat behind the aged, yet functional, grand piano that resides in the corner of the Edna B. Love Gallery. Slaughter added his jazzy piano touches to a few songs at the end of the first set and was later cajoled into performing a few more songs with the duo, as audience members chanted, "Ben, Ben, Ben."

Between songs the musicians would tell stories, often associated with the origin of the songs they were about to play, many, if not most, composed

See FAC, page A8

Ballard

Continued From Page A6

As the Delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJBallard@House.Virginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

Nation

Continued From Page A6

support (or interference) of the civil government and should be beyond the limits of civil control.

Dissenters of Tuscarora Congregation declared, the role of the legislature was to protect them in their religious rights rather than coerce them in matters of religion. The Batists insisted the role of government did not extend to religious matters except "to support them in their just Rights and equal privileges."

Dr. David Barton, in his treatsie "Thomas Jefferson and the First Amendment," explained: Although accommodationists disagree on the extent and scope of the dissenters' willingness to accommodate religion, they agree on the basic outlines of the dissenting vision of religious liberty. In their view, the dissenters built their church-state vision based on two guiding principles: the equality of all (Christian or Protestant) religions or denominations and a ban on government intervention in religious affairs. The former implies that laws supporting religion are acceptable as long as all religions are treated equally. The latter leaves religion free to influence the government, even as the government is prevented from intervening in church affairs.

Resources for this article: https://uncommonwealth.virginiamemory.com/blog/2022/09/21/that-the-oppressed-may-go-free-a-petition-to-the-virginia-general-assembly-for-religious-freedom/

https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/virginia-statute-for-establishing-religious-freedom-1786/

https://scholarship.law.nd.edu/cgi/viewcontent.

Lowery

Continued From Page A6

that there was a real moral cost to the campaign and its wanton destruction. Unfortunately, though, there was no easy way to take down a totalitarian power that had come to dominate the European continent, and for a long time, strategic bombing was our only serious means to attack the Nazis directly.

As for the efficacy, if nothing else, the campaign diverted massive Nazi resources to air defense. But it achieved more than that.

"By 1945," military historian Cathal Nolan writes, "the bombers would destroy Germany's transportation systems and demolish most vital war industries, especially oil supply and refining, and effectively end fighter production."

He continues, "Neither Germany nor Japan could by the end of their respective wars move military supplies, complete production or deploy weapons and divisions as they wanted, even inside their homelands."

Young American men gave their all in harrowing conditions to make this contribution to victory. "Masters" is their story as it deserves to be told.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Cat's scratching may be allergies, or something more

Paw's corner by Sam Mazzotta

Cat's scratching may be allergies, or something more

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My cat, Buster, has been scratching under his chin for days, and the skin underneath the fur there is getting raw. What is causing this, and how do I stop the scratching and treat the injured skin? -- David G., Buffalo, New York

DEAR DAVID: It's clear that something is aggravating your cat and causing him to scratch in just one spot. The problem could be dry skin -- not unusual for pets or humans in the middle of winter -- or allergies. It may also be an infection, a parasite (mites or ringworm) or an allergic reaction to fleas.

If the area that Buster is scratching is not infected, you can try a few home remedies to try to relieve the itching. Oatmeal, cooked and then cooled, is one option. Plain yogurt is another. And coconut oil may help moisturize and protect the skin. Dab one of these gently onto the itchy area. (Just a very thin coat; don't pile it on.) Repeat as needed.

If fleas are an issue, treat both your cat and your home to reduce and eliminate these little pests. Vacuum carpets thoroughly. Sweep all the corners and underneath furniture to remove dust bunnies, where fleas and their eggs can hide.

If these remedies don't work within a couple of days, or if your cat exhibits signs of infection or illness, contact the veterinarian. They need to take a look and see what exactly is causing the itching. They'll also have medication on hand to combat the itch (hydrocortisone, for one) and treat infection. If Buster is scratching compulsively, they may put him into an E-collar (aka the "Cone of Shame") for a few days to let the spot heal fully.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

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William Paine/Patriot Publishing

February's First Friday performers Coffey and Brooks were joined by Ben Slaughter, who was prompted to come onstage by the musical duo. Slaughter accompanied Brooks and Coffey for several songs in their two-hour set. From left: Ben Slaughter, Al Coffey, Leslie Brooks and Lauren Brooks Roberts.

FAC

Continued From Page A7

by the musicians themselves. There was considerable back and forth engagement between performers and audience members, who frequently clapped and sometimes sang along with the band.

The audience at the FAC, numbering 40 in all, showed their appreciation of the music by rewarding the duo with a standing ovation at show's end.

The setting added to the intrigue of February's First Friday concert, as the vivid imagery of the Southwest Virginia Scholastic Art Awards Show provided the backdrop for the performance. This show features award winning art from students across Southwest Virginia in grades 7-12 and is currently open to the public. A reception for the Scholastic Art show will take place at noon Saturday Feb. 24, followed by an awards ceremony at the Pulaski Theatre at 2 p.m.

Coffey and Brooks play together when their schedules allow but normally Coffee plays with a group called the Rarely Available, which formed back in 1979. Rarely Available will next perform at the Dogtown Roadhouse on Feb. 23.

Leslie Brooks will be performing at the Draper Mercantile on Feb. 10 and 14.

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Bank plans to auction posh property owned by Gov. Justice to repay loans

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A Virginia bank that is seeking to recover more than $300 million in longstanding unpaid business loans to the family of West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice is planning to auction off land at a sporting club located at the governor's posh resort.

Carter Bank & Trust of Martinsville, Virginia, took out a legal notice in the Charleston Gazette-Mail on Tuesday. The notice said that an auction involving the Greenbrier Sporting Club lots is scheduled for March 5 at the Greenbrier County Courthouse in Lewisburg.

The Greenbrier Sporting Club is a private equity club and residential community that opened in 2000. Justice bought The Greenbrier, which has hosted U.S. presidents and royalty, out of bankruptcy in 2009. The PGA Tour held a tournament at the resort from 2010 until 2019.

In a 2021 lawsuit that Justice and his companies filed against Carter Bank, the governor revealed that he is personally on the hook for $368 million in remaining loan debt to that bank. He also said that a close business relationship dramatically fell apart after the death of the bank's founder, Worth Carter, in 2017. The 2021 lawsuit was later dismissed, but the Justice companies filed another lawsuit against the bank last November.

Justice, who owns dozens of companies, also has been the subject of numerous court claims that he has been late in paying millions of dollars he owes in fines, such as for unsafe working conditions at his coal mines.

Messages left with the governor's office and with the Justice companies weren't immediately returned Tuesday afternoon.

Justice, a Republican, is finishing his second term as governor this year and is running for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Democrat Joe Manchin. Manchin has said he is not seeking reelection.

Last year dozens of properties owned by Justice in three counties were put up for auction as payment for delinquent real estate taxes.

Records center catches up

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

The National Personnel Records Center, part of the National Archives and Records Administration, has finally cleared up a huge, four-year backlog of work. Caused by the Covid pandemic, at one time they had a list of 600,000 requests for records.

From what we hear, it was a crazy time, with only a certain number of emergency personnel allowed to work in the building at once to take care of must-have requests for things like documents for funerals and medical emergencies.

Now allowed back to work, they've dealt with longer hours for staff, working weekends, additional staff and shifts, new technology and much more. At this point they've caught up, and ideally any normal requests for separation records should be handled within a week or so, with other types of records taking approximately 20 days. Meanwhile, they receive over 4,000 new requests each day. That's over a million per year.

The vast majority of the records at the record center are paper copies that must be found by hand. Staff at the records center should be applauded for their work under less than ideal conditions.

Happy 35th

Daniel and Dawn Olayvar of Allisonia celebrate their 35th Wedding Anniversary Saturday, February 10th.

Calfee CCC to hold fundraising gala Feb. 24

Fairlawn, Virginia - The Let's Paint the Town Red gala to benefit the Calfee Community and Cultural Center will take place on February 24, 2024, from 6:00-10:00 pm at Omni Place Event Center in Fairlawn, Virginia.

The gala will feature speaker Leon Russell, Calfee School alumnus and chairman of the National Board of Directors for the NAACP; live music by Glen Holmes and Denise Smith of Added Value and dance tunes by our very own Spin Doctor, Mickey Hickman; cocktail hour and buffet dinner by Bella Events Catering; and silent auction and raffle items including a tropical vacation getaway, high-end NRV experiences, trip to Massanutten, Steelers tickets, luxury jewelry, original artwork, a sports kayak, and more.

Individual tickets are available for $65 online at https://calfeeccc.org/gala and include one free drink (21+) or one free raffle ticket, or reserve a table for up to eight people for $1,000. Table will include your name or organization's logo.

"We're excited to host this year's gala," said Kim Edmonds, Gala Committee Chair. "We hope you'll join us for a great evening and support our renovation of the historic Calfee Training School.

