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Supervisors take up variety of issues at Feb. meeting

By WILLIAM PAINE
Patriot Publishing

All seats were filled at the start of Monday night's February meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors, as several presentations and public hearings were on the agenda. Supervisors also considered issues on animal tethering, publication of delinquent taxes and a solar ordinance.

The meeting began with a presentation of retirement tokens for outgoing Pulaski County Finance Director Diane Newby, who had served in that position since 2008.

Emma Tickle, President of the Pulaski County Future Farmers of America (FFA), came to the podium along with other FFA officers and recited the FFA Creed. Following the creed, an update of FFA activities was

given to the supervisors.

"Last week was FFA week," said Supervisor Jeff Reeves, who invited the FFA to come. "And if you listen to the words of the creed, I think they're words we could all live by."

In recognition of Black History Month, Ashely Edmonds, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors, came to the podium and spoke about Medal of Honor and Purple Heart recipient Sergeant Cornelius H. Charlton.

As Edmonds explained, though Sergeant Charlton was born in West Virginia, his father, grandfather and great grandfather all called Dublin home. Charlton joined the army at 21 and died on June 2, 1951, in the Korean War after being killed in action. Charlton displayed such fearlessness and gallantry that he received the

Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in combat.

The Charlton Memorial Bridge over the Bluestone Gorge on the West Virginia Turnpike and the USNS Charlton were both named in honor of his service.

One Bag Challenge

Josh Taylor, Chairman of the Pulaski County School Board next approached the podium to gamely accept the One Bag Challenge extended by the county supervisors.

Initiated by Chair of the board Laura Walters, last year's One Bag Challenge resulted in 237 participants collecting 849 bags of trash and 275 tires from throughout Pulaski County. The program also garnered a Virginia Association of

See BOARD, page A10

Super Tuesday: Primary vote set in Virginia, 15 other states

From Staff and Wire Reports

The biggest day of this year's primary campaign is approaching as 15 states, including Virginia, along with American Samoa, vote in contests known as Super Tuesday.

The elections are a crucial moment for President Joe Biden and Donald Trump, who are the overwhelming front-runners for the Democratic and Republican presidential nominations, respectively. As the day with the most



delegates up for stake, strong performances by Biden and Trump would move them much closer to becoming their party's nominee.

The contest will unfold from Alaska and California to Virginia and Vermont. And

while most of the attention will be on the presidential contest, there are other important elections on Tuesday.

In Virginia, the choice to vote in a party's primary does not mean that the voter will be "registered" with that party. Virginia does not have party registration.

Six candidates will appear on the Republican primary ballot: Chris Christie, Ryan L. Binkley, Vivek Ramaswamy, Donald J. Trump, Ron D. DeSantis, and Nikki R. Haley. Only Trump and Haley still

See SUPER, page A2

Pulaski Post Office lobby closure said due to vandals

By WILLIAM PAINE
Patriot Publishing

The Post Office in the Town of Pulaski has curtailed the hours that its lobby will be open for public access.

As of Thursday, February 15, the lobby of the post office will be closed at 6 p.m. and remain closed until 7 a.m. the next day. In addition, the Pulaski Post Office will now be closed on Sundays and holidays. The lobby area is replete with hundreds of post office boxes, which are accessible to the public.

Council member Jamie

Ratcliff mentioned the recent change in lobby hours at last week's meeting of the Pulaski Town Council.

"I'm 62 years old and that lobby has never been locked and I don't know why that is," Ratcliff stated. "It's really going to hamper small business in town. It's going to hamper people who get off at 5:30 to check their mailboxes. They're paying to rent these boxes. They should have access 24/7."

In response to a request for an official statement for the change in lobby hours, Philip Bogenburger, head of communications for Post

Offices in Virginia, submitted the following explanation.

"The safety of employees and customers is a top priority for the Postal Service. Due to numerous incidents of vandalism, the Postal Service made the difficult decision to temporarily adjust lobby hours at the Pulaski Post Office. The lobby will be open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday thru Saturday, until further notice. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank customers for their understanding and continued support."

See LOBBY, page A2



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Lobby

Continued From Page A1

Bogenburger, based out of Charlotte, North Carolina, is the only individual authorized to give an official statement on the lobby closure.

However, conversations with Post Office employees who wish to remain anonymous, give a clearer understanding of the circumstances leading to the curtailed lobby hours.

On the morning of Thursday, Feb. 15, Pulaski Post Office employees arrived to find a kerosene heater in the foyer leading to the post office lobby and this led to a significant amount of kerosene being spilled. As a result, the odor of kerosene lingered in the foyer for several days afterward. It's not clear whether the heater was on when it was discovered but the heater had been in use at some time during the night.

Post office employees believed that this clearly created a fire hazard and this, (unofficially,) was the root cause of limiting lobby access during overnight hours.

Sources within the post office say that for the past year, homeless individuals have on multiple occasions stayed through the night in the lobby of the Pulaski Post Office. Post Office Employees would frequently see these individuals as they opened the Pulaski Post Office and then urge them to leave the premises. Oftentimes, these overnight guests would leave trash and other evidence of their stay, which post office employees were obliged to clean to put the lobby back in order.

Apparently, as per the Philip Bogenburger's statement, some of these vagrants vandalized the interior of the Pulaski Post Office.

This change in access to the post office lobby will likely remain in effect indefinitely.



William Paine/Patriot Publishing

Overnight “guests” have frequently stayed in the lobby of the town of Pulaski’s Post Office. These post boxes will no longer be accessible after dark.



State Police probe Wythe pedestrian death

Virginia State Police is investigating a fatal crash involving a pedestrian that occurred at 7:40 pm Wednesday (Feb. 21, 2024) on Route 11 in Wythe County.

A GMC truck pulling a box trailer was driving along the 2900 block of Route 11 (W. Lee Highway) when it was unable to avoid striking a pedestrian, who was pushing a grocery cart along the road. There are no shoulders or sidewalks in the area.

The pedestrian, identified as Worley J. Stafford, 66, of Rural Retreat, Va., died at the scene. The driver of the GMC was transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The crash remains under investigation.

Pulaski lands \$500,000 Main St. grant

RICHMOND, VA – Governor Glenn Youngkin announced today \$1.5 million in Mixed Use on Main Street (MUMS) funding for three projects located in the city of Hopewell and the towns of Marion and Pulaski. The projects will transform a vacant property located in Hopewell’s Downtown Historic District, add eight market rate apartments in Pulaski and renovate the Gospel Armory and Past Time Antique buildings into 12 apartments and two retail spaces in the town of Marion.

“Downtowns serve as the heartbeat of countless communities in the Commonwealth, and this investment initiative seeks to breathe new life into neglected

See MAIN, page A3



NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 22.1-92 of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, that a public hearing on the 2020-2021 School Board budget will be held Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at the Pulaski County School Board Office, 202 N. Washington Avenue, Pulaski, VA. For physically challenged individuals who may require special aid or services, reasonable accommodations will be made available by the School Board upon request by calling School Board Clerk Teresa Porter at (540) 994-2534 or Deputy Clerk Brenda Crawford at (540) 994-2519.

Super

Continued From Page A1

remain as viable candidates in the Republican Party race.

Three candidates will appear on the Democratic primary ballot: Marianne Williamson, Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Dean Benson Phillips. Williamson announced this past Wednesday that she had “unsuspended” her campaign after putting her election effort on hold just days ago.

Polls are open in Virginia next Tuesday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. just like a normal Election Day. A valid ID is required to vote. Early in-person voting ends this Saturday when the county’s Voter Registration Office at 87 Commerce Street, Pulaski is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Some things to watch:

DOES TRUMP KEEP ROLLING?

So far, the Republican presidential primary has been a snoozer.

The former president has dominated the race and his last major rival in the race, his onetime U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, is struggling to keep up. She lost the Feb. 27 primary in Michigan by more than 40 percentage points. She even lost her home state of South Carolina, where she was twice elected governor, by more than 20 percentage points.

As the race pivots to Super Tuesday, the vast map seems tailor-made for Trump to roll up an insurmountable lead on Haley. His team has been turning up the pressure on Haley to drop out, and another big win could be a major point in their favor.

Haley’s banked a considerable amount of campaign money and says she wants to stay in the race until the Republican National Convention in July in case delegates there have second thoughts about formally nominating Trump amidst his legal woes. But she’s seen some of her financial support waver recently — the organization Americans For Prosperity, backed by the Koch brothers, announced it’d stop spending on her behalf after South Carolina.

She may not be able to afford another sweeping loss.

DO COLLEGE GRADS KEEP TURNING AGAINST TRUMP?

Amid Trump’s commanding wins this primary season have been a notable warning sign for November: He’s performed poorly with college-educated primary voters.

In the New Hampshire and South Carolina primaries,

APVoteCast found that college graduates picked Haley over Trump. Roughly two-thirds of voters in both states who went to graduate school after college voted for the former South Carolina governor.

In South Carolina, Trump won the suburbs but not by the same magnitude as his dominance in small towns and rural areas, essentially splitting the vote with Haley.

One of the biggest questions on Tuesday is whether Trump can start repairing that rupture. Weakness with college graduates and in the suburbs where they cluster is what doomed Trump in his 2020 loss to Biden.

DOES BIDEN END DOUBTS?

As sleepy as the Republican presidential primary has been, the Democratic one has been even quieter. Biden has many political problems dragging him down in public opinion polls, but not, so far, at primary polling stations.

The one speed bump came in Michigan, where an organized attempt to vote “uncommitted” in the primary there to protest Biden’s support of Israel during the war in Gaza garnered 13% of the vote, a slightly higher share than that option got in the last primary under a Democratic president.

There are no similar organized anti-Biden efforts on the Super Tuesday calendar, just the president’s two longshot primary opponents who’ve yet to crack low single digits against him, U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips of Minnesota and self-help author Marianne Williamson, who revived her campaign after receiving a surprise 3% of the Michigan primary vote.



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Volvo Trucks unveils its latest creation

By WILLIAM PAINE
Patriot Publishing

Volvo Trucks hosted a media presentation recently at their Customer Center in Dublin to unveil their latest and perhaps greatest creation - the Volvo VNL truck.

This exclusive presentation was attended by members of industry media, who write for transportation and logistics-oriented publications. This niche group of trucking journo came from all over North America to view Volvo's new Class 8 tractor (truck).

However, since these trucks are being produced exclusively at the newly built Volvo Trucks plant in Dublin, The Patriot and The Southwest Times was invited to the VNL unveiling. As a bonus, the invitation included a test drive of the VNL, and who hasn't wanted to get behind the wheel of one of these big rigs ... at least once?

For whatever reason, I was the first to arrive through the gleaming doors of the Volvo Customer Center that morning. For those who've never ventured inside, the Volvo Customer Center is fronted by massive glass doors leading to a high-ceilinged futuristic entryway. A greeter then directs visitors to a vast circular room, where the latest Volvo trucks, as well as their individual parts (engines, transmission, turbochargers) are carefully, even glamorously displayed. Apparently, a bus full of industry media types, who had stayed at a local hotel, had yet to arrive. As a result, Frank Klevenfeldt, Director of Brand Marketing Communications,

volunteered to fix me a coffee on one of the most elaborate coffee makers I'd ever seen.



Volvo's latest creation is the super advanced VNL truck. The VNL 860 Large Sleeper (pictured) is the biggest of the new trucks.

"Is that a Swedish coffee maker?" I asked.
"No, we leave the coffee making to the Italians," Frank replied as he handed me a tiny cup full of espresso.
Fredrik Klevenfeldt is from Sweden, but six years ago moved his family to the Volvo HQ in Greensboro, NC. His accent is heavy, but he speaks English quite well.
"Sweden is a small country with 10 million inhabitants, like North Carolina, so we need to speak another foreign language," said Klevenfeldt.
"Warmer in North Carolina than Sweden?" I posited.
"Especially in the

plants are at Volvo headquarters in Gothenburg, Sweden and Ghent, Belgium.
As we spoke, a bus full of trucking industry media arrived and availed themselves to the breakfast Volvo Trucks provided for them. Soon after, Volvo Trucks Public Relations Manager Kyle Zimmerman began his presentation.
"We started with a piece of paper with really one goal in mind, and that was to completely reset the trucking industry in North America," said Zimmerman. "It isn't the first time. In 1996, we launched the Volvo VN, the first aerodynamic truck in North America ... In 2007, we brought an automatic transmission to a market dominated by manual transmissions. Today AMTS are the industry standard."
Zimmerman went on to say that Volvo Trucks also set the industry standard in other areas including safety, the production of battery powered trucks and "renewability," a term mentioned frequently throughout the many presentations of the day. Sustainability and decarbonization were often stressed as one of Volvo's top priorities.
According to Zimmerman, the battery truck market continues to expand but still represents a relatively minuscule percentage of the truck market.
"So how can you make the greatest impact on decarbonization today when, in North America, the battery electric truck market is just 1,000 units?" He asked. "A ten percent more fuel efficient all new VNL."
Zimmerman then explained that a ten percent more fuel-efficient diesel-powered truck would significantly reduce the amount of carbon emissions worldwide simply by using less fuel than its predecessors.
"Out of a 300,000-truck market like we saw last year in North America, that's the

William Paine/Patriot Publishing



Seen from above, the new VNL truck (left) has a clearly more wedge shaped design than the previous generation truck (right side of photo)
summertime," said he. "It doesn't get that cold in southern Sweden in the Winter, but in the summertime definitely, we enjoy the blue skies and the sunshine."
Before the presentations began, Klevenfeldt informed me that the Volvo Trucks plant in Dublin is the largest Volvo truck plant in the world. The two other main assembly

See VOLVO, page A7

Main

Continued From Page A2
structures by cultivating dynamic businesses and new housing prospects," said Governor Glenn Youngkin. "A resilient infrastructure is fundamental to a prosperous economic approach, and this program will propel economic growth and nurture community pride in these communities."

MUMS is a pilot program created as a joint effort with the Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) and Virginia Main Street (VMS) programs, both administered through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to support the revitalization of vacant or underutilized downtown spaces to create opportunities for

commercial development and housing units in communities that are active participants in VMS. Awards are available up to \$500,000 for the rehabilitation of mixed-use buildings that must include the creation or preservation of housing units and can be provided as either grants or loans.
"This program empowers us to strategically invest in our communities, providing the resources and adaptability that is crucial for economic growth," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "Through MUMS, we can remove barriers to future economic development efforts by turning blighted or vacated structures into sources of growth."

MUMS funding leverages local and private resources to achieve market-driven redevelopment of structures, creating a catalyst for long-term employment opportunities, on-going physical and economic revitalization, and housing units in communities.
"Through MUMS, we are able to make targeted and strategic investments in communities and create the best possible catalyst for revitalization and growth," said Bryan Horn, director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. "These three projects will leverage over \$3 million in additional public and private investments to bring new life to these structures and the localities."


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EDITORIAL

St. David’s Day

Soon it will be March and for many people, that means looking forward to celebrating St. Patrick’s Day on March 17th, the holiday honoring the patron saint of Ireland. However, a lesser-known holiday, St. David’s Day, celebrating the patron saint of Wales, is celebrated on March 1st.

St. David was born circa 500 AD in Ceredigion, Wales, into an aristocratic Welsh family. He became a well-known teacher and preacher, founding churches and monastic settlements across Wales and parts of modern-day England and France. He died on March 1st (the date for which the holiday is celebrated) in 589 AD and was canonized as a Saint in the 12th century by Pope Callixtus II.

Today, to symbolize the holiday, many people of Welsh descent will wear one or both of the national symbols of Wales: the daffodil and the leek. The flag of



Morgan Griffith

9th District Representative

St. David (a yellow cross on a black background) is also flown on the holiday.

As some may know, the Welsh have had a long and storied history in our country.

Since the early 1600s, Welsh people have emigrated to different parts of the United States searching for a new life. Amongst those were a large group of Welsh Quakers who emigrated to America with William Penn (namesake of the state of Pennsylvania) in the late 1600s. Other Welsh immigrants included the Morgans, whose descendant Daniel Morgan was the Revolutionary War hero who won the Battle of Cowpens.

Later, another large-scale Welsh immigration occurred in the mid- to late-1800s.

Since then, thousands of farmers, slate workers, iron workers, coal miners, lead miners, silver miners, gold miners, tinplate workers and steelworkers from Wales have settled all across the United States and made valuable contributions to American life.

In fact, eleven of our presidents have been of Welsh decent: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, William Harrison, Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, Calvin Coolidge, and Richard Nixon.

States with mining heritage, such as Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio, have a proud Welsh American tradition. States with a particularly high proportion of Welsh Americans today include Utah, Idaho, Vermont, Oregon, and Wyoming.

The 9th District is no exception; Welsh influence can be seen across Southwest Virginia.

Welsh settlers felt drawn to Southwest Virginia due to the similarity in landscape (Appalachian Mountains as compared to the Cambrian Mountains in Wales). Welsh settlers also had a long history of raising sheep and coal mining, two things that could be done in Southwest Virginia.

Perhaps the most visible sign of the Welsh’s imprint on Southwest Virginia are the communities with Welsh names, such as Jonesville in Lee County and Pembroke in Giles County.

If you know of others, feel free to inform us!

Also, common Welsh surnames include Davis, Evans, Griffin, Griffith, Jenkins, Jones, Lloyd, Morgan, Powell, Thomas, and Williams. According to the Welsh government, today more than 10 million people in the United States have a Welsh surname.

As you can probably tell, based on the common Welsh surnames, I am of Welsh heritage and am proud of my Celtic ancestry. I hope all of my fellow Americans take pride in their family lineage, whatever that might be.

Since being elected to Congress, I started the Friends of Wales Caucus as a way for lawmakers of Welsh backgrounds to honor their heritage and for Members of Congress to build direct relations with government and business figures in Wales, especially in light of the hundreds of American-owned companies that are based in Wales.

Our two countries share a long history of strong economic links. The U.S. is Wales largest export destination, with nearly £3.4 billion in goods sent to the U.S. in 2022. Additionally, Welsh semiconductor fabricators have developed close ties to the U.S. tech industry.

I’ve had the privilege of meeting with members of the Welsh Parliament here in Washington and in Wales.

So, I hope this March 1st you all will join me in celebrating St. David’s Day and recognize the positive impact Wales as had on our country.

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/>. Also on my website is the latest material from my office, including information on votes recently taken on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause

First Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Isn’t it interesting that the controversy over the First Amendment’s reference to religion, written in 1789, and ratified on December 15, 1791, didn’t seem to be an issue until the last 40-years?

The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights were all written by men who were raised in a Judeo-Christian society. As young children, they were taught how to read from the Bible and as they progressed through schooling, they were immersed in Christian theology and taught in colleges established by Christians to produce pastoral leaders.

After the American Revolution, the various Christian denominations demanded equal treatment in matters of religion and freedom of conscience. They rejected the establishment of a national religion or any particular Christian denomination. They agreed there should be no more requirements to pay taxes or to support a denomination different than their own.

The wording of the First Amendment reflects their intent, expressed in two clauses: The Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause.

The Establishment Clause has been interpreted by the U.S. Supreme

One Nation Under God

By Danielle Reid

Court to prevent government from “establishing” i.e., advancing, hindering, preferring one religion over another, or favoring non-religion over religion.

The Free Exercise Clause protects the right of individuals and groups to practice their religion openly and freely without interference from government. Together these two clauses define and protect religious freedom.

Cornell University Law School – Legal Institute Information website explains their intent this way: “The First Amendment’s Establishment Clause prohibits the government from making any law ‘respecting an establishment of religion.’ This clause not only forbids the government from establishing an official religion, but also prohibits government actions that unduly favor one religion over another. It also prohibits the government from unduly preferring religion over non-religion, or non-religion over religion.”

To most people, this probably seems clear – so why the controversy in our current society?

According to Dr. David Barton, the Court used an incorrect clause in the landmark *Everson vs. Board of* See NATION, page A5



In The Final Stretch

As we enter the final stretch of the 2024 General Assembly Legislative Session, the overarching themes have become clear. Democrats are united in their efforts to make Virginia more like California, but they are still conflicted internally over how to do so. Many actions (or inactions) taken by House Democrats this year appear to be motivated by next year’s election cycle, while other moves seem to be driven by no particular strategy at all.

Democrats thought that they were setting the tone for this session early, with both the House and Senate caucuses introducing legislation to ban guns and raise the minimum wage. Never mind the underlying facts that restricting lawful gun ownership will do nothing to prevent criminals from committing crimes, and that typical minimum wage jobs are meant to be a starting point of employment for our youth, not a career in which to support a family. Democrats also killed legislation that sought to relax rules about electric vehicles and the mandate that 100% of new passenger vehicles sold in Virginia must be electric by 2035. Never mind that we are not even close to having the infrastructure needed to support this massive shift in policy, and that accompanying green energy mandates have made power more expensive and less reliable.

Once this initial burst of unity between House and Senate Democrats had subsided, the two caucuses went in very different directions on just how they should use their slimmest possible majorities. As a reminder, Democrats hold a 51-49 majority in the House of Delegates, and a 21-19 majority in the Senate of Virginia. In the House, Democrats chose to “continue” (or “push”) some of their most controversial

Delegate Jason Ballard

42nd District

bills to the 2025 session – including those that put unconstitutional limits on firearm purchase and possession. They also chose a more conciliatory tone in working with the Governor by including his arena authority legislation – for the Washington Wizards and Capitals to move to Alexandria – in the House version of the budget.

Senate Democrats on the other hand chose a much more confrontational route, stripping the arena language out of the budget and attacking Northern Virginia Democrats by removing funding for Metro from their version of the budget. This has created conflict between the two majority caucuses, as they begin the process of holding each other’s legislation hostage. The rancor is already at such a level that Democrats are openly anticipating a Special Session to complete budget work – when both chambers are controlled by Democrats!

Republicans will continue to monitor the situation closely as we head into the final week of session, and we will use any pressure points we can find to stand up for everyday Virginians and our shared common-sense values.

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

See BALLARD, page A5



Rich Lowery

Editor, National Review

Russia is a civilizational adversary

The poet Robert Frost once said that a liberal is someone too broad-minded to take his own side in a fight. What would he say about those on the right who seem to be confused about the same question?

Over the last few days, Donald Trump told a rally about how he’d supposedly warned the leader of a NATO nation that he’d encourage the Russians “to do whatever the hell they want” against countries that weren’t spending enough on defense, while the former Fox News personality Tucker Carlson broadcast videos from Moscow praising its grocery stores and subways as superior to those in the United States.

For its part, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives is refusing to approve another tranche of aid to Ukraine as it runs short of artillery shells in a defensive war against Russia.