About Calfee Community and Cultural Center: From 1894 to 1966, the Calfee Training School educated African American children in Pulaski, Virginia. Faced with severe underfunding from Jim Crow segregation, the Calfee Training School became a community, helping children and their families reach their full potential. The future Calfee Community & Cultural Center will revitalize the positive aspects of this legacy, by supporting all of Pulaski County's children, families, and organizations building a stronger future for the region and meeting community needs like childcare, food security, workforce development, after-school programs, natural outdoor spaces, and preservation of local African American history.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Daisy! Daisy is a sweet female pit weighing in around 50lbs. You can find her being calm in her kennel waiting on a family. Don't let her calm side fool you though because she also loves to play! Daisy is a good listener, does well with other dogs, and is cat curious.

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

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Stay ready for the next storm

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

In many areas of the country it's been a harsh winter. Snow, ice, wind, flooding ... we've seen it all, sometimes several of those at the same time. We need to be prepared for whatever Mother Nature throws at us.

The first step is to know what's coming, and when. While the local news and weather can be your trusted source, having other options can't hurt. I like Wunderground (also known as Weather Underground) for the way it can target my area and provide a wide variety of information. Keep www.wunderground.com as one of the bookmarks in your computer or get the app for your phone at the App store or Google Play.

Keep your devices charged up. A neighbor loaned me a handy charging gadget that stores enough battery "juice" to charge up a phone. I've since purchased one of my own.

Keep an eye on your prescriptions and know when you'll run out. Ask your pharmacist if you can get your refill a bit early, ahead of the next storm. How early you can do this will vary by state.

Have a list of contact numbers, written and taped to the inside of a kitchen cabinet door. Don't trust important numbers to only your phone.

Have at least three days of water and food on hand, things that don't need to be cooked if your power goes out. The same goes for your pets: Make sure you have enough of their food.

Don't wait until the last minute to put gas in your car.

Invest in a small battery-operated radio and little camp lights. Have enough batteries on hand.

And perhaps most importantly, arrange to stay in communication with a few others if you have a nasty storm.

For more ideas, go to the AARP disaster preparation page at AARP.org/disasterprep.

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3. Former Fire Station - Snowville
4. Lighthouse Bridge Pylons - Lowmans Ferry Rd
5. Steer House Building - Town of Pulaski
6. Cleburne Wayside - Dublin
7. Concession Stand - Former Dublin Middle School
8. NRV Fairgrounds - Dublin
9. Substation on Route 11
10. New River Valley Airport Sign - Dublin

THE BIG GAME IS THIS SUNDAY!

February 11, 2024
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SPORTS

Super Bowl: Plenty of storylines, good matchup

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The first Super Bowl in Las Vegas has everything the imaginary NFL scriptwriters could've wanted.

There's Patrick Mahomes and the underdog Kansas City Chiefs (14-6) aiming to become the first repeat champions in 19 years and trying to solidify their claim to a dynasty with a third Super Bowl title in five years.

There's Brock Purdy returning from a significant injury after rising from "Mr. Irrelevant" to now lead the San Francisco 49ers (14-5) to the brink of a record-tying sixth Super Bowl title that would etch his name alongside Pro Football Hall of Famers Joe Montana and Steve Young.

Of course, there's the glitz and glamour of America's showcase city and the irony of playing a Super Bowl in this gambling capital, an idea that used to be taboo for the NFL.

Did we mention Taylor Swift yet?

Make room for the Grammy-winning superstar to jet into town just in time to see her boyfriend, Travis Kelce, try to win another ring. Swift is expected to fly in for Sunday's game at Allegiant Stadium from Japan after her concert on Saturday.

Kelce, the four-time All-Pro tight end, is focused on limiting the distractions despite fielding numerous questions this week about Swift and their relationship that has captivated millions and attracted a new audience of football fans.

"Show up every day thinking about the now and not too much the future," Kelce said. "Obviously, you gotta prepare for what's ahead but not harp on the past is the biggest thing ... I think we would never try and tie in what we did last year to this year. Every single year is really its own journey."

For the Chiefs, nothing less than hoisting another Vince Lombardi trophy is acceptable so they have the most pressure.

"That expectation has become a demand

See PREVIEW, page B4

Comeback falls short vs. Salem

By RODNEY YOUNG
Patriot Publishing

SALEM – Down 15 points early in the third quarter, 34-49 the Pulaski County Cougars battled their way back to within three at 54-57 with 3:55 to go in the game. The rally fell short, however, with Salem hanging on to win, 70-64.

Down just three and with the ball the Cougars would turn the ball over and Salem would hit a bucket and get fouled with 2:40 showing.

The Spartans would then rebound a missed Pulaski County free throw and hit another bucket to put them back up six, 61-54.

They would then force another turnover and hit another shot to put the game away.

Instead of being within one or have a tie game the Cougars found themselves down nine, 63-54 within one minute and

See SALEM, page B5

Brian Bishop/Patriot Publishing

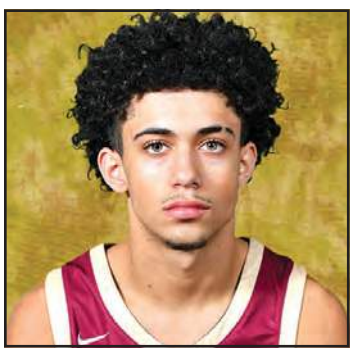
Lady Cougars Fall To Salem

The Lady Cougars lost to Salem this week, 48-36 at home. Pulaski County led at the half, 22-17, but got outscored in the second half, 31-14. Morgan Vest finished with 13 points and Hannah Keefer added 10 to lead the Cougars. Pulaski County will play at Salem on Friday night in River Ridge district tournament play.

JamesHardie

SW Times & Patriot

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Justus Hash

Pulaski County sophomore Justus Hash led the Cougars in scoring the past three games. He scored 23 in the most recent game vs. Salem, 13 against Blacksburg and 17 against Christiansburg, including all nine of PCHS' points in the game.

Wake Forest tops 2024 ACC Baseball Preseason Poll

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Wake Forest has been selected as the 2024 Atlantic Coast Conference Baseball preseason favorites by the league's 14 head coaches.

The Demon Deacons collected 10 of the 14 possible first-place nods from head coaches. North Carolina tallied two votes, while Clemson and Virginia each received one vote.

Wake Forest was also the clear-cut winner of the Atlantic Division, receiving 12 of 14 first place votes. Clemson, who won the 2023 ACC Baseball Championship, picked up the two remaining first-place votes among the teams in the Atlantic Division.

With Wake Forest collecting 95 points to lead the Atlantic, Clemson finished with 79 total points to be slotted in second place. NC State picked up a third-place selection with 68 points, while Florida State (54), Louisville (48), Notre Dame (31), and Boston College (17) rounded out the grouping.

See ACC, page B4

Game Day Banter

Jeramey Fleenor

Hello. Oh, and ... Go Niners!

Allow me to take some time on this, my first submission, to introduce myself. My name is Jeramey Fleenor; some may have heard the name from my submissions in the devotional and spiritual column or possibly because of my employment as Youth Pastor at the Pulaski Church of God or Baseball Coach for Pulaski County Middle School. However, most probably know the last name because my daughter Ally had a great career in the Lady Cougars program. (If I am honest, being known as Ally's dad is pretty cool). Now that my two boys are starting to find their way into Pulaski's sports programs, we have years of excitement in store.

Enough about me. Let's talk about this article or, for a better term, this blog. As we all move forward in this journey together, I plan to use this small blog to highlight some of our local sports programs and athletes. I will also be covering some pro sports topics and current events. The best part, however, is the banter I am looking forward to. I am not going to pretend that I am a sports guru, but like everyone else, I have opinions on the "wild world of sports," and right, wrong, or indifferent; I plan on taking some time to share those opinions. Before we go any further, let's agree with my father when he said, "Opinions are like belly buttons; everyone has one, and there is a good chance none are the same." So, if you have a different opinion, please share; that makes the banter part fun.

So, with no further ado, welcome to what we will call the "Game Day Banter" sports blog. Since we are literally days away from the Super Bowl, let's take some time to talk about this upcoming Sunday.

First, allow me a few moments to congratulate the JV Lady Cougars on finishing this basketball season with a perfect 21-0 record.

Now, back to the Super Bowl. On the AFC side of the ball, we find the Chiefs, a powerhouse of a team that has had a rough start to the season (or at least the Chiefs players on my Fantasy Football team have had a rough start), but as usual, have found a way to win during the playoffs. If you ask me, the Chiefs have much more to lose this Sunday than just a championship. The question is, is this the year Mahomes wins what I think will be the crucial win for Patrick to make a run at Brady's ring count. Do the Chiefs have to bring this one home this year for Patrick to catch or surpass Brady? Furthermore, can Pat win them all with the same team, unlike Brady?

Honestly, the Chiefs going for the repeat is not the most exciting thing this Sunday for me. Though I am a Raiders fan and would love to see the AFC bring home another Super Bowl, my attention is fixed on the team out of the NFC.

Sports parents, or any parents for that matter, this is a great teaching moment for your child. As our youngsters grow up, especially in sports, they start to get labeled. It does not matter if it's Rec, travel, school sports, or academic teams; people perceive some athletes as must-

See BANTER, page B4

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FOR SALE: MISCELLANEOUS

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.