What’s notable about all of this is that people who, in other contexts, are fierce about the need to defend West-ern civilization are unenthusiastic about a core institution of the modern West -- namely, NATO -- and feel little urgency about checking the aggression of a Russia that is an avowed and long-time civilizational adversary of the West.

There are legitimate policy disagreements about NATO and the Ukraine war, but there shouldn’t be any doubt about the larger significance of Vladimir Putin’s challenge to the West’s interests, values and resolve.

In his classic book “The Clash of Civilizations,” the late social scientist Samuel Huntington wrote of an “Orthodox civilization, centered in Russia and separate from Western Christendom as a result of its Byzantine parentage, distinct religion, 200 years of Tatar rule, bureaucratic despotism, and limited exposure to the Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment, and other central Western experiences.”

There’s some ambiguity about this, as Russia has always had a conflicted relationship with the West. In the early 18th Century, Peter the Great grabbed his country by the neck and forced it to adopt more Western ways. He built St. Petersburg as a European-style city, and pursued a dizzying array of military, administrative, educational, legal and cultural reforms. Peter’s mode of Westernizing, though, was profoundly Russian -- an exalted ruler wielding brutish, centralized power.

It also caused an anti-Western reaction -- as the historian Orlando Figes points out in his book “The Story of Russia” -- among the so-called Slavophiles who believed Russia had turned away from what should be its true, distinctive path.

For his part, Putin made a nod toward the Petrine tradition initially upon taking power. He stated his ambition to become “part of western European culture.” But this gave way, under the pressure of NATO expansion and of Russia’s traditional resentments and insecurities, to a determinedly anti-Western view that draws on Slavophile thought.

Putin believes in authoritarianism, in a strong Russian state, in the rehabilitation of the country’s Soviet past, and in a Russian civilization that is superior to a West corrupted by secularism and individualism.

He seeks to reunite “the Russian world,” a concept, according to

See LOWERY, page A5

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The Patriot

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OBITUARIES



MARGARET "PUD" JOHNSON DOWDELL

Margaret "Pud" Johnson Dowdell, 96, passed away peacefully at Radford Rehab and Nursing Center on Tuesday February 27, 2024. Margaret will now be whole and complete in heaven with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Margaret was born on November 17, 1927 to Frank and Josie King, both preceding her in death. She was also preceded in death by her husband and children's father, Riley Lawrence Johnson, brothers, Roscoe King, Arthur King and Stanley King and her sisters, Ruby Horton, Betty Boyd and Viola Smith.

She is survived by her children: Larry Johnson (Pat), Jerry Johnson, Judy Ratcliff (Dickie) and Teresa Herman (Kent). She was blessed with many grandchildren: Crystal Poff (Jason), Wendy Feroili (Mike), Missy Seagle (Alan), Holly Gravely (Justin), JJ Johnson (Heather), Logan Herman and Callie Herman. She had numerous great grandchildren and nieces and nephews whom she treasured.

Margaret devoted her life to caring for and loving her children. She was always their greatest cheerleader no matter how old they were. She worked hard to show them independence and self-reliance while teaching them to respect and love others.

She loved her dog and companion, Penny without condition and Penny returned that love to her.

Margaret will be missed by many and her presence will always be part of our lives.

The celebration of her life will be held 11:00 AM – Saturday, March 2, 2024 in the chapel of Bower Funeral Home. The family will receive friends an hour before the service.

The family of Margaret wishes to thank all of her caregivers-both at her home and at Radford Rehab and Nursing Center as well as the staff of Intrepid Hospice Care.

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

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



BEULAH B. WEBB

On February 23, 2024, our dear Beulah B. Webb, of Draper, passed from her earthly home to her heavenly one. Beulah devoted her life to the service of others.

Born May 13, 1938 in Wythe County, she was the daughter of the late Otis M. Bishop & Virginia Edwards Bishop. She was a faithful member of Draper Methodist Church and held many offices throughout the years. She loved and cared for her family and retired from Pulaski County Social Services.

Beulah is preceded in death by her husband, William M. Webb, Sr., and her eldest son, William M. Webb, Jr. She is survived by: her son, Anthony R. Webb, Dublin, daughter in law, Kathy H. Webb, Draper; granddaughters, Elizabeth R. Webb, Pulaski, and Stephanie N. Cressell, Dublin; great grandson, Connor L. Cressell, Dublin. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

While we rejoice in her journey to heaven, she will be dearly missed by all those who called her mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt and friend.

Funeral services were held Monday, February 26, 2024 at the Bowers Funeral Home – Chapel, Pulaski.

The family held a private interment at the Duncan Family Cemetery, Draper.

If you would like to honor Beulah's memory, we are asking donations to be sent to Draper Methodist Church (3080 Greenbriar Road, Draper, VA 24324).

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

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



VIOLA KATHLEEN EAST KRESS

Viola Kathleen East Kress, age 84 of Newbern passed away Sunday, February 25, 2024 at her home with her family. Born January 15, 1940 in Virginia, she was the daughter of the late Berman & Clarice East. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Stuart Dean Kress.

Viola is survived by her Children – Kathy Lawson – Fairlawn, Jimmy Kress – Radford, Teresa Kress – Pulaski, Alecia Kress – Newbern, David "Buck" Kress – Draper, Brenda Shockley – Dublin
15 Grandchildren
Numerous Great Grandchildren

1 Great Great Grandchild
Special Pet – Digger

Funeral services were held Thursday, February 29, 2024 at the Bower Funeral Home-Chapel, Pulaski with Pastor Jerry Collins officiating. Interment followed at the Highland Memory Gardens, Dublin.

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

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

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ROBERT HOWARD NASH, SR.

March 10, 1046 – February 25, 2024

Robert Howard Nash, Sr., 77, passed away Sunday, February 25, 2024, at his home in Dublin. He was retired from Lowe's and was a member of First United Methodist Church in Pulaski. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mary Virginia Nash; and a brother, Johnny Nash, Jr.

Bobby was survived by his wife, Karen "Penny" Nash; children, Robert H. Rob" Nash, Jr. of Pulaski, Lesley Nash McCarthy (Pat), and Chad Nash (Tonya); brother, James "Bill Nash (Tammy); sister-in-law, Violet Nash; grandchildren, Declan and Nash McCarthy, Megan, Brett, Emma, Etta, Issac, Silas and Lettie Nash; many special nieces and nephews; and other relatives and friends.

Memorial services were held Thursday, February 29, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford with Pastors Danny and Pat Collins officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Pulaski Presbyterian Church Choir or to First United Methodist Church Choir in Pulaski.

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

Board hears overview of CTE program

By WILLIAM PAINE Patriot Publishing

Megan Atkinson, Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE) for Pulaski County Schools, presented an overview of her department at last week's meeting of the school board.

Atkinson explained that Pulaski County's CTE program extends from kindergarten to high school with the goal of preparing youngsters for future career opportunities.

The CTE school uses a software program called Major Clarity, to help students learn about career opportunities that they may not otherwise be exposed to. According to state standards, CTE programs should promote 21st Century workplace readiness and explore all aspects of industry.

"Our students learn by doing," said Atkinson, as she referenced how CTE students built a house for Habitat for Humanity and worked in early childhood education by teaching younger students. Future Farmers of America students worked with live animals as part of their CTE experience. The FFA is one of seven career and technical student organizations within the CTE school that make up a "rich part of student life."

Pulaski County High School students may earn full industry certification or even state professional licenses through CTE programs. Workplace learning experiences include Job shadowing, internships, service learning and school-based enterprises.

Atkinson also mentioned how the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, where she holds a seat on the board, helped organize an Industry Day at Pulaski County Middle School, which featured representatives from local manufacturers.

Both the CTE and the Special Education programs have special advisory committees comprised of students, teachers and parents.

Last week's meeting of the Pulaski County School Board began by honoring students and staff alike. Students and their parents completely filled the Pulaski County School Board office, so that many were left standing as the meeting began.

Recognition was given to Pulaski County Public School systems Employee of the Month, Sarah Blevins and Teacher of the Month, Becky Roseberry, who both work at the PCHS Career and Technical Education (CTE) department. Tyler Maurice Arnold was named as the PCHS Senior of the Month.

Next, the school board honored six PCHS student who attend the SWVA Governor's School who won awards at this month's regional school Science Fair. Following this, the achievements of the Pulaski County Middle School basketball team were recognized, as were members of the Future Farmers of America (FFA).

Since the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) designated the third week in February as School Board Clerk Appreciation Week, Pulaski County School Board Clerk Teresa Porter and Deputy Clerk Brenda Crawford each received a bouquet of flowers in recognition of their service.

The school system's resource officers also gained recognition, as Feb. 15 was designated as School Resource Officer Appreciation Day.

As February also serves as School Board Appreciation month, Superintendent Rob Graham made a point to thank board members for their recent efforts in familiarizing themselves with teachers and staff at PCPS.

Each school board member was given a container full of welcome messages made by students in schools within each board member's district, along with various pieces of PCPS swag.

Next, Megan Atkinson and Pulaski Elementary School Principal Mike Price spoke to the board about student tutors, which was discussed at the previous board meeting.

See SCHOOLS, page A11

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A Tradition Of Trust

Volvo

Continued From Page A3
equivalent of 30,000 battery electric trucks on the road,” he said.

Next, Magnus Koeck, Vice President of Strategy, Marketing and Brand Management took the stage in front of the huge Volvo Trucks video screen and gave his presentation.

Koeck spoke about the economics of the trucking industry, noting that 2023 saw a general decline in truck sales in North America, especially in Canada. Volvo Trucks also lost a little market share last year but according to Koeck, this was due in part to supply chain issues, which included a UAW strike at the Mack truck plant.

“It’s a little hard to build trucks if we don’t get the parts we need,” said Koeck.

Koeck showed graphs representing the peaks and valleys of the freight hauling market over the past decade. The years 2020 and 2016 were slower sales years with the 2017-2018 fiscal year reaching the highest levels of sales. The current year is expected to be a “correction” year, but Koeck expects pre-orders to pick up significantly in 2025 and 2026.

All new Volvo Class 8 VNL trucks will be riding on the same platform. This includes Volvo trucks sold in the European market, the new electric powered trucks and even their still-in-development, autonomously-operated trucks.

“We say all new for a reason because 90 percent is new,” said Koeck in reference to the VNL. “It’s a new platform developed in North America and designed by American engineers.”

The new VNL will come in four varieties, the VNL 300 Day Cab, the VNL 440 Short Sleeper, the VNL 640/660 Medium Sleeper and the VNL 840/860 Large Sleeper, which provides 74 inches of cab space behind the driver.

“Our previous (model) truck was 77 inches, but thanks to clever packaging when it comes to storage and utilization space, it feels much roomier than last year’s model,” said Koeck.

Powerplants for these new trucks include 405, 425 and 455 horsepower engines, just as in the previous generation. For the first time this year, Volvo will be offering a 500-horsepower engine for the new VNL, though it is claimed that fuel mileage stays relatively constant for all powertrains because most of the fuel savings comes from the

truck’s aerodynamic design.

Volvo began producing these new VNL trucks in the third quarter of last year at their newly built and nearby production facility. Volvo trucks provided two of these newly minted vehicles for a test drive on their recently expanded three-mile test track. Though fully functional, these trucks are still considered to be prototypes and not completely up to full production standards.