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sugar bowl and creamer
1 platter
1 vegetable bowl with lid
1 vegetable bowl
$250.00
Call for appointment to see items: 540 980 3025

Bedroom Suite: Solid wood, Queen Bed/ box springs & mattress, Dresser with Mirror, Chest of Drawers, 1 night stand. $800.00.
Jewelry Chest/Armoire, Solid Wood, 9 drawers, swing out doors of both sides, $125.00.
Solid wood Chest of Drawers, $75.00
Wood Desk, 3 drawers on each side, 1 in middle, piece of plate on top, $100.00
Flat screen TV 54 inches, less than 1 year old, $125.00
Lift Recliner Dark Blue, paid $1,200.00 less than one year old, will sale for $500.00
Refrigerator white, $250.00
Dinette Suite wood, 6 Cane Back Chairs, with cloth seats, oval or round, China Cabinet, 3 glass upper, 2 doors on lower $1,500.00
Sofa Table wood, with glass top, with lower shelf, $150.00
Old Cedar Blanket/Chest $250.00
Solid Oak Dinette Set 6 chairs, in excellent condition, no scratches or bumps, $500.00
2 wood end tables with coffee table, $150.00
Patio round wrought iron table and 4 chairs, $400.00 (kept inside)
Glider Patio love seat, chair, 2 wrought iron end tables, kept on covered porch, $500.00
Old Model TV, still works in good condition and old wood, Large TV stand $100.00
solid wood Chest of Drawers $75.00.
All furniture is clean and in very good to excellent condition.
Call 540 980 3025 for appointment to see the items.

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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 2.00000000000 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 www.siwpc.net**

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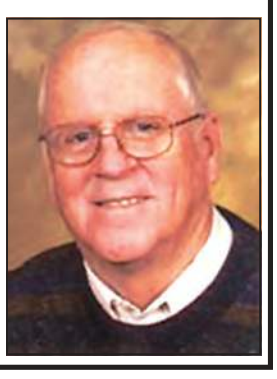

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Bill banning transgender athletes killed

By Morgan Sweeney

(The Center Square) — Advocates for the transgender community celebrated another victory in Virginia Tuesday when the House of Delegates K-12 Education Subcommittee voted down a bill that would have segregated sports participation based on sex.

A similar bill had a similar fate last year, though versions of the Save Girls' Sports bill — a bill that confined sports players to teams of their biological sex and was first passed in Idaho — have been adopted by about half of the states since 2020.

The 2023 bill was sponsored by former Del. Karen Greenhalgh, R-Virginia Beach, and would have banned biological males from girls' and women's sports at all levels. Due to the then-Republican majority in the House, the bill narrowly passed the House 51-47, only to be killed in the Senate committee on education and health 10-5.

Del. Delores Oates, R-Warren, sponsored the bill before the House subcommittee on Tuesday. Despite House Bill 1387's failure last year and some states limiting the law to K-12 sports, HB 1120 was nearly identical to 1387 and maintained the prohibitions that would have kept biological males from female sports, from the youngest school-sponsored sports through the collegiate level. But with the Democratic majority in both chambers, it didn't get as far in 2024.

"Title IX eliminated discrimination based on sex, recognizing that males would always have a physical advantage over females," Oates said, presenting her bill to the committee.

She later added, "I will say that this bill was not born out of animus or bigotry, but out of the desire for women to be able to compete fairly and equally."

Supporters and critics of the legislation were on hand to testify.

"It breaks my heart to see all the gains that my generation worked so hard for being erased. Please protect womens' sport," said the grandmother of Susanna Price of Roanoke College. Price's swim team had a transgender-identifying student join for a time.

Breanna Diaz from the American Civil Liberties Union, who identifies as she/they spoke in opposition to the bill.

"While 23 states might have a ban on trans athletes, they are all being litigated and challenged, including right here in the Fourth Circuit. This bill is similar to one currently being challenged in West Virginia, and we should at least wait until that decision comes down. We oppose," Diaz said.

A student with the Virginia Student Power Network also testified against the bill.

"Do not get this mixed up. This bill is not a women's rights issue. It has nothing to do with fairness. The women who deny trans women are not feminist. They are discriminatory," she said.

The bill was killed 5-2 along party lines, with two members absent from the committee.

Senate Bills 68 and 723 failed in a Senate subcommittee on Thursday.

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 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

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers at 42 1st St. NW to discuss the following:

An amendment to the Town of Pulaski's Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element to incorporate VDOT's comments regarding consistency with the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) statewide transportation plan (VTrans, created in accordance with §33.2-353), the Six-Year Improvement Program (created in accordance with subsection B of §33.2-214), and locations of routes approved by the Board (in accordance with subsection A of §33.2-208).

A copy of the proposed changes is available for public review in the Planning and Zoning Office at the Town of Pulaski Municipal Building, 42 1st St., during normal business hours. All persons desiring to address the Planning Commission or Town Council should appear at the stated time and place. Comments may be submitted in writing to the Town Planner by February 12, 2024,

For disabled individuals who may require special auxiliary aids or services, the Town will make reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact the Clerk of Council (540) 994-8602 before the above meeting date to arrange these accommodations. For individuals with visual or hearing impairment, contact Virginia Relay at 711 for assistance reaching the town.

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 pick up 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.

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Hearing Town of Pulaski Town Council

The Town Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at 42 1st St. NW to discuss the following:

An amendment to the Town of Pulaski's Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element to incorporate VDOT's comments regarding consistency with the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) statewide transportation plan (VTrans, created in accordance with §33.2-353), the Six-Year Improvement Program (created in accordance with subsection B of §33.2-214), and locations of routes approved by the Board (in accordance with subsection A of §33.2-208).

A copy of the proposed changes is available for public review in the Planning and Zoning Office at the Town of Pulaski Municipal Building, 42 1st St., during normal business hours. All persons desiring to address the Planning Commission or Town Council should appear at the stated time and place. Comments may be submitted in writing to the Clerk of Council by February 20, 2024. For disabled individuals who may require special auxiliary aids or services, the Town will make reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact the Clerk of Council (540) 994-8602 before the above meeting date to arrange these accommodations. For individuals with visual or hearing impairment, contact Virginia Relay at 711 for assistance reaching the town.

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice
Pulaski County Planning Commission

The Pulaski County Planning Commission will host a public hearing to consider this application for the Month of January. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, the Planning Commission will host a public hearing on this petition at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 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.

Hot-shooting Bruins sink Cougars

By RODNEY YOUNG
Patriot Publishing

BLACKSBURG - Playing after an emotional senior night and losing another player to injury, the Cougars had to travel to Blacksburg High School for a rescheduled make-up game.

They had trouble defending the hot shooting Bruins and lost 69-44. The home standing Bruins hit 10 threes as they went up 20-13 at the end of the first quarter. The second quarter saw the Bruins hit five threes, while holding the Cougars to just seven total points taking a commanding 41-20 advantage into intermission.

The third quarter wasn't much better for Pulaski County as they only managed to score nine points and the Bruins scored 22 to go up 63-29, over the Cougars.

Blacksburg had 10 players to score , while the short-handed Cougars only dressed nine.They were led in scoring by Xavier Bland's 15 points. He got help from Wade Bland , who scored 14. Jon Joyce and Chanler Montgomery both chipped in with nine points apiece.

Pulaski Co. (6-15) had only one player to hit double figures with that being Justus Hash with 13. Nine of those came in the first half. Will O'Neal came off the bench and tossed in eight , and Jalere Harlow also chipped in with eight. Head coach Anthony Akers remarked in the Cougar dressing room, " Blacksburg hit shots and we didn't. Unfortunately we came out flat after last night's emotional win.

Pulaski Co. ends their regular season playing Salem at Salem. They will not make the River Ridge District tournament. There is a possibility the Cougars may make the Class 3 Region D playoffs.

The Cougar junior varsity saw their record go to 13-8 with a gritty 41-37 win as they played with only eight players. Thomas Farris , Parker Price, and Kaleb Sartin all scored eight points. The Bruins were led by Mitchell Linkous with a game-high 10 points.

Cougar second half comeback downs B'burg

By RODNEY YOUNG
Patriot Publishing

Games are not won in the first half. The Pulaski County Cougars proved that as they outscored Christiansburg 36- 20 in the second half to defeat the Blue Demons, 59-51 last week in the Cougar Den.

Down 31-23 at intermission the Cougars battled back to within one at 37-36 when senior Lane Nester jammed home a bucket after a steal.

On senior night he scored four points to help lead the Cougars during in the quarter.

After the dunk however, Nester fell and badly hurt his left wrist and the game was stopped due to the injury with just 1:12 left in the third quarter. The game was held up for around 20 minutes and Nester had to be taken to the hospital. It was an arm or left wrist injury at this writing.

Nester, as he was being taken out of the gym to the hospital, told the team to "win it."

Win it they did as they played with great emotion.

After the delay sophomore Sammy Carrasco hit a huge three from the baseline to put the Cougars up for the first time in the game going into the final stanza, 39-37.

The Cougars would then outscore the Demons 20-14 in the final quarter.

That final quarter for the Cougars saw junior Jeremiah Turner score nine points and play great defense as he deflected and stole a number of passes. Junior Tootie O"Dell would hit five of six free throws and senior Marcus Reed scored a bucket and two free throws to help the Cougars win on senior night, as one of their two seniors was being taken to the hospital.

"Emotion can and is a powerful thing," said Cougar head Anthony Akers. Akers then said, "Nester's injury ended up being a big change in the game. The team rallied around him, and it changed the game. Proud of how this team battled and fought tonight."

Pulaski County got 17 points from sophomore Justus Hash, as he scored all nine of the Cougar points in the first quarter. Turner finished with 11 points, all of those after intermission and nine in the decisive fourth quarter. Tootie O'Dell chipped in with 10. He hit eight of his 10 free throws down the stretch. Nester and Reed, the only two seniors playing on the night, scored six points apiece.

The Blue Demons were led in scoring by Mason King's 17 points, and Izaiah Cotto finished with 13 in a losing effort.

Pul. Co. 9 14 16 20 - 59
C-burg 15 16 6 14 - 51

Scoring - PC - Hash 17, Turner 11, O;Dell 10, Nester 6, Reed 6, Lawrence 3, Carrasco 3, Harlow 3, C- burg - King 17, Cotto 13, Velickovic 10, Mills 3, Blount 2, Robinson 6

3 -PT. Goals - PC - 3 (Hash, Carrasco, Turner) , C-burg - 4 (Cotto 3, Mills)

Total FG's - PC - 18, C-burg 21

Ft's - PC - 20-24, C-burg 5 -10

Total Fouls - PC - 14, C-burg 25

Fouled Out - PC - None, C-burg - Robinson

Technicals - None

JV - Pulaski Co. 52 Christiansburg 47- Cougars got 11 points each from Thomas Farris, Braxton Merchant and Silas Sweet. Demons got 12 points from Easton Murden

ACC

Continued From Page B1

The Demon Deacons finished atop the Atlantic Division in 2023 before making a run to the Men's College World Series championship series. Clemson won the ACC Baseball Championship and finished the year with 44 wins – the most for the Tigers since 2018.

The Coastal Division was nearly deadlocked between Virginia and North Carolina. The Cavaliers garnered seven first-place nods and 88 total points to inch past the Tar Heels, who received six votes on the top line and a total of 86 points. Duke picked up the final first-place vote among Coastal teams.

The Blue Devils accumulated 71 points to take third in the preseason poll, while Miami finished fourth with 56 points, followed by Georgia Tech (40), Virginia Tech (34), and Pitt (17).

The Cavaliers are coming off of a 50-win season in 2023, including 19 wins in ACC play, which cultivated in a trip to the Men's College World Series. The Tar Heels won 36 games and made a trip to the Terre Haute Regional, while Duke capped its season one win away from Omaha in the Charlottesville Super Regional.

Wake Forest has been named the preseason No. 1 team in the country by D1Baseball, Baseball America, Perfect Game, and the NCBWA. The USA Today Coaches' Poll has not yet been released. Six ACC schools – Clemson, Duke, North Carolina, NC State, Virginia, and Wake Forest – have each appeared in all three preseason polls thus far.

The ACC has placed at least one team in each of the last 17 College World Series and at least six teams in each of the last 19 NCAA tournaments.

All 14 ACC teams will open their seasons on Friday, Feb. 16, with conference play set to begin on Friday, March 8. The 2024 ACC Baseball Championship will be held May 21-26 at Truist Field in Charlotte, North Carolina. ACC Network will be on hand for the first five days of the tournament with ESPN2 set to carry Sunday's championship game.

Full tournament ticket books are on sale now through the Charlotte Knights and the Truist Field box office.

2024 ACC Baseball Coaches Preseason Poll

First-place votes in parenthesis

Overall ACC Champion
Wake Forest (10)
North Carolina (2)
Clemson (1)
Virginia (1)

Atlantic Division
1. Wake Forest (10) - 95
2. Clemson (1) – 79
3. NC State – 68
4. Florida State – 54
5. Louisville – 48
6. Notre Dame – 31
7. Boston College – 17

Coastal Division
1. Virginia (1) – 88
2. North Carolina (2) – 86
3. Duke – 71
4. Miami – 56
5. Georgia Tech – 40
6. Virginia Tech – 34
7. Pitt – 17

Banter

Continued From Page B1

haves and others as they don't want. Yes, it's a sad but true thought, and only the people who were picked last (even me) know about the sting of being selected because no one was left.

This Sunday, I would encourage our children and all of us as adults to pay attention to the 49ers and, even more specifically, their quarterback for the NFC, Brock Purdy. You see, this man was given a jersey with the name Mr. Irrelevant stitched on the back. Brock was picked last on one of the biggest stages in the world, the NFL draft. Not many people actually saw the pick because who watches the last rounds of the Draft.

However, this young man, labeled irrelevant and picked last, is showing all of our children that someone else's opinion of you does not determine what you are capable of. If you ask me, this is a player that you can make a role model for your kids. Brock Purdy is an excellent example of a phrase a former senior pastor of mine shared with me, and I try to make sure I share the same as any athlete I get to work with. "Your talent will take you places, and your character will keep you there." (Pastor Gore).

So, enjoy the game, and go Niners!

Preview

Continued From Page B1

at this point," Kelce said. "I know the years that we haven't won since we won our first one have felt like the biggest losses of my life. So it's just having that mentality year in, year out, and putting the expectations on yourself, making sure that no one puts higher expectations on us more than us. We're here to win this thing, baby. That's for sure."

Mahomes, the two-time NFL and Super Bowl MVP, is already drawing comparisons to Tom Brady, who won seven Super Bowl rings. Brady won three in his first four seasons as a starter. Mahomes is going for No. 3 in his sixth season.

Even if he wins, it's too early to have the conversation.

"I'm not even close to halfway, so I haven't put a lot of thought into it," Mahomes said. "I mean, your goal is to be the best player that you can be. I know I'm blessed to be around a lot of great players. And so, right now, it's doing whatever I can to beat a great 49ers team and try to get that third ring. And then if you ask me that question in 15 years, and I'll see if I can get close to seven. But seven seems like a long ways away still."

This is a rematch of the game the Chiefs won four years ago to give coach Andy Reid his first championship. Niners coach Kyle Shanahan has been close to winning twice before only to see his teams blow big leads.

He was Atlanta's offensive coordinator when Brady and the Patriots rallied from a 28-3 second-half deficit to win the Super Bowl in 2017. His 49ers team led the Chiefs 20-10 entering the fourth quarter only to watch Mahomes rally Kansas City to a 31-20 win in Miami in 2020.

"Both of them are heartbreaking," Shanahan said. "Those things last awhile. But it's all about getting back there again, and that's what I'm excited for."

Shanahan's dad, Mike, lost two Super Bowls as an offensive coordinator with Denver before going to San Francisco and winning one in 1995. He then won two more as the head coach of the Broncos.

"I remember seeing my dad after those Super Bowls when he was a coordinator in Denver when I was younger and how hard it was on him," Shanahan said. "So I think anytime you get that close and you lose the last one, that's definitely the hardest."

Jimmy Garoppolo was the team's quarterback last time around. Now, it's Purdy, an AP NFL MVP finalist who overcame all the odds and continues to make critics look foolish.

Purdy isn't concerned with proving doubters wrong. He has rare maturity for a 24-year-old that helps him play with confidence and maintain his composure.

"It comes down to how do I do my job really well for three hours against the Kansas City Chiefs' defense," Purdy said.

"That's where my mindset's at. I want to do everything I can to help my team win. I'm focusing on the plays. I'm focusing on what we're trying to do for this week, not getting caught up in all the paparazzi and all that kind of stuff outside."

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF DUBLIN
BUDGET REVISION TO 2023/2024 BUDGET

The Dublin Town Council will hold a public hearing regarding a proposed budget revision for fiscal year 2023-2024 at its regular meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2024, in the Council Chambers at the Dublin Town Center, 101 Dublin Park Road, Dublin, Virginia. Attendance and comment by the public is welcome. The budget revision is due to an unexpected increase in the amount received from the Virginia Department of Transportation ("State Revenue") for maintenance of streets within the Town.