Product Market Manager Bobby Compton took his turn explaining how engineers were able to make the new VNL trucks 10 percent more fuel efficient than the previous generation. Compton was hired by Volvo Trucks 25 years ago as an hourly employee who built trucks. He’s now based out of the corporate headquarters in Greensboro.

According to Compton, 7 percent of the VNL’s improved fuel efficiency stems from the aerodynamic shape of the new VNL cab, which has a more wedge like appearance than the previous generation. Air is also channeled through the front of the truck and allowed to flow out the sides of the cab, which helps make the VNL more slippery in the wind. Compton likened the difference in aerodynamics of the VNL to that of more standard truck designs to “a pontoon boat that plows through the water, compared to a ski boat which floats on top of the water.”

The additional 3 percent in fuel savings is due to several mechanical innovations including stroke to ratio improvement, which entails making the rods a little longer and the pistons a little shorter in order to reduce internal friction. The pistons were also made with a “wave piston design,” which results in better control of the oxygen flow inside the cylinder. The new VNL has a seven-wave design, as opposed to the previous generation’s six-wave piston design.

The engine’s new variable speed oil pump also improves efficiency by “delivering the right amount of oil, just when it’s needed,” said Compton. “Anytime the engine is creating horsepower that’s used to protect the engine in the form of fans or oil pumps, that’s just to protect the engine ... That’s not creating horsepower to drive the load.”

The more efficient these pumps and fans are, the more horsepower can be directed to pull the load.

Lastly the transmission has a 30 percent faster shifting performance which also improves efficiency.

Following these presentations, those who wanted to drive the new trucks, which was everyone, were shuttled to the test track to take their turn behind the wheel. Because this is a closed track and not open to the public, no Commercial Driving License (CDL) was necessary, though each driver was accompanied by a Volvo Trucks employee to help navigate the cockpit controls.

Two trucks, each carrying a full load, were provided for our test drive.

I chose to drive a brand new 300 Day Cab truck with Volvo Trucks employee Eric Gordon as my co-pilot.

It’s a bit of a climb to get in one of these trucks but once inside, the seat automatically adjusts to the height of the driver. The steering wheel adjusts to the driver’s needs as well. Unusually for a truck, the gearshift is located on a stalk on the steering column, similar to a windshield wiper control in a car.

Once the emergency brake was released, and the gear set to D, I gingerly stepped on the gas and the Volvo VNL 300 began easing forward.

As I emerged from the parking area, the truck seemed to drive on its own, even starting to accelerate on its own, as we began to ascend a little rise at the beginning of the course. The steering too, was almost automatic, as the truck seemed to anticipate the curvature of the road ahead and turn the steering wheel accordingly. In this way, the VNL approximated the driver assist in many modern automobiles.

Cruising around the test track felt effortless, like driving a (very) big sedan, though the weight of the load became more evident when climbing and descending steeper sections of the track. Halfway through the

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course my driving companion switched travel modes, so that I could experiment by using the gears and alternatively the air brakes to slow our speed coming into a sharp curve.

The overall impression was that driving these enormous Class 8 tractors complete with fully loaded trailers wasn’t a terribly difficult task. Heck, it

made it seem like driving one of these was a lot of fun, though a long-haul trucker may well disagree.

In any case, it appears that Volvo Trucks is well prepared for the future, as the new VNL Class 8 tractor is ready for production and will surely set the new industry standard.

My wife thinks she owes me money

Dear Dave,

My wife and I have been married for nine months, and we’ve been following your Baby Steps plan for three months. We have about \$50,000 in debt, and I recently cashed out an old whole life policy that enabled us to pay off \$22,000 of our debt. My wife still feels weird about us doing that, since the money paid off all the student loan debt she accumulated before we got married but none of the debt I brought to the marriage. I look at everything as ours, not mine and hers. What can I do about her sense of guilt and feeling indebted to me?

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

This isn’t an uncommon thing in situations like yours. But more than feeling indebted to someone or experiencing a sense of guilt or shame, it’s really a discussion about differing views of marriage.

You’re never in debt to your spouse. You should be all in where your husband or wife is concerned. Remember the vows? For richer, for poorer. In sickness and in health. If she makes you chicken soup when you’re sick, does she charge you for it? Of course not. When you get married, you agree to take on each other’s burdens. Once



Dave Says


Dave Ramsey

you walk down the aisle with someone, you’re choosing to serve each other. You’re also choosing to take on each other’s debt, each other’s income, each other’s assets and each other’s crazy parents. Everything!

It all boils down to having a shared view of a proper marriage relationship. And the proper (and biblical) view is we own everything. There’s no mine and yours anymore. Now, you can’t make her feel—or not feel—a certain way. But you can ask her questions to understand where she’s coming from and what blockers are keeping her from being totally together in this. Talk about it. Put your heads together and practice thinking about your marriage as a union.

It will take some encouragement from you and some getting used to on her part, but if you work together, it’s a muscle you can grow and develop together!

In sad, but loving memory of
Jerry Paul Gregory, Sr.
on his 77th birthday.
Born February 28th, 1947 and
departed this life on March 21st, 2021.



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Journey To Faith

By Pat Priddy

Expect an Elaborate Room

A prophecy spoken over me years ago left me bewildered and confused. Becky is a powerhouse prayer warrior for Christ, so I didn’t take her words lightly. I remember the moment she sat up and looked intensely into my eyes proclaiming, “This is for you:

Allow yourself to be covered, and expect an elaborate room.”

What on earth could this mean? I searched the scriptures for the words “covered,” “elaborate,” and even the word “room.” Nothing spoke to my spirit. Many times I prayed: “Lord, I know you spoke that word for me, and I know that in Your perfect timing, you’ll reveal the meaning to me.”

Years went by. Nothing. But I never forgot those words.

Another passionate woman of Christ was in my life. Known for her prophetic teachings, I texted, “Jill, do you have any idea what this could mean?” She promptly responded:

“Immediately, I received an insight from the Lord. Here it is:

The expanse of His love for you is so great, but you have never felt ‘worth it.’ He covers you with His great love – it is costly, but He pays your way – always. He has made for you an elaborate place. He’s made a beautiful room for you no matter where you are. But, in the end here, you will see the extent of what He has made for you beyond this. Just for you.”

Yes! This was it. She was correct in my struggle to feel worthy of the Lord. Second guessing myself, I have never really allowed His truth to sink into my spirit. Perhaps some of you also struggle to accept His deep and unconditional love.

The room was also revealed to me more clearly by another woman of God. Every church, classroom, chapel, or business office that I enter is an elaborate room. The room is elaborate because it is His and not mine.

You too have an elaborate room because He places you there to be a vessel for Him!

The prophecy was never about me, but was about Him. It was meant for me, but all of life is not about each one of us. It’s about Him and His Kingdom, His mercy and His grace!

My very perception of my work has changed. I will never again view my workspace as my own, but as an elaborate room of His choosing. These elaborate spaces are His for me to share His love, to share His Words of Hope, and spread the Good News of His Son.

Every time I feel evil attacks of unworthiness, I will remind myself to allow God to cover me with His great love. I pray you do the same.

Watch for His revelations through His written Word, or the profound prophecies of those anointed with such a divine gift.

“The Lord confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them. My eyes are ever on the Lord for only He will release my feet from the snare.” Psalm 14-15

Remember it is all about Him!

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

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

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

Draper Valley Baptist Church

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

Grace Baptist Church

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

Open Door Baptist Church

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

Draper Methodist Church

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

Christ Episcopal Church

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

Jordan Chapel Methodist

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

Cecil's Chapel Church

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

Valley Harvest Ministries

1 Harvest Place
Dublin, VA 24084
Senior Pastor Steve Willis
Associate Pastors: Perry Slaughter,
Walter Gueste, Derick Burton
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Hispanic Ministry Service- Sunday 6 p.m.
Wednesday School 7 p.m.
www.vhmdublin.org
540-674-4729

Dublin Baptist Church

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

Allisonia Pentecostal Holiness Church

1560 Julia Simpkins Road
Allisonia, VA
Pastor Justin Phillips
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship: 6 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

301 N. Jefferson Ave. - Pulaski (physical)
135 Fourth St., NW - Pulaski (mailing)
Pastor's Name: Josh Kilbourne
Sunday Service: 10:00 AM
Hispanic Service: 3 p.m.
Contact Info. Phone: 540.980.3331
e-mail: office@fumcpulask.org
website: www.fumcpulask.org
FACEBOOK@FirstUMCPulaski and
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

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Pastor Vickie Lee Viars
deltoncogop@gmail.com (276) 620-3191
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Sunday evenings-Facebook live services
announced on Facebook

Heritage Church

6195 Cleburne Boulevard, Dublin
Joe Ratcliff, Pastor
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Wednesdays, 7 p.m.;
Sundays, 10 a.m.
(540) 674-9220
Website: www.heritagechurch.net
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website - www.dvpca.org
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Trinity Lutheran Church ELCA

2 Fifth Street, N.W., Pulaski
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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
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Cell: 276-233-8083
Bus Ministry: 540-230-2485
www.pulaskigracemin.com
Email: pulaskigracemin@hotmail.com
Pastor Mike Williams
Children's Ministry
Aaron & Becky Sampson
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church 10:30 a.m.
Men's & Women's Ministry Wed. 6:30

Faith Bible Church

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

Grace Episcopal Church

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rist service and a 10:30am Eucharist service
with organ music and a Choir, with refresh-
ments served after. The 10:30am service is
live-streamed for those who cannot attend in
person.

New Life Church of the Nazarene

45 S. Jefferson Avenue, Pulaski
Bible Study - Monday 5-6 p.m.
Men's Ministry - Thursday 1:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery Thursday 5:30-7:30
Sunday School 10-10:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

New Hope Chapel

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

Trinity Baptist Church

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

Bob White Boulevard Baptist Church

3826 Bob White Boulevard
Pulaski, VA.

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Preaching: 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening: 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7:30 p.m.
FUNDAMENTAL

First Dublin Presbyterian Church (ECO)

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

Dublin Christian Church

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

Snowville Christian Church (DOC - Disciples of Christ)

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

Dublin United Methodist Church

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

Max Creek Baptist Church

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

Pulaski Church of God

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

Randolph Avenue United Methodist Church

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

Pulaski Christian Church, Inc.

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

First Baptist Church

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

Dora Highway Baptist Church

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

Family Worship Center

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

Pulaski First Church of the Brethren

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

New Hope Church

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

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.

**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

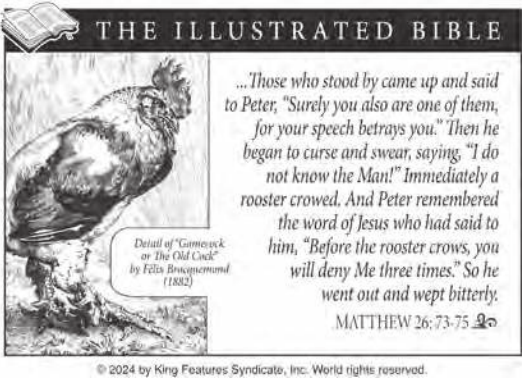
Pathway to Heaven Worship Center
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 434
Dublin, VA 24084
Physical Address: 7889 Cleburne Blvd.
Dublin, VA 24084
Pastor Winfred Keene - Phone 540-239-8092
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 a.m.
Tuesday Evening Worship Service: 6 p.m.