The following is a synopsis of the proposed revised budget and is published for informational and fiscal planning purposes only:

2023-2024	Effective 7/1/2023	Effective 3/1/2024
General Fund	2023/2024	2023/2024 Revised
Revenue:		
Real Estate & Personal Property Taxes	$ 370,440	$ 370,440
Other Local Taxes	$ 500,817	$ 500,817
Licenses and Permits	$ 63,000	$ 63,000
Fines	$ 13,000	$ 13,000
State Revenue	$ 926,402	$ 1,055,856
Miscellaneous Revenue	$ 275,000	$ 275,000
Total General Fund Revenue	**$ 2,148,659**	**$ 2,278,113**
Expenditures:		
General Administrative	$ 229,875	$ 229,875
Police	$ 535,266	$ 535,266
VDOT Street Dept Eligible	$ 675,700	$ 805,154
Street Dept In-Eligible	$ 3,850	$ 3,850
FireMarshal	$ 11,180	$ 11,180
Fire	$ 107,188	$ 107,188
REMSI, Inc.	$ 6,800	$ 6,800
Recreation Department	$ 2,500	$ 2,500
Capital Outlay	$ 84,400	$ 84,400
Debt Service	$ 12,560	$ 12,560
Nondepartmental	$ 325,900	$ 325,900
General Fund Balance	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
General Fund Cash Flow Reserves	$ 103,440	$ 103,440
Total General Fund Expenditures	**$ 2,148,659**	**$ 2,278,113**
Enterprise Fund		
Revenue:		
Water Sales	$ 2,003,000	$ 2,003,000
Sewer Fees	$ 653,000	$ 653,000
Solid Waste Collection/Disposal Fees	$ 265,000	$ 265,000
Dublin Industrial Park	$ 685,000	$ 685,000
ARPA Tranch (2nd Half)		
Total Enterprise Fund Revenues	$ 3,606,000	$ 3,606,000
Expenditures:		
WaterDepartment	$ 1,550,324	$ 1,550,324
Sewer Department	$ 304,000	$ 304,000
Nondepartmental	$ 361,584	$ 361,584
Capital Outlay	$ 387,660	$ 387,660
Solid Waste Collection/Disposal	$ 119,575	$ 119,575
Dublin Industrial Park	$ 638,049	$ 638,049
Debt Service	$ 164,248	$ 164,248
Enterprise Unrestrictive Reserves	$ 80,560	$ 80,560
ARPA Expenses		
Total Enterprise Fund Expenditures	**$ 3,606,000**	**$ 3,606,000**
Total Budget-Rev. & Expend. for both Funds	**$ 5,754,659**	**$ 5,884,113**

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Denny Hamlin, driver of the #11 Sport Clips Haircuts Toyota, winner (C) Kyle Busch, driver of the #8 Morgan & Morgan Chevrolet, (R) second place and Ryan Blaney, driver of the #12 Menards/Great Lakes Flooring Ford, third place pose on the podium in victory lane after the NASCAR Cup Series Busch Light Clash at The Coliseum at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on February 03, 2024 in Los Angeles, California. (Photo by Meg Oliphant/Getty Images)

Hamlin wins re-scheduled Clash from pole position

By REID SPENCER
NASCAR Wire Service

LOS ANGELES—The final restart was the difference for Denny Hamlin.

A day earlier than planned—the result of a devastating weather forecast for the Los Angeles area—Hamlin got the jump he needed on an overtime restart and won Saturday night's third edition of the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum.

Smoking his tires in every corner after grabbing the lead on a restart on Lap 141 of a scheduled 150, Hamlin was a few yards away from the finish line when his Joe Gibbs Racing teammate, Ty Gibbs, spun off the bumper of Kyle Larson's Chevrolet to bring out the seventh caution and force a two-lap overtime.

In a two-lap shootout for the win, Hamlin stayed clear of runner-up Kyle Busch and crossed the stripe with a 0.610-second advantage, earning his fourth victory in the season-opening exhibition race—most among active drivers—with the first three coming at Daytona International Speedway.

Given the prediction of heavy rain and possible flooding from Sunday through Tuesday, NASCAR made the unprecedented and provident call to move the start of the race from 8 p.m. ET on Sunday to the same time on Saturday.

The decision allowed the NASCAR Cup Series competitors to complete the event without extreme disruption to the schedule.

"I got a really good run off Turn 2 and just got position and was able to hang on from there," Hamlin said of his run to the lead after the Lap 141 restart. "It's so chaotic on the restarts, with everyone bumping and banging, but it's great to win here in L.A.

"It's just a great momentum boost. It doesn't do much more than that, but I clean off all the trophies every January 1 in the entryway to the house, and now we get to add one pretty quick, so I'm really happy about that."

Busch restarted behind Hamlin in the overtime, but Hamlin pulled away to a lead of nearly two car-lengths, and Busch couldn't get to his bumper after that.

"I felt like the first half (of the race), I had a better car, better than the 11 (Hamlin), but some of the adjustments we made weren't as good, some of the adjustments they made were better," said Busch, who has finished second, third and second in the three events at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

"All in all, just glad to have a good night. Glad to come out of here in one piece with all the bumping and banging and everything else that happens."

With a remarkable run from the rear of the field, 2023 Cup Series champion Ryan Blaney finished third after using a provisional just to make the field. Blaney started 23rd and made steady progress throughout the race.

Joey Logano came home fourth, with Kyle Larson claiming the fifth position. Alex Bowman, Chase Briscoe, Brad Keselowski, Martin Truex Jr. and William Byron completed the top 10.

Hamlin led 58 laps, second only to Gibbs, who was out front for 84 circuits and led by nearly three seconds before catching the back of the field in a green-flag run from Lap 78 to Lap 140. The yellow that ended the run—the result of Michael McDowell's spin in Turn 3—bunched the field and gave Hamlin a shot at the victory.

Clearly, Hamlin took full advantage.

Super Bowl is expected to smash betting records

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Nearly 68 million American adults — about 1 in 4 — plan to bet on this year's Super Bowl, setting a record by a wide margin, according to the gambling industry's national trade association.

Figures released Tuesday by the American Gaming Association include bets placed with legal outlets, as well as with illegal bookies and online operations in other countries.

The volume of betting participation is projected to be 35% higher than last year, which was the previous record.

Bettors plan to wager an estimated $23.1 billion on this year's Super Bowl, up from $16 billion last year, the group predicted.

Of that, about $1.5 billion is projected to be bet with legal outlets, the group said, citing consensus estimates from various sources. That is in the same ballpark as the $1.25 billion in legal bets projected by Irvine, California-based research firm Eilers & Krejcik Gaming.

Sports betting is legal in 38 states plus Washington, D.C.

"There's a good chance that every Super Bowl for the next ten or so years will be the most bet Super Bowl thanks to the underlying growth of regulated sports betting in the U.S.," said gambling analyst Chris Grove, a partner at Eilers & Krejcik Gaming.

Sunday's game will feature the defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs against the San Francisco 49ers in a rare rematch from four years ago.

The 49ers are favored by 2.5 points, meaning they would have to win the game by 3 or more points for bets on them to be winners. Conversely, if the Chiefs win, or if they lose by no more than 2 points, bets on Kansas City would win. Those odds are from FanDuel Sportsbook, the official odds provider for The Associated Press.

The romance between Chiefs star tight end Travis Kelce and pop superstar Taylor Swift might be helping drive interest in this Super Bowl. About 73% of adults say they plan to watch the game this year, about 10% higher than in recent previous years.

"I think the 'Taylor Swift effect' will be more obviously felt in terms of the total number of people watching and betting on the game than it will be in the total dollars bet on the game," Grove said. "But there's little doubt that sportsbooks will be seeing Swifties sign up that otherwise would not have given sports betting a second thought."

Likewise, Cait DeBaun, a vice president with the American Gaming Association, said Swift could be one of several reasons for increased betting on this year's Super Bowl, along with "the compelling matchup," the game being held in Las Vegas, the nation's betting capital, and the growing availability of legal sports betting in the U.S.

The largest group in the survey — 42.7 million adults — plans to place a wager online (legally or illegally), at a retail sportsbook or with an illegal bookie, an increase of 41% from last year.

About 36.5 million adults plan to bet casually with friends, or as part of a pool or squares contest, up 32% from last year.

Bettors are nearly split on the outcome of the game, with 47% planning to bet on the Kansas City Chiefs and 44% planning to bet on the San Francisco

Salem

Continued From Page B1

thirty seconds.

That was a huge sequence of events that went against the Cougars.

Sophomore Justus Hash scored a game high 23 points. He scored 13 of the Cougars' 21 fourth quarter points. Tootie O'Dell pumped in 14 and Chase Lawrence chipped in with 12.

Salem (12-10) got 17 points from Lamarius Fox. Big man Marvin Fields knocked down 12, while Lucas Yerton contributed 11.

"I'm really pleased with the way we fought back and battled in the second half. We played really well at times tonight," said head coach Anthony Akers.

Salem led for most of the game and took an 9-point lead into intermission, 43-34. They would take a 52-43 advantage into the final stanza.

One of the big differences in the game was Salem shot 20 foul shots to the visiting Cougars' three!

The Salem junior varsity defeated the Cougar JV, 65-39. Salem got 15 points from Vaychius Hamm and 10 from Logan Sparks. Boone Blevins had 10 and Thomas Farris eight in the Cougar junior varsity's last game of the season. They finished the season with a 13-9 record.

Pul. Co. - Hash 23, Lawrence 12, O'Dell 14, Harlow 5, Reed 6, Carrasco 2, Turner 2, Salem - Clemens 9, Fox 17, Fields 12, Yerton 11, Moyer 4, Carver 7, Brown 7, Coe 3

3-PT. Goals - Pulaski Co. - 9 (Hash 5, O'Dell 3, Harlow), Salem - 6- (Clemens 3, Carver, Yerton,Brown)

Total FG's - Pulaski co. - 27, Salem - 27

FT's - Pulaski Co. 1-3, Salem 11-20

Total Fouls - Pulaski Co. - 21, Salem - 7

Fouled Out - Pulaski Co. - O'Dell

Technicals - None

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CHURCH

Journey To Faith

By Pat Priddy

Building up treasures in Heaven

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21

It is amazing how God chooses in His time to open your eyes to certain passages of scripture. You can read the same verse multiple times over your lifetime, and suddenly the words lift off the page and become a lifeline to your understanding. That is what happened to me one insightful night as I was reading Ecclesiastes. Always such a deep and mysterious book in the Bible, I would search while reading each line for relevance in my life. Then it came!

King Solomon, one of the wisest men ever to live on earth, not only had wisdom but also had power, riches, honor, reputation, and God's favor. Here is someone who had it all in his life, and yet came to realize that confidence in one's own efforts, abilities, righteousness, wealth, and richness was meaningless. What he came to realize is that the only thing that mattered was his commitment and relationship to God.

Jesus reinforced this awareness when he warned us not to store up riches and treasures on earth that moths and rust would destroy, but store up for ourselves treasures in heaven.

Lord, let me store up kindness and love for my neighbor while I walk this earth. Give me access to those souls who suffer and feel alone. Allow me to share the cherished gospel of Jesus with those who have been betrayed, are depressed or anxious about their lives or the lives of their loved ones. Send me out in the midst of heartaches to bring the salve of your compassion to wounded hearts. These are the things that will live eternal and will never be stolen by thieves or rust away on this earth.

Lord, may our work be for the glory of Your kingdom and not for the building up of ourselves on this earth and not of this earth.

"For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune." Ecclesiastes 2: 21

What treasures are you storing up for heaven?

What do you cherish that moths and rust cannot destroy?

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

Church Directory

Draper Valley Baptist Church
3200 Lee Highway
Draper, Va. 24324
Pastor: Alan Pearce
Bible Study Sunday, 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening, 5 p.m.
email: drapervalleybc@gmail.com
www.drapervalleybaptist.org

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

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

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

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

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

Cecil's Chapel Church
5801 Cecil's Chapel Road
Hiwassee, VA 24347
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
WBLB 10:00 am

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

Delton Church of God of Prophecy
4570 Boyd Road, Draper, VA 24324
Pastor Vickie Lee Viars
deltoncogop@gmail.com (276) 620-3191
Sunday mornings - 11 AM to 12 PM
Sunday evenings-Facebook live services
announced on Facebook

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

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First Missionary Baptist Church
7318 Manns Drive
Fairlawn, Virginia 24141-8524
(540) 639-5331
email: fmbc1872@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/faithbiblechurch
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday Children's Church: 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening: 6 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Children's Meal: 6:30 p.m.
Children's &Youth's Group Classes: 7 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church
210 Fourth Street, Radford
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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 Children's Classes 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Your Choice This Week

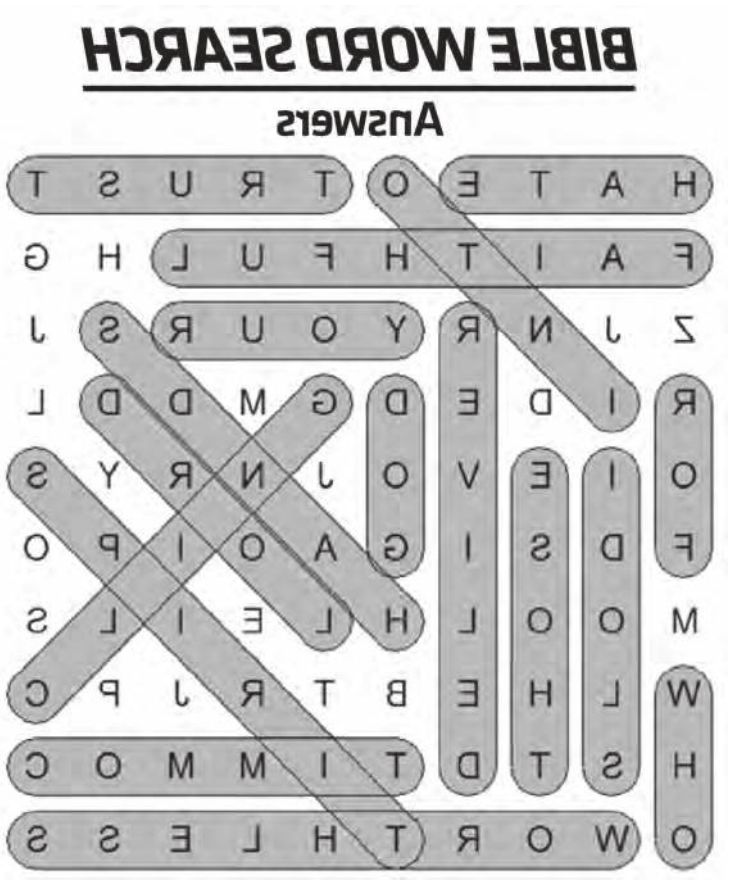
I Want

Probably the most used phrase of all time is, "I want." In the Bible, the Prodigal Son wanted his inheritance before its due date. His father allowed him to have it and he lost it all. Then he had another want. He wanted to go back home. King Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard. Someone once said, "He who dies with the most toys wins." That is not true. Real happiness is not about toys or possessions. Ask the rich man, whose story is found in Luke, chapter twelve. Ask another rich man, whose story is found in Luke chapter sixteen. Don't let wanting things of this world get the best of you. In the end, they will be insignificant, not producing the expected happiness. Jesus advises us, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Let's talk about a couple of the things we should be wanting.

I want to experience more of God's presence. King David loved to be in God's presence. He said, "In Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." (Psalms 16:11) He would also say, "For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand." (Psalms 84:10) When the King was in God's presence he seemed to explode with worship. He speaks to us of clapping our hands for God, lifting our voices in praise to God, and playing musical instruments in worship. When the Ark of the Covenant was brought into Jerusalem, he took off his coat and danced before the Lord with all his might. If anything is holding back your worship of God, you need to take it off, just as the king took off his coat. The Lord is worthy of our praise because He has done great things! There are times when I just can't help it, I have to raise my hand and let out a praise to the Lord. Isaiah captures what I am talking about in chapter sixty-four, verse ten, when he says, "Oh that Thou wouldest rend the heavens, that Thou wouldest come down."

I want more of God's will to be done in my life. God sees the beginning from the end and everything in between. Therefore, He knows what is best for me and you. I'm weary of trying to do things my way, or somebody else's way. Too often, my way fails, but God is always successful. I agree with King Solomon who said, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are thy ways of death." (Proverbs 16:25) It seemed right to Lot to live in the plains of Jordan, but it was an awful idea. It seemed like a bad thing when John was banished to the Isle of Patmos, but it was a good thing. It resulted in the book of Revelations being written. It would be a good thing if we prayed the prayer of Jesus, "Not my will but Thine be done."

What do you want? I hope it's more of God.



BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 31:5-6

Into your hands I **commit** my **spirit**; **deliver** me, LORD, my **faithful God**. I **hate those who cling** to **worthless idols**; as **for** me, I **trust** in the **LORD**.

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

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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Paxlovid underused study says

By KENYA HUNTER
AP Health Writer

Tens of thousands of Americans are hospitalized with COVID-19 every week. Thousands die from it every month. And yet, an antiviral treatment proven to lessen the chances of severe outcomes is going underused.

The drug, Paxlovid, is lauded by experts as a powerful tool that can prevent hospitalization and death from COVID-19. But the high price and doctors' hesitation to prescribe the pills mean the five-day treatment isn't getting to everyone who would benefit from it.

"When you read in your local newspaper that in this hospital, they've got this many COVID patients, most of those are preventable hospitalizations," said Dr. Amesh Adalja, a senior scholar at Johns Hopkins University who sees Paxlovid as a useful tool to treat COVID-19.

One Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study found that Paxlovid can decrease hospitalization risks among adults by 51%. The drug is recommended for older people and other adults with certain underlying conditions and can be prescribed for kids as young as 12.

When Paxlovid was first authorized for emergency use in the U.S. in December 2021, it was free for anyone who needed it. Once the government stopped funding the treatment, Pfizer set a list price of $1,390.

The drug remains free for people on federal insurance

See PAXLOVID, page B10

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Is the book of Shimeah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. In Joshua 10, which people were killed by great stones cast down from heaven? Amorites, Samarians, Canaanites, Nazarenes

3. From Genesis 2:24, what phrase describes the marriage of a man and a woman? Holy matrimony, God's reward, One flesh, Today forever

4. Which insect is mentioned in the book of James as an eater of garments? Gnat, Hornet, Ant, Moth

5. What king of Bashan had an iron bed thirteen and a half feet long? Edrei, Og, Argob, Senir

6. On which day of creation was the sun made? First, Second, Third, Fourth

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Amorites, 3) One flesh, 4) Moth, 5) Og, 6) Fourth

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

OLIVE

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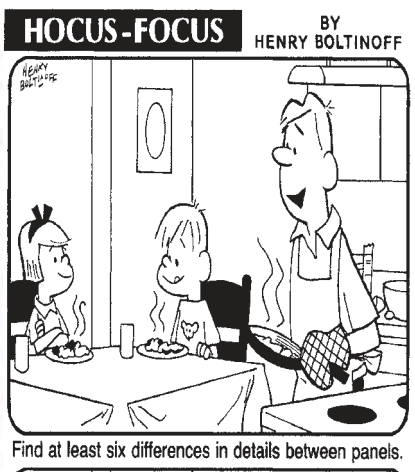

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Burner is larger. 2. Hand is not showing. 3. Plate is moved. 4. Glass is moved. 5. Box is missing. 6. Hair is longer.