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



Fear is something that everyone is familiar with, but fear does not come from God. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Fear is a tool of the devil. The devil uses fear to dominate people's lives. After Job has lost everything, he said, "The thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me." (Job 3:25) The devil uses fear in many ways. People fear the loss of their health, aging, loss of finances, loss of relationships, and fear of losing their salvation. When a person lives in fear, it robs them of the blessings of God, which are: power, love, and a sound mind. Fear is the opposite of faith in God. Psalms 34:4 says, "I sought the Lord and, He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."

You should not fear, because Jesus will never leave you. Remember Psalms 23:4, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me." Daniel never feared when he was put in the lion's den. The three Hebrew children were not afraid when put into the fiery furnace. Paul did not fear when he was in the Roman prison. Why? Because the Lord was right there with them. He will be with you tomorrow and all the tomorrows of your life. So, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

You should not fear because the Lord will fight for you. Psalms 34:7 says, "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." In the time of Moses, God, not Moses, delivered Israel from the Egyptians. When facing the giant, Little David said, I come against you in the name of the Lord. That day God defeated the giant and the Philistine army. Just as God fought for David and Israel, He will fight for you when the enemy comes against you with all his might. Therefore, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."



Jesus will give His peace to you. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid". (John 14:27) Job lost his health and everything that gave meaning to his life, but he held on to his peace. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7) I love the next verse. It says, "Finally, brother, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think of these things."

Study: Roe's overturning hasn't cut abortions

By GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press

The number of abortions performed each month is about the same as before the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and the nationwide right to abortion more than a year and a half ago, a new report finds.

The latest edition of the #WeCount report conducted for the Society of Family Planning, a nonprofit organization that promotes research on abortion and contraception, finds that between 81,150 and 88,620 abortions took place each month from July through September of last year, the most recent period for which survey results are available. Those numbers are just slightly lower than the monthly average of about 86,800 from April through June 2022, before Roe and just after was overturned.

But abortion data is seasonal, and the same survey found more abortions across the U.S. in the spring months of 2023 than it did in the period the year before leading up to the court's decision.

The report also finds that prescriptions of abortion pills by telemedicine have become common, accounting for about one in every six abortions in the most recent three months of survey results.

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Deacons & Deaconesses Program

Saturday, March 2, 2024
6 p.m.

First Baptist Church
220 Magazine Street
Pulaski, VA 24301

Special Guests
Rev. Daryl & Sister Roxanne Beamer

Public Is Invited

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Jamie Bentley
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BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Is the book of Simon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. How many chosen men of Israel did Saul take with him to the wilderness of Ziph to search for David? 12, 100, 200, 3000
 3. From 1 Samuel 3, whose voice did Samuel think it was when he first heard God calling him? Jonathan, Saul, Ahiah, Eli
 4. The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any ...? Tongue, Knife, Two-edged sword, Wit
 5. From Genesis 26, where did Isaac stay when there was a famine in the land? Gerar, Endor, Sychar, Lydda
 6. What insect was a plague on the Egyptians? Wasp, Locust, Flea, Cockroach
- ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) 3000, 3) Eli, 4) Two-edged sword, 5) Gerar, 6) Locust
- Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.



Board

Continued From Page A1

Counties Achievement Award.

“I can’t tell you how excited I am for Pulaski County Public Schools to accept the invitation to participate in the One Bag Challenge,” said Taylor.

Taylor, went on to say that the One Bag Challenge would be promoted at PCPS through clubs and extracurricular activities.

Chairwoman Laura Walters thanked the members of the school board for attending the meeting (Gina Paine and Sabrina Cox were also present) and then explained that for each bag of trash collected, the participant’s name will be added into a monthly drawing for a \$100 Visa gift card.

Starting in March, both the board of supervisors and the school board will draw three names from a list of participants who turned in at least one bag of trash for the One Bag Challenge and award those individuals with a \$100 Visa gift card. Together, Pulaski County and Pulaski County Public Schools will award \$600 in gift cards each month until the program ends in June.

As part of the program, trash collectors are asked to take before and after photos of the areas they’ve cleared and send them to Chairwoman Laura Walters at lwalters@pulaskicounty.org. The photos will then be shared on social media.

Reflective vests, trash pincers, gloves and trash bags for the One Bag Challenge can be picked up at the County Administration Building at no cost to the participant.

Public Hearings

The first public hearing on the agenda involved a budget adjustment of \$3,012,135.07.

“This is to carry over the ARPA funding that we have received from last year and some additional funding we have received in the current fiscal year,” said Newby in her last public appearance as Pulaski County’s Finance Director.

Two million dollars of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money will go towards funding the broadband deployment project, which is a public/private partnership formed with All Points Broadband. The sheriff’s department will receive more than \$400,000 of this money to buy new equipment and nearly half a million dollars of these funds will be used for E911 Office Renovations.

No one spoke in opposition to the budget adjustment and it passed on a unanimous vote.

Animal Ordinance

The next public hearing involved amending the county’s animal control ordinance, which is related to the tethering of dogs. According to the amendment, “No dog shall be tethered outdoors for more than three hours a day. Dogs may be tethered on more than one occasion in a day, but the total



William Paine/Patriot Publishing

Diane Newby is presented tokens of appreciation by the Supervisors. She is retiring from her position as Pulaski County Finance Director.



William Paine/Patriot Publishing

Members of the local Future Farmers of America paid a visit Monday to the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors.

time the dog is tethered in a day shall never exceed three hours.”

No one came to speak at the public hearing, but Supervisor Jeff Reeves mentioned that state code stipulates that dogs could not be tethered at temperatures below freezing and above 85 degrees. He added that state code imposed no restrictions on the amount of time a dog could be tethered if given proper shelter and protection from predators.

County Attorney Tim Kirtner agreed that this county ordinance goes above and beyond the state code.

“This particular amendment to our animal control ordinance doesn’t just concern itself with whether there’s adequate shelter for the dogs,” Kirtner explained. “It concerns itself with what kind of living conditions do we want to see dogs in? I mean, do you want to see those situations where you’ve got a 25-foot square dirt spot around the doghouse and that’s the condition that dogs are kept in

or not.”

Both Supervisors Dirk Compton and Mike Mooney expressed concerns about enforcement of this ordinance and said that they hoped animal control would work with dog owners to bring them into compliance and not immediately fine them.

“Absolutely,” replied Julie Webb of Pulaski Animal Control

The tethering amendment of the county’s Animal Control Ordinance passed on a vote of four to one with Reeves voting against. These new tethering restrictions will go into effect on May 1.

Old Giles Road Large Truck Ban

The next public hearing involved a request from the Town of Dublin for the county’s support in banning large trucks from using the Old Giles Road (Route 746) between Broad Street and Route 100. The concern is that this stretch of

road is mostly residential and several individuals have stated that this road is not appropriate for heavy truck traffic.

The Town of Dublin already passed this resolution, but since part of the road runs through the county, it was requested that the Pulaski County Supervisors pass a companion ordinance.

No one spoke at the public hearing other than Supervisor Mike Mooney, who said that he drove a tanker truck along this route, expressed his concerns about the ordinance.

“I don’t really think that tractor trailers are coming down Giles Avenue, just for a shortcut,” said Mooney. “I think it’s a safety thing. I think they’re coming to that stoplight so they can make a safe turn on Route 11 heading north.”

Mooney went on to say that exiting Route 100 at Dublin to go north on Route 11 required vehicles to cross two lanes of traffic, which could potentially cause a dangerous traffic back up.

The Supervisors asked David Clark of VDOT to study the traffic issue and report his findings at a subsequent meeting. The resolution was tabled until then.

Communications Tower

The next public hearing involved a request for a Special Exemption permit to allow a 150-foot communications tower to be built at 3610 Robinson Tract Road. Lloyd McCarthy brought forth the request on behalf of Towers LLC.

Markie Saunders of the Pulaski County Planning and Zoning Office explained that the Town of Pulaski owns the 1.5-acre property and maintains a water tank there. The tracts surrounding the proposed tower

are all zoned Low Density Residential. Saunders also stated that the erection of this tower would improve wireless communication in underserved areas of the county, including Robinson Tract.

A meeting of the Pulaski County Planning Commission held earlier in the month approved the Special Exemption permit.

Tristan Hickman, who said she represented her aunt and her mother, as well as several residents who live adjacent to the property, spoke in opposition to the construction of the communications tower. Hickman expressed her concern about the potential health risks associated with 5G technology and said there was a “plethora” of research supporting the idea that radiation from these towers causes a variety of severe illnesses.

Lloyd McCarthy said that the institutions of government and professional organizations that studied the matter found no ill health effects related to the towers. McCarthy also stressed how this tower would improve wireless communications in an underserved section of the county. McCarthy was awarded a Special Use Exemption to build a communications tower on Deer Trot Lane at last month’s meeting of the supervisors.

Chairwoman Laura Walters stated that she and other supervisors have studied potential health effects of wireless technology, but said just using a cell phone is potentially risky.

Supervisor Jeff Reeves said that the Mines Road in the Robinson Tract area has little to no cell reception. Other

See BOARD, page A11

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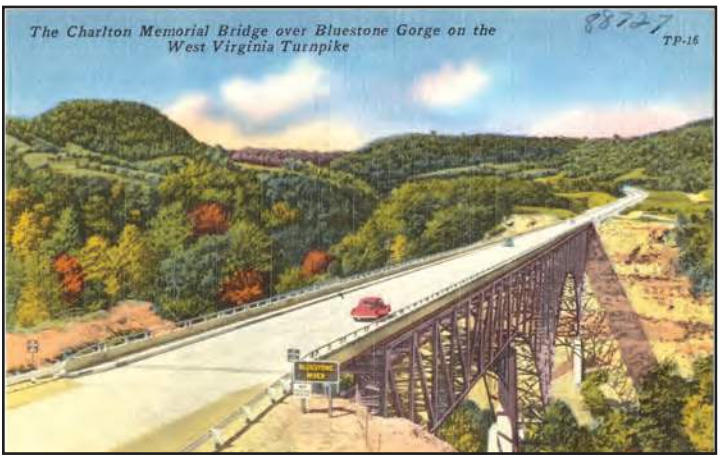
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Belle



Charlton Recognized For Black History Month

In recognition of Black History Month, Ashely Edmonds, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors, spoke about Medal of Honor and Purple Heart recipient Sergeant Cornelius H. Charlton.

As Edmonds explained, though Sergeant Charlton was born in West Virginia, his father, grandfather and great grandfather all called Dublin home. Charlton joined the army at 21 and died on June 2, 1951, in the Korean War after being killed in action. Charlton displayed such fearlessness and gallantry that he received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in combat.

The Charlton Memorial Bridge over the Bluestone Gorge on the West Virginia Turnpike and the USNS Charlton were both named in honor of his service.



Board

Continued From Page A10

supervisors agreed that better cell phone service was needed throughout Pulaski County.

Supervisors unanimously voted to approve the Special Use Exemption to build the telecommunication tower.

Solar Ordinance

For the final public hearing of the evening, Saunders presented the board with a Pulaski County Solar Ordinance as an amendment to the county's Unified Development Ordinance.

According to the document provided by Saunders, "The Purpose of this ordinance is to provide for and regulate the siting, developmental, construction, installation, operation and decommissioning of solar energy facilities in the county in a manner that promotes economic development, and the safe, effective and efficient use of facilities while protecting the health, safety and welfare of the community and to avoid adverse impacts on county resources."

Noting that Pulaski County currently had no Solar Ordinance, Supervisor Mike Mooney said that it was important that this be adopted.