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: **Y** equals **O**

HIQ MYYU WMYSV VNLUT WHX ZFIWT QCY LYSFXH'V ZNHX BKYBIK CYTVT: "BWKWTNVIT FYTV."

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SCRAMBLERS

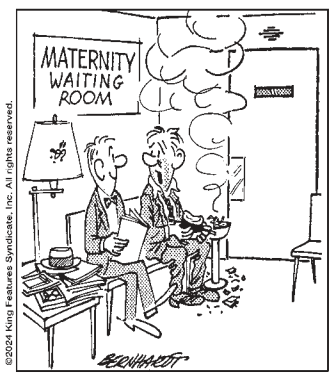
Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Excite **SPINIER** ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

Ruin **SWEAT** ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

Peril **GARDEN** ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

Shine **RUSTLE** ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____



"I know it's a girl by the way I've been kept _____."

TODAY'S WORD ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____

King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Pt. of a sentence
5 Skirt edge
8 Some GIs
12 Nest setting
13 Commotion
14 Inter –
15 Admin. aide
16 Prepared
18 Fake fireplace fixture
20 Baker Street sleuth
21 Competent
23 Roman 151
24 Started
28 Editor Wintour
31 Prior night
32 Wrap up by
34 Martini ingredient
35 Painter Chagall
37 Coexisted
39 Chinese chairman
41 "Not so fast!"
42 Pub game fodder
45 Honor
49 Matured
51 Jazzy James
52 Robert of "The Sopranos"
53 Census stat
54 Winter fall
55 Suffix with song or gab
56 Chic, to Austin Powers
57 Catches some rays

DOWN
1 Men-only
2 – Major
3 Porgy's love
4 Air travel fatigue
5 Negotiating a price
6 Tokyo, once
7 Closet invader
8 Spanish dish
9 Pink wading bird
10 Funny – (2003 Derby winner)
11 Utters
17 Sinbad's bird
19 Slender woodwind
22 Fund
24 Jewel
25 Eggs
26 Little home wreckers?
27 Amassed
29 Diarist Anais
30 "Life of Pi" director Lee
33 New Mexico resort
36 Frolic
38 Most recent
40 Tin Man's need
42 Pre-weekend yell
43 Actor's quest
44 Driver of "Logan Lucky"
46 Sicilian peak
47 Thames town
48 Gullets
50 Conceit

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top ten

Smartest People of All Time

1. Johann Goethe
2. Albert Einstein
3. Leonardo da Vinci
4. Isaac Newton
5. James Maxwell
6. Rudolf Clausius
7. Nicolaus Copernicus
8. Gottfried Leibniz
9. William Sidis
10. Thomas Young

Source: Business Insider

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Which movie has the tagline, "May the odds be ever in your favor"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which country possesses Baffin Island?
3. AD SLOGANS: Which company's slogan is, "You're in good hands"?
4. LANGUAGE: What is a common saying for the Latin phrase "lapsus linguae"?
5. MUSIC: What country was home to reggae singer Bob Marley?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is an example of a macropod?
7. TELEVISION: Gordon, Percy, James, Toby and Emily are characters on which children's show?
8. MATH: What is 1/60 of a degree?
9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the book series "The Chronicles of Narnia"?
10. ACRONYMS: What does the acronym SPF stand for?

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WORD LADDERS

Can you go from BLIND to SAINT in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

BLIND

_____

_____

_____

SAINT

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WORD LADDER
Answer
BLIND, BLING, FLING, FLINT, FAINT, SAINT

SCRAMBLERS
solution
1. Inspire 2. Waste; 3. Danger; 4. Luster
Today's Word
WAITING

Americanisms

"If you are falling ... dive."
– *Joseph Campbell*

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CryptoQuip
answer
New book about ticks and fleas who couldn't find proper hosts: "Parasites Lost."

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

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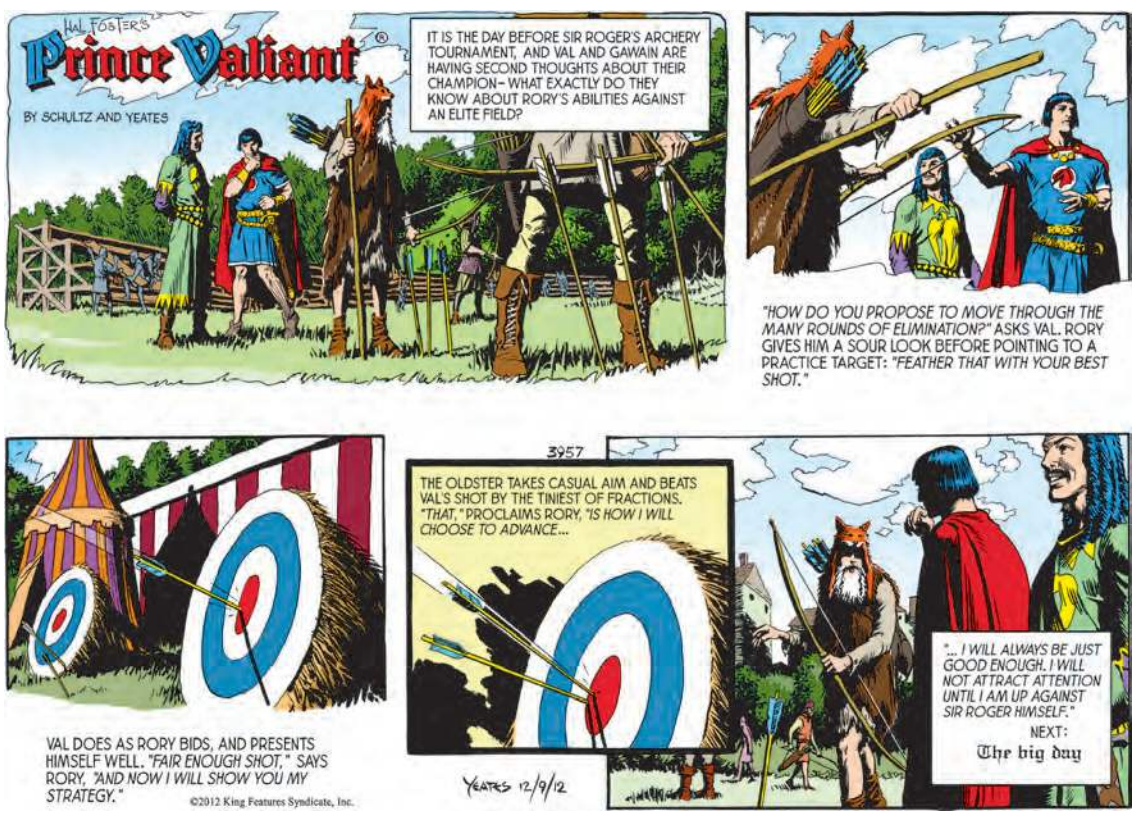

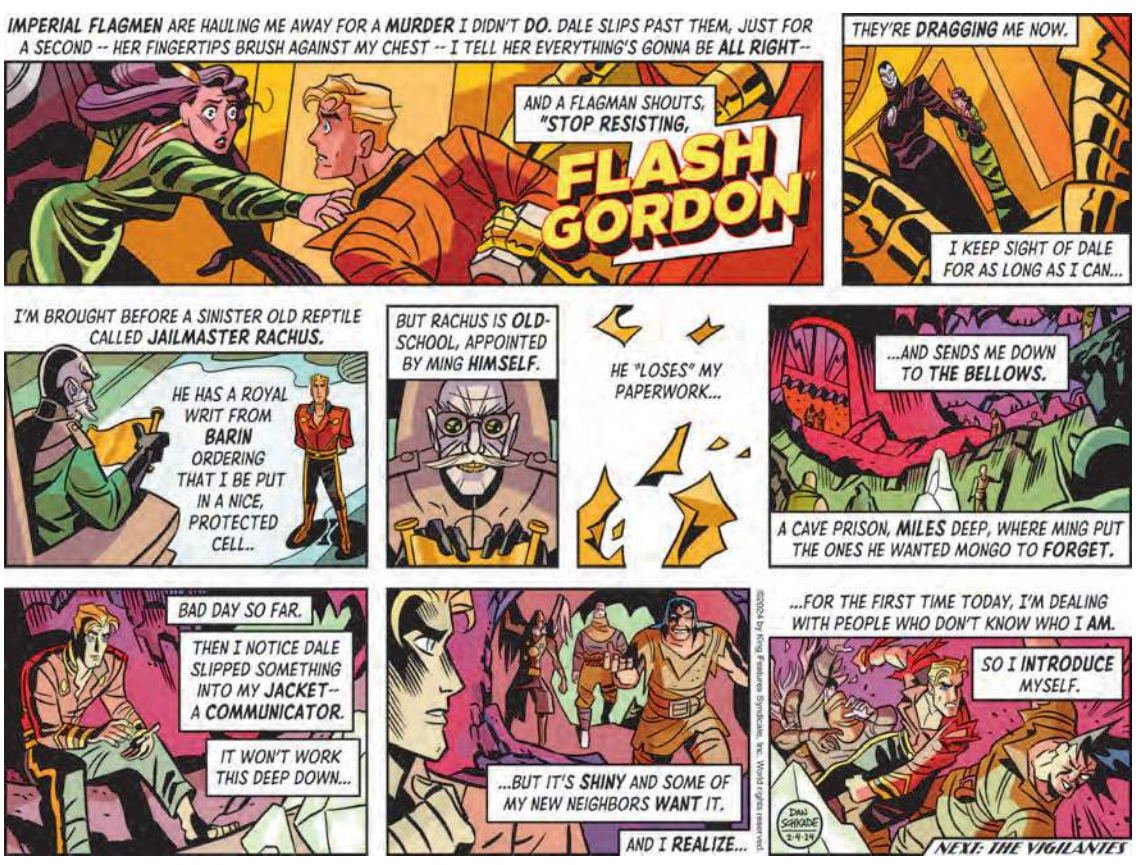

Here's a Tip!

* To get a really good shine on your windows, try using newspaper instead of a paper towel. Spray the window with your cleaner and just use the paper like a towel. Practically no lint!

* "We save the bread ends and any too-hard or molding bread in our freezer until we can get down to the lake and feed the birds and fish. The ducks especially love it." -- E.F. in Wisconsin

* Drop a couple of crackers (saltines) in your sugar canister if you have problems with clumping. The crackers will keep it from clumping. Just remember they are there if you dip a measuring cup in the canister. You don't want a bunch of cracker crumbs in your sweet recipe!

* To stretch your gravy, add a spoonful (or two) of bouillon mix to a glass of hot water. Add enough cold water to a tablespoon of cornstarch to make a loose paste, and add both the bouillon and the cornstarch to your regular gravy. Mix well.

* If you have a hard time skinning fish that comes "skin-on," like salmon, try freezing it just long enough to firm up the flesh in order to easily peel it off or trim it.

* "Keep a container or baggie of wet wipes with your shoes so it's easy to give them a quick wipe-down either before you put them on or before you put them away. They will always stay nice and clean." -- E.W. and V.O.

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

Top Ten in Movies

1. Mean Girls
(PG-13) Angourie Rice, Renee Rapp

2. The Beekeeper
(R) Jason Statham, Emmy Raver-Lampman

3. Wonka
(PG) Timothee Chalamet, Gustave Die

4. Migration
(PG) Kumail Nanjiani, Elizabeth Banks

5. Anyone But You
(R) Sydney Sweeney, Glen Powell

6. Poor Things
(R) Emma Stone, Mark Ruffalo

7. Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom
(PG-13) Jason Momoa, Patrick Wilson

8. Godzilla Minus One
(PG-13) Minami Hamabe, Sakura Ando

9. American Fiction
(R) Jeffrey Wright, Tracee Ellis Ross

10. Night Swim
(PG-13) Wyatt Russell, Kerry Condon

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The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the General Assembly to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia between 1954 and 1964 due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance. Beginning in 2024, the scholarship program is extended to their descendants. The program is now open to eligible applicants for the 2024–2025 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit:
BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV

MAGIC MAZE ● SAME BEGINNING, MIDDLE AND END

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: CAPITAL OF GEORGIA

Albania
Alfalfa
Copacetic
Dredged
Essence
Expense
Gorging
Reservoir
Sensors
Smokestacks
Snapshots
Snowshoes
Sunsets
Swimsuits
Treatment

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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.

C YHSOZ SQCZM SQUS SQO ZCBQS CV AYGO UKCWO UZN AYGO GCPQKL PYKYGON SQUZ SQO NUL.

— WCZPOZS WUZ BYBQ

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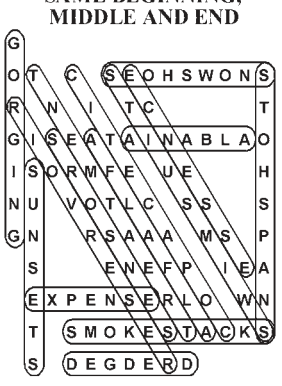
SAME BEGINNING, MIDDLE AND END



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

CryptoQuote answer

I often think that the night is more alive and more richly colored than the day.
— Vincent Van Gogh

Weekly SUDOKU — Answer

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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PULASKI COUNTY PULSE

Feb. 12

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. 13

118th Annual Pancake Supper
Christ Episcopal Church at 210 Fourth Street in Radford will hold its 118th Annual Pancake Supper from 5 to 7 p.m., Feb. 13.

Feb. 15

Sons of Confederate Veterans
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet on Thursday, February 15, 7pm at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Will Reed will speak on "Animals of the War Between the States". If Montgomery and Floyd County Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

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.

Paxlovid

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programs like Medicaid and Medicare through the end of this year, and uninsured people also can get it for free. But many of those people must go through a patient assistance program run by Pfizer to get the discounts. People on commercial insurance with high out-of-pocket costs can also get financial help through a separate co-pay assistance program.

Independent pharmacy owners find Paxlovid is expensive to carry because of reimbursement rates from commercial insurers, said Kurt Proctor, a senior vice president at the National Community Pharmacists Association.

"If you're losing 5% on a $10 prescription, it's very different than losing 5% on a $1,400 prescription product," he said.

The high list price also is turning off some patients.

When Celise Ballow, of Junction, Utah, got COVID-19 recently, she never got the medication.

Ballow said her doctor declined to write her a prescription after telling her it wouldn't be covered by her insurance. Now she wonders if she could have avoided some of the infection's worst effects if she had been able to get the medication.

"I'm going on a month and a half and I'm still having nebulizer treatments. … I'm still exhausted," Ballow said.

Another factor hurting uptake appears to be the long list of medications that shouldn't be taken with Paxlovid. Many doctors may simply decide the risk of drug interactions isn't worth it.

"If people are on four or five different medications, it does tend to be a pain to double check 'is there an interaction here?'" said Dr. Sarah George, an infectious diseases professor at St. Louis University. Seeing a possible significant drug interaction "tends to put a physician off from prescribing a drug, even if there is a workaround," she said.

Paxlovid isn't the only antiviral medication for COVID-19. Merck's Lagevrio is another available pill, though it's proven to be less popular in the U.S. than Paxlovid. A third drug, Gilead's Veklury, is given via infusion.

The people most likely to benefit from Paxlovid were the least likely to get it in 2022, according to a recent study.

The study by Harvard researchers found that Paxlovid was disproportionately given to Medicare patients with lower risk of severe infection. If it had been properly utilized, the authors concluded, more than 16,000 COVID-19 deaths could have been prevented.

Dr. Michael Barnett, a Harvard health policy researcher who co-wrote the study, said it shouldn't be that way.

"There are very few medications and very few patients whose potential medication interaction with Paxlovid is so severe that they're better off not taking Paxlovid," he said. "Very few of them are important enough that it's a big risk to stop for a week."

Vice named to President's List at Coll. of Charleston

CHARLESTON, SC -- Addie Vice of Radford, (24141) was named to the College of Charleston Fall 2023 President's List (Highly Distinguished). Vice is majoring in Undecided.

To qualify for the President's List (Highly Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

To qualify for Dean's List (Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.500 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Located in the heart of historic Charleston, South Carolina, the College of Charleston is a nationally recognized public liberal arts and sciences university. Founded in 1770, the College is among the nation's top universities for quality education, student life and affordability.

A Lesson He'll Remember for the Rest of His Life

Dave Says

Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

Our 21-year-old son is in college, and we've always warned him to stay away from credit cards. Despite our warnings, we recently learned he got a store-branded credit card. The good news is he has stayed under the credit limit. The bad news is he has never made any payments on the purchases he made, and now he owes about $3,800. He's a good student, and my husband and I want to look at this as a young person's one-time mistake. Do you think we should pay off the card for him just this once?

Melinda

Dear Melinda,

Believe me, I understand you wanting to help him out. It means you've got a good heart, and you love him. No parent likes seeing their child in a bad situation.

There's a reality here, though, I hope you won't overlook. It's his debt, not yours. He knew what he was doing when he signed up for that credit card. He knew what it meant, what was expected, and he's the one who should make good on the repayment. There's nothing unfair about that.

Now, you're right. This is a typical young person's mistake. And like a lot of mistakes our kids make, it's one that's bad and wonderful at the same time. It's bad because if he had just listened to you and his dad, he would've avoided the whole mess. It's wonderful, though, because it gives you two the opportunity to provide him with a real world, teachable moment.

At this point, my advice is for both of you to give him a great big hug, and lovingly explain where he went wrong and why it was a bad idea. If you want, you can even go a step further, and help him find a part-time job if he doesn't have one right now, so he can pay off his debt and get out of this mess. It'll take some planning and discipline on his part, but leave the payments to him. Hopefully, by the time he finishes working his tail off—and scrimping and saving to pay this debt—he will have learned a lesson he'll remember for the rest of his life.

—Dave

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