"I think it is incredibly thorough," said Supervisor Reeves of the Solar Ordinance.

The Supervisors voted to unanimously approve the Solar Ordinance. Details regarding Pulaski County's first Solar Ordinance can be found on the Pulaski County website.

Pulaski County Free Store

The Citizen comment portion of the meeting brought Hazel Wines, President of the Pulaski County Free Store (PCFS) board to the podium. She was the first of many who spoke in support of the Free Store. Wines and other PCFS volunteers thanked supervisors for providing the Dublin Middle School as a temporary home for their

organization and implored the board to continue supporting their organization. Members of the PCFS are looking for a permanent location to base their operations and have asked the county to aid them in their goal.

Supervisors praised the PCFS volunteers for their efforts.

Roads, Delinquent Taxes, DMS property

- Duane A. Van Antwerp, Fairway and Draper Ridge Estates HOA President, inquired about road improvements at that development and subsequently made arrangements to meet with Supervisor Dirk Compton to discuss the matter.

- Pulaski County Treasurer Melinda Worrell took her turn at the podium to ask for permission to post delinquent property tax notices in both The Patriot and The Southwest Times newspapers and this permission was granted.

- The supervisors voted to approve a budget calendar, which sets date to review the 2024-2025 county budget.

- Next, the board voted to designate the 19.5-acre Dublin Middle School property as a Revitalization Area. This allows the county's Economic Development Authority, which owns the property, to offer the developer (Landmark), a 50 percent reduction on real estate taxes over a five-year time span.

The plan is to turn Dublin Middle School into housing units for individuals with low/moderate incomes.

The Supervisors subsequently designated Pulaski Village, on Memorial Drive, as a Revitalization Area, making these moderate-income housing units more attractive to developers who renovate properties.

- The Pulaski County Supervisors are set to meet the Pulaski County School Board in a closed session on Friday to discuss upcoming joint projects.

Schools

Continued From Page A6

Atkinson brought up the idea of implementing a Leadership Development class under the rubric of Family Consumer Sciences. This would be aligned with the already existing Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow program and would give students credits for tutoring.

Price said that a Reading Buddies program, where 4th and 5th grade elementary school students tutor 1st and 2nd graders, already exists.

"Students work on reading skills and practice spelling lists in a supportive way," said Price. "The older students read to the younger ones and give them a chance to recap the story or practice reading back."

Board members Billy Williams and Gina Paine expressed their support for the tutoring program.

Graham then noted that PCPS will celebrate the 185th Anniversary of the founding of Pulaski County by recognizing Pulaski County Proud Day

The Patriot / The Southwest Times - March 1, 2024 - Page A11

on Wednesday, March 27. A ceremony featuring the PCHS Pep Band will take place at noon at the high school.

Pulaski County Public Schools will also participate in the One Bag Challenge initiated last year by Laura Walters, Chairwoman of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors. Students (accompanied by an adult) will be encouraged to pick up roadside trash using bags, gloves and grippers supplied by the county.

Following information items, the board voted to allow year-round school system employees to have Tuesday, April 2 - Friday, April 5 off for Spring Break, just like 9 month PCPS employees.

On Graham's suggestion, the board voted to add Pulaski County Parks and Recreation, the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce and Martin's Pharmacy to the PCPS's Honor Roll Program, which was initiated by the Virginia School Board Association.

The board then voted to approve a summer schedule for school employees, who

will work 10-hour days from Monday through Thursday. This gives PCPS summer employees a three-day weekend and also saves on utility costs.

Finally, the board voted to remove a regulation that disallows school employees hired after Jan. 1, 2014, from collecting terminal pay and unused sick leave. The board voted to allow all employees to be paid for their sick leave upon retiring from Pulaski County Public Schools.

Tony Bruce came to speak at the public comment period at the end of the meeting and asked about a FOIA request requiring a lawyer's letter. Bruce had earlier asked for a video showing him at the entrance of Dublin Elementary School, which Bruce claimed exonerated him from accusations apparently made against him claiming that he was a threat.

Bruce, who said he had worked in the school system for many years, was incensed that he was labeled a threat and stressed that he didn't want to see any kid hurt, especially his own.

Griffith: \$13.6 million to Wythe

Congressman Morgan Griffith (R-VA) last week applauded the announcement that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development has awarded Wythe County, Virginia, a \$2,737,000 grant, along with approving a \$10,866,000 low-interest loan, for improvements to water and waste disposal in the county.

"Water service plays a critical

role in promoting public health and increasing quality of life," said Griffith. "I am pleased USDA Rural Development has awarded this \$2,737,000 grant to Wythe County, along with approving a \$10,866,000 low-interest loan, so that the county may make substantial improvements to address water quality and quantity issues for residents of the Dunsford Road

area, positively impacting 1,035 residents."

According to the USDA, this project will install eight miles of four, six and eight-inch water lines, along with one pump station, 110 water meters, and 34 fire hydrants. It will also replace nine miles of two, four, eight and 10-inch water lines, one pressure reducing valve, 336 water meters and 39 fire hydrants.

Study

Continued From Page A6

pivotal role in strengthening our local and regional economy," said AJ Robinson, who is a Southwest Virginia representative on the Virginia Community College System Board of Directors.


The results of the study show that SWVA colleges influence both the lives of their students and the regional economy by enhancing the overall quality of life, making higher education and workforce training

accessible and affordable, preparing students to meet the needs of employers, and giving those students the skills they need to secure higher paying jobs.

The Virginia Community College System (VCCS) also recently participated in an economic activity study to analyze the economic impact of community colleges in the Virginia communities that they serve. The study revealed that

Virginia's community colleges had an estimated impact of \$11.6 billion on the state's economy during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Since 2021-2022, enrollment continues to climb throughout the VCCS; therefore, the economic impact from the colleges' existence is growing and will continue to have a positive impact on the communities in which their students live.



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ATLANTA RHYTHM SECTION

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

7:30 p.m. doors open: 6:30 p.m.
Edwards Hall, New River Community College

\$40 reserved seating, \$45 day of show
Purchase online only at nr.edu/concerts.

\$30 advance general admission, \$35 day of show
Purchase online and at NRCC Business Office.
Cash or check only for in-person purchase.

TICKETS ON SALE 8 a.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 1

Information:
tjones@nr.edu (540) 674-3625
www.nr.edu/concerts [nrccconcerts](https://www.facebook.com/nrccconcerts)

NEW RIVER Community College
5251 College Drive
Dublin, Virginia

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YMCA photo

‘I’m Sick of Winter’

The Pulaski County YMCA Balancing Boomer Senior Exercise Class participated in an “I’m Sick of Winter” activity. The theme of the activity was Survivor. The participants were divided into tribes, chose names, made flags and were challenged in 4 different activities, then had Survivor refreshments. Those participating in the challenge were: Seated – John Balconi, Mickey Balconi, Melody Hedge, Imogene Porter, Connie Paul Standing – Brenda Lamb, David Jencks, Cindy Goodum, Ray Frear, Diane Atkins, Helen Aust, Lisa Schlottmann. For more information on the YMCA programs and activities, please call the YMCA at 540-980-3671.

Gas prices dip, but still high

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have fallen 4.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.19/g today, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 18.6 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 6.7 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 2.6 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.06 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.79/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.20/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.79/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.20/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 1.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.24/g today. The national average is up 13.3 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 9.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Join us in honoring Virginia's Women Veterans Week, March 17-23, 2024

Va. sets aside week to honor women veterans

(Richmond) The contributions of women who have served and continue to serve in the U.S. military will be highlighted March 17-23, 2024 during Virginia Women Veterans Week. This marks the seventh consecutive year that the Commonwealth has officially set aside the third week of March during Women’s History Month to honor and recognize the more than 108,000 women veterans who call Virginia home – the largest percentage of women veterans per population size of any state. The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) will host a Women Veterans Week 2024 Ceremony featuring the

unveiling of Virginia’s new “Support Women Veterans” License Plate and presentation of a special lapel pin to women veterans at 9 a.m., Thursday, March 21 at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere Street, Richmond, VA 23220. The event is free and open to the public. “I am proud that Virginia was one of the first states to recognize the unique challenges often faced by our women veterans and that our Virginia Department of Veterans Services established a variety of special programs and services specifically to meet their needs,” said DVS Commissioner Chuck Zingler. “During my military career, I had the privilege to

serve with women in every branch. They have been and remain a major component of our military in protecting our Nation. Let’s thank all of them who have served and continue to serve. I encourage all who support women veterans to attend.” In addition to the Women Veterans Week 2024 Ceremony there will be additional events in observance of Virginia Women’s Veterans Week 2024. These include: • March 19, 7:00-8:00 p.m. – Virtual presentation by the Military Women’s Memorial in Arlington, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86295073217> Passcode: 995495 The Virginia Department of

Veterans Services invites you to join us as we host a virtual event in partnership with the Military Women’s Memorial. The Military Women’s Memorial honors and tells the stories of women, past and present, who serve our nation. As the only historical repository documenting all military women’s service, they educate and inspire through innovative and interactive exhibitions, world-class collections, and engaging programs and events for all generations. During the month of March, the Military Women’s Memorial is running a “March with Me” campaign in celebration of Women’s History Month. Please visit <https://womensmemorial.org/> to preserve your service story with the Military Women’s Memorial.

Virtual presentation by the U.S. Army Women’s Museum, Fort Gregg-Adams, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81725268832> Passcode: 497429 The Virginia Department of Veterans Services invites you to our virtual presentation with the U.S. Army Women’s Museum. The U.S. Army Women’s Museum is the only museum in the world dedicated to Army women. The museum originated in 1955 as the Women’s Army Corps Museum which was located at Fort McClellan, AL until it was moved to Fort Lee (now Fort Gregg-Adams) and reopened in May 2001. The U.S. Army Women’s Museum serves as an educational institution, providing military history, training and instruction to soldiers, veterans, and the civilian community. Join us as we celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of Virginia’s Women Veterans. For questions, or more information on these events or the Virginia Women Veterans Program, please email womenvet@dvs.virginia.gov or call (804) 786-0571.

- March 20, 6:00-7:00 p.m. –

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PET OF THE WEEK

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

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

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

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

SPORTS

Keefer finishes First Team All-Region *Lawson, Nester, Ratcliff, O'Dell also recognized*

Patriot Staff Report

Pulaski County's Hannah Keefer, Jaden Lawson and Lane Nester all were named to spots on this year's All-Region teams in girls and boys basketball.

Keefer was named First Team All-Region 3D on the girls team, while Jaden Lawson was among the Honorable Mention selections.

On the boy's team, Lane Nester was named Second Team All-Region 3D.

The All-Region and All-District teams were announced last Friday morning by PCHS Athletic Director Scott Vest.

Nester was named to the River Ridge District's All-District First Team, while Isaiah O'Dell was named among the Honorable Mention.

For the girls, Keefer was named First Team All-District and Lawson landed a spot on the Second Team.

Andi Ratcliff was among the Honorable Mention.



Brian Bishop/Patriot Publishing
Jaden Lawson



Brian Bishop/Patriot Publishing
Isaiah "Tootie" O'Dell



Brian Bishop/Patriot Publishing
Hannah Keefer goes up for a shot against Carroll County.



Brian Bishop/Patriot Publishing
Andi Ratcliff



Brian Bishop/Patriot Publishing
Lane Nester was the leader of the PCHS boys team.



Game Day Banter

Jeramey Fleenor

Why the drop off?

Before March Madness takes over our world, bracket science upsets and underdogs, even before we shift our focus to local, college, and MLB baseball, I will spend time on High School sports. I will go ahead and give you, the reader, an out. The joy of banter is you don't have to agree with it; you don't even have to like it. Banter (especially not the thoughts below) is in no way absolute truth; it is just one guy's thoughts and observations through the lens of his experience and life. So, this is our chance to turn back.


Now that you are braving the waters of someone's simple opinion let's give some thought to our High School sports programs. I could dedicate this article to many clichés, misunderstandings of rules, or unwritten rules that only "true" Pulaski fans should know, but I'm not sure my word count would allow for that. So, instead, here are some insights and opinions on our Middle School, JV, and Varsity Programs.


Depending on what you, the reader, and your student athlete plan for the future, sports are a great tool to help make some goals attainable. Though I would not discourage students from participating in a sport they love, can I give you some food for thought? If college is the goal, and a scholarship is the road to that goal, there are more sports at the Varsity Level than just the "Big Hitter" sports in the headlines. For example, PCHS offers tennis, golf, baseball, soccer, football, volleyball, fishing, cheer, track, cross country, wrestling, and swimming. These could be great avenues to a college education or just something an athlete could try to find out they have been playing the wrong sport for years.

But, let's get back on topic (and again, just one guy's opinion). If I were to ask ten people the following question, I could almost wager I would receive ten different answers. The question is simply this: Why is it that we can have middle school and even JV teams go undefeated, but still not have success at the varsity level? Now, let's not act all shocked that we put that question out there. Don't forget, I have an athlete who has played through middle school to college, and I have an athlete now who is on the same path (at least through high school). I also coach at Pulaski County Middle School. So, what would your answer be? Why can we dominate in middle school and junior high? Once we get to the varsity level, it just doesn't happen.

First, it's not 100 percent any coach's fault. As a coach, I have lost some baseball games because I made bad decisions or failed to prepare my guys for a game. However, the best coach doesn't always win them all. Coaching, strategy, and preparation have much to do with it, but let's give our coaches a break and stop comparing the varsity record to the other teams' records. It would almost be like if someone vacated your current position; they left because they took a promotion, and you are not the same employee as the person before you. Well, you don't want to be reminded daily

See BANTER, page B4

**JamesHardie**
SW Times & Patriot
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Hannah Keefer
Five Pulaski County boys and girls basketball players landed spots on All-District and All-Region teams this week. Senior Hannah Keefer, however, was the only Cougar to land a spot on the First Team as she completed her high school hoops career.

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LEGAL NOTICE



Joint Executive Session

The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and Pulaski County School Board will meet on Friday, March 1, 2024, at 12 pm. (noon), in the New River Room of the Pulaski County Innovation Center, located at 6580 Valley Center Drive, Fairlawn, for a joint Executive Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) 3. of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, to discuss acquisition or disposition of real property related to Project Flex.

There will be no public comment period and no action will be taken during the joint meeting or following the joint Executive Session.

LEGAL NOTICE



Public Hearing
Town of Pulaski
Planning Commission

The Town of Pulaski Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on March 11, 2024, at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers at 42 First St. NW to discuss:

- rezoning 1733 Dora Hwy [73-1-16 and 82-1-1] from DS, Drop Site to B-2, General Business District
- rezoning 100 Sheriff F. R. Conner Dr. [72-140-187] from DS, Drop Site to I-2, Industrial District.

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. NW, during normal business hours. All persons desiring to address the Planning Commission should appear at the stated time and place. Comments may be submitted in writing to the Town Planner by March 8, 2024.

For disabled persons 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

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

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

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

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

FEBRUARY 7, 2024 LISA A. HALL, Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF PULASKI
PATRICIA A. POOLE,)
AND)
MARVIN D. LEE,)
by Patricia A. Poole, his attorney-in-fact)
PLAINTIFFS)
v.) Case No: 155cl2300060100
DANIEL R. BROWN, SR., et al.)
DEFENDANTS)

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of the Complaint in the above-styled case is to obtain an order adjudicating that the partition of that certain real estate located in Pulaski County, Virginia, identified as Pulaski County Tax Map #'s 063-003-0000-027A, 27,28,29,30,31, formerly belonging to Margaret Lee, deceased, cannot be conveniently made and ordering the sale thereof.

It is ORDERED that any of the following persons shall appear at the above named Court and take such action as he/she deem necessary to protect his/her interests on or before April 10, 2024:

- Ruby Lemons
- Jodi Melissa Slaughter
- Any unknown children of Aaron Anderson, Jr.

Any person desiring a copy of the Complaint or any additional information should contact Ryan L. Pry, counsel for plaintiffs, at P.O. Box 3785, Radford, VA 24143, or at 540-838-2233 prior to the above date.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this ORDER OF PUBLICATION be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Patriot, a newspaper of general circulation in Pulaski County, Virginia.

Entered this 24 day of February, 2024.

By Judge

I ask for this:

Ryan L. Pry (VSB #74181)
RYAN L. PRY PC
P.O. BOX 3785
RADFORD VA 24143
(540) 838-2233
Rvanl@PryLawOffice.com
Counsel for Plaintiffs

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTIONS

Absolute Auction: Approved Real Estate Redevelopment Plan for Restaurant & 7 Townhouses on .61+/- acres located at 201 S. Main St., Blacksburg, VA 24060. Prime downtown location within walking distance of VA Tech Campus. Auction held March 28, 11 AM at The Inn at VA Tech. Online bidding available. 10% Buyer's Premium. For details visit woltz.com or call Woltz & Associates, Inc. Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers 800-551-3588. (VA #321)

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Vinyl Replacement Windows Installed! Starting at \$350 Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! Ronnie Jenkins II Windows, Siding, Roofing and Gutters! FREE Estimates! Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! American Made Products!

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SERVICES

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Pepper's Ferry Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority (the "Authority") will hold a public hearing at its March 7, 2024, 12:00 pm (noon) meeting, for the purpose of receiving public comment related to the proposed rates, fees, and direct charges which are to become effective July 1, 2024. The public hearing will be held at the Authority's administrative office located at 7797 Mason Street in Pulaski County, Virginia. The proposed rates, fees and direct charges are as follows:

Cost Center	Rate per Million Gal.
Treatment Plant	\$ 775.00
New River P.S.	\$ 215.00
Radford P.S.	\$ 135.00
New River F.M.	\$ 12.00

Direct Charges							
Member	Base Treatment	Debt Service	Sulfate Surcharge	Biosolids Disposal	Plant CIP	NRPS CIP	RPS CIP
Town of Dublin	\$141,455	\$36,716	\$0	\$4,552	\$85,932	\$0	\$0
Montgomery Co. PSA	\$85,703	\$22,245	\$(2,838)	\$2,758	\$52,064	\$0	\$0
Fairlawn Sewer Auth.	\$114,638	\$29,755	\$(2,838)	\$3,689	\$69,641	\$0	\$0
Town of Pulaski	\$1,168,382	\$303,266	\$26,157	\$37,595	\$709,780	\$0	\$0
Pulaski Co. PSA	\$349,148	\$90,625	\$(1,569)	\$11,235	\$212,104	\$0	\$0
City of Radford	\$827,141	\$214,693	\$(18,913)	\$26,615	\$502,479	\$0	\$0

Septage Rates	
Origin of Septage	Cost Per Gallon
In-Side Planning Area	\$ 0.045
Out-Side Planning Area	\$ 0.070

Pollutant Surcharges	
Pollutant (Excess above 250 mg/L)	Cost per Pound
BOD ₅	\$ 0.03
TSS	\$ 0.10

* Other rates, fees and charges charged by the Authority may also be established and adjusted for certain users pursuant to contract provisions with those users.

This Public Hearing is authorized in accordance with Section 15.2-5136 of the Code of Virginia and by resolution of the Authority Board of Directors at its February 8, 2024 meeting. Persons desiring to submit written comments prior to the Hearing may do so at: Pepper's Ferry RWT, P.O. Box 2950, Radford, Virginia 24143.

LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
PROPOSED BRIDGE SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT
WEST COMMERCE STREET OVER PEAK CREEK
STATE: 4602-125-124, FEDERAL: STP-5125 (127)

The Town of Pulaski (Town, Owner), Virginia, is seeking sealed bids from qualified construction firms for the above captioned project in accordance with the following project schedule.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
Solicitation Issue Date	February 19, 2024
Obtain copies of solicitation/contract documents from: (A .pdf of Project Manual and Plans will be emailed) Project Manual and Plans will be posted on Town of Pulaski website at https://www.pulaskitown.org/bids-and-rfps	Schwartz & Associates, Inc. Consulting Engineers 7331 Timberlake Road, Suite 305 Lynchburg, VA 24502
MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference	March 6, 2024 at 11:00 am Town of Pulaski Engineering 42 First Street, NW Pulaski, VA 24301
Deadline for Questions to be submitted VIA E-MAIL to Nathan Smythers at nsmythers@Pulaskitown.org	March 15, 2024 at 12:00 pm
Answers e-mailed to Pre-Bid Conference Attendees and posted to Town of Pulaski Website at https://www.pulaskitown.org/bids-and-rfps	March 20, 2024 at 12:00 pm
Sealed Bids Due	April 3, 2024 at 2:00 pm Town of Pulaski Engineering Attn: Scott Aust, Engineering Manager 42 First Street, NW Pulaski, VA 24301
Bids Opened	April 3, 2024 at 2:05 pm Town of Pulaski Engineering 42 First Street, NW Pulaski, VA 24301
Notice of Award	On or about April 23, 2024
Fixed Completion Date of Project	On or before January 10, 2025

The Project scope involves the superstructure replacement of West Commerce Street Bridge over Peak Creek. The repairs also include water main replacement and approach work.

All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope plainly marked, "PROPOSED SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT WEST COMMERCE STREET OVER PEAK CREEK", with the name and address of the bidder in the upper left-hand corner and accompanied by the required documentation as set out in the Invitation For Bid. E-Mail and facsimile responses are not acceptable. No responsibility will attach the Town or any official or employee thereof for the pre-opening of, post-opening of, or the failure to open a bid not properly addressed and identified. The Town of Pulaski assumes no responsibility for postmark or error in delivery to an incorrect address. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure timely and correct delivery of the bid. BIDS RECEIVED AFTER THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED WILL BE REJECTED.

Withdrawal of bids shall be according to procedure of the Virginia Public Procurement Act and to the Code of Virginia (§ 2.2-4330). Any Bidder must give notice in writing of his claim of right to withdraw his Bid within two business days after the conclusion of the Bid Opening Procedure and shall submit original work papers with such notice. If a Bid is withdrawn, the next higher Bidder shall be deemed to be the Low Bidder. No Bid may be withdrawn unless said withdrawal is permitted by law.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

TRUSTEE SALE OF 170 Oak Lane, Pulaski, VA 24301

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated August 31, 2017, in the original principal amount of \$69,696.00, recorded as Inst. 170002916, assigned as Inst. 190003180, and modified to the amount of \$78,255.75 as Inst. 202301487, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Pulaski, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, either of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Pulaski on March 27, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., the property located at the above address and described as 0.9273 acre residue as shown on plat recorded in Plat Cabinet 1, Slide 393, page 8, County of Pulaski.

TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$7,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to "DOLANREID PLLC, TRUSTEE", balance due within 15 days from date of sale. No personal checks accepted. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but

not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale. All costs of conveyance, deed, examination of title, recording

charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Winning bidder must sign a memorandum of sale immediately upon completion of sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Trustee's affidavit and a copy of the notice of sale available at the foreclosure sale. The opening bid is not announced until the sale. Current sale status available at dolanreid.com/foreclosure-sales.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

For Information Contact:
DolanReid PLLC and G. Benny Moore, Substitute Trustee(s)
12610 Patrick Henry Dr., Ste. D, Newport News, VA 23602; (757) 320-0255

LOCAL ADS

REAL ESTATE

TWO CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE: Highland Memory Gardens, Dublin, VA - Good Shepherd Section, Lot 15, Block 12, Two Side By Side Spaces 3&4 For \$2,000 (Current Cost At HMB Is \$5,190) - Call Or Text 540-320-2843. -3-29-24

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

RENTAL PROPERTY

FOR RENT: 4376 Akers Road, Draper. Quiet, peaceful surroundings, country lot for rent. Electric and water hookups available. Call 785-806-5752 or 540-235-6161.

ESTATE SALE

ESTATE/YARD SALE - Will be held Friday, March 1st and Saturday, March 2nd from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm both days. Location is 3848 Bainbridge

Drive, Pulaski, VA. The Estate of Carol and Bill Canty includes collectible dolls, small kitchen appliances, microwave, Pyrex and Corning Ware, Tupperware, silver plate serving pieces, vintage glassware, dishes, lots of holiday and Christmas decor, lamps, cookbooks, large amount of costume jewelry and assorted name brand clothing (including Alfred Dunner). Furniture to include two (2) bedroom suits, cedar chest, sleeper sofa, executive U-shape desk, buffet, 3-piece china cabinet, dining table and chairs, matching vintage coffee table, corner table and desk, twin trundle bed and mattresses, bench, 4 large mirrored wardrobes. Garage finds include storage racks, table saw, assorted tools, garden accessories, cabinets and lots more. Everything is priced to SELL! Cash transactions only.

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



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Orange handle Hokies, 84-71

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Judah Mintz scored 29 points and Syracuse again withstood a second-half rally before pulling away from Virginia Tech 84-71 on Tuesday night in the Orange’s season home finale.

Mintz was 10-of-17 shooting and made all eight of his free throws. JJ Starling scored 13 points and Maliq Brown and Quadir Copeland 12 each with Brown adding eight rebounds for Syracuse (19-10, 10-8 ACC).

Sean Pedulla scored 18 points, Lynn Kidd had 16 points on 8-of-9 shooting and eight rebounds, Hunter Cattoor added 12 points and Mylyjael Poteat 11 points for the Hokies (15-13, 7-10).

This was Syracuse’s third straight win and it came in somewhat familiar fashion. The Orange had big halftime leads — 15 points over North Carolina State and 20 over Notre Dame — before pulling out four- and three-point victories. Starling’s 3-pointer to open the second

half put the Orange up 21, but Virginia Tech came back within eight. Then Mintz led off a 7-0 run over the final three minutes with a three-point play while the Hokies missed their next four shots.

Syracuse shot 57%, Virginia Tech 49% with the Orange outscoring the Hokies 18-9 off 10 turnovers, ending a

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Elizabeth Kitley scored 34 points to lift No. 8 Virginia Tech to a 74-62 victory over North Carolina on Sunday for its 10th consecutive win and at least a share of the program’s first regular-season Atlantic Coast Conference title.

Kitley connected on 11 of 17 from the floor, went 12 of 14 from the free-throw line and grabbed eight rebounds for the Hokies (23-4, 14-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), who locked up the No. 1 seed in the ACC Tournament. Syracuse and North Carolina State could still share the regular-season title with the Hokies, but both need to win out and hope Virginia Tech loses out.

Riding the passion of another sellout crowd — the program’s fifth this season — the Hokies, who were down early, used a 21-2 run to end the first quarter and never trailed again. Kitley scored six during the run, and Matilda Ekh hit 3-pointers on consecutive possessions to end the quarter and give the Hokies a 16-point lead.

three-game run of single-digit turnovers for Virginia Tech.

Syracuse took the lead for good midway through the first half and outscored the Hokies 24-8 over the final eight minutes and leading 45-27 at the break with Mintz scoring 16 points.

Virginia Tech is host to Wake Forest on Saturday. Syracuse plays at Louisville on Saturday.

Kitley’s 34 paces VT past UNC

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Banter

Continued From Page B1

what you are not, so let’s not do that to our Varsity Coaches or athletes.

Second, and this could be a hard pill to swallow. But could it be that the talent at some Middle Schools is sub-par to us, and even on the JV side of the coin? Before you blow a gasket, let me offer a spoonful of sugar. Our younger Cougars still have to have the ability to make the shot, complete the pass, read the defense, hit the ball, and the list goes on. This is not demising that; all I am saying is because of work ethic, opportunities, and talent.

Are we that much better than our competition? I say yes because mainly numbers don’t lie. Ultimately, these athletes must get the job done, and Pulaski County Cougars do that better than most. I have been told for years you win the games you are supposed to win, and these young Cougars need to be celebrated for doing that. In our younger ranks, we (on paper) are supposed to win the games we are winning.

So why are we better? As I

mentioned, we have some of the hardest-working athletes I have seen (in all sports). I would also offer this thought. Are we supposed to win because, at many schools, quality 8th graders are on JV because quality JV athletes are needed at the Varsity level? Could the answer to the question be this simple? We usually don’t see the test until our athletes hit Varsity. In my opinion, yes. I think it boils down to the fact that everything changes over 3-4 years. Your athlete, along with every athlete in the world, will change. Height, strength, speed, and even dedication (good or bad), and I am afraid that the formulas we add to the equations that shape the expectations for our varsity programs are a little flawed. A great Linebacker at JV may not be a great linebacker when he plays Varsity as a sophomore and needs to cover a tight end that is 6-4 and 200 pounds when last year he was dominant against the 5-7 and 150 pound guys on the JV squads.

I said that to say this: learn

from my mistakes and put away the crystal ball. Break it into a million pieces and enjoy the success your athlete is having now, at any level. Don’t worry about what will happen when your middle school athletes make it to Varsity; by then, they will have undergone significant body changes, along with their competition.

So enjoy where they are now, and next season, celebrate with them to help them get stronger, faster, and better, and at the end of the day, always remind them what makes sports great. Something Tiny Fleenor taught me long ago: “Sometimes you’re the hammer, and sometimes you’re the nail,” plain and simple.

Lastly, though it is hard, especially as a sports parent, my challenge is to make the mistakes I have made and measure my athletic career’s success by the win-loss column. If we find a state championship in any sport, but fail to produce men or women of character and integrity, I suggest to you we have failed.



Photo courtesy of Larry Case

Chuck Loudin, his grandsons and Crazy Horse.

All In The Same Boat

Here is a news flash for you. We need hunters, all hunters, to come together and act like they have some sense. We need deer hunters (there are more of them than any other), duck hunters, squirrel hunters, turkey hunters (there is quite a few of those), rabbit hunters, big game hunters, and whatever else is out there to stop, take a breath, and think about where we are and what is really important.

So where are we? In my usual not so humble opinion we are in a place, like most of the world, where we are divided, at odds with each other, and centered on that old demon that causes so much trouble for much of the human race. We are too self-centered and think only about what is important to us. How we hunt, what we hunt, what we hunt with, and everybody that doesn’t do it just like us is suspect.

A recent article in Outdoor Life by Christine Peterson, “Quit expecting every hunter to be so hardcore. We need casual hunters too, too.” (www.outdoorlife.com) probably says it better than I ever could. As she relates in the article, everyone that is a hunter doesn’t need to be in the “I hunt 135 days a year, I am scouting when I’m not doing that, I only hunt in the latest and greatest hunting clothes and gear, and because I hunt so hard my opinion means more than yours does” crowd.

To me, this kind of thinking goes right along with the seemingly endless controversy about the use of crossbows in the deer hunting world. It is I daresay, a form of elitism. For years those that have rallied against the use of crossbows in the field have given the same old tired reasons for using an implement to take a deer that is perfectly legal in most states. “A person using a crossbow doesn’t have to practice (or work as hard) as those using a traditional stick and string bow or even an ultra-modern version of a compound bow.” So to that I say, who was it exactly that either elected these people or anointed them to this high position where they can lord over the rest of us in the unwashed masses of hunters and tell us how we have to



GUNS & CORNBREAD

hunt? (I must have missed that memo) To quote Peterson from the Outdoor Life article, “When did hunting become such an exclusive community?”

Whether you are the guy that is applying to go on his third desert sheep hunt (a very expensive venture) and has been to Africa a dozen times, or you are a sometimes rabbit hunter who goes along with your buddies because they have the beagle hounds, you are just as important in the hunting universe. Causal hunters buy licenses, guns and ammo, the occasional game vest, and all else that goes with going afield. The sometimes hunter can go and express opinions on current issues in the hunting and game management world as they come up (and they do every day). I doubt very much if all the high powered hunters that have developed such a high opinion of themselves and their perceived position in the hunting hierarchy came from that level to begin with.

Somewhere in their past I am willing to bet there was a time of informal hunts at Grandad’s or Uncle Bill’s old farm. There were old pickup trucks, dog boxes, and a pack of unruly beagles or a couple rawboned pointers with bloody tails and ears. There were noon time breaks with coffee from a dented thermos, RC Colas, Moon Pies, crackers, cheese, and Vienna Sausages. They stood and shivered in torn clothing and cheap boots and soaked up every word from the older hunters. They loved every minute of it and wished this day would never end. They absolutely lived for these days.

So maybe I am just saying, again, let’s stop and take account of where we are today. If you have a ten thousand dollar deer lease and have taken multiple 180 inch bucks that is great, congratulations. But I am asking you to please consider this is the year that you climb down off that high horse you may have been on and consider the other guys (and girls) that are also your brother and sisters in camo. The guy with the old truck with a couple of Cur dogs in the box and maybe his brother in law that only goes twice a year. They are hunters too my friend.

Pass me the crackers and that can of Viennas please.

Larry Case

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Lou Barker is enjoying schoolhouse living

By WILLIAM PAINE
Patriot Publishing

How does a self-described “Yankee Rebel” find himself living in an abandoned schoolhouse in a bucolic section of Pulaski County?

“I’m from the other end of Appalachia ... I was born in Providence, Rhode Island,” said Lou Barker, who bought 10 ½ acres of land along Brookmont Road in May of last year. “I’ve always wanted some land and maybe a little water and I had some money and was thinking about a possible investment.”

Barker is a mechanical engineer by training. He sells Ranger Data Loggers, which are used to measure electrical power outputs, to make his living. Barker sells to a variety of clients that include big name companies like the Tennessee Valley Authority and Duke Energy.

His business and his past membership in the U.S. Army have led Barker to live in many locales including Oklahoma, New York, Indiana and Washington State, but in recent years, Barker has lived with his wife in Grottos, Virginia, a small town near Waynesboro.

“I wanted some land and since most of my customers are in the south, I thought of Southwest Virginia,” Barker explained. “I’ve lived in Augusta County for the past twenty years and when I first bought, I was at the end of the cul de sac and had woods behind me, but that’s gone. They built it up and now I have no privacy.”

Barker bought three parcels on Brookmont Road, which included a trailer home, a shed and an old schoolhouse that he call’s Ray’s Schoolhouse, for \$99,500 on May 15, 2023.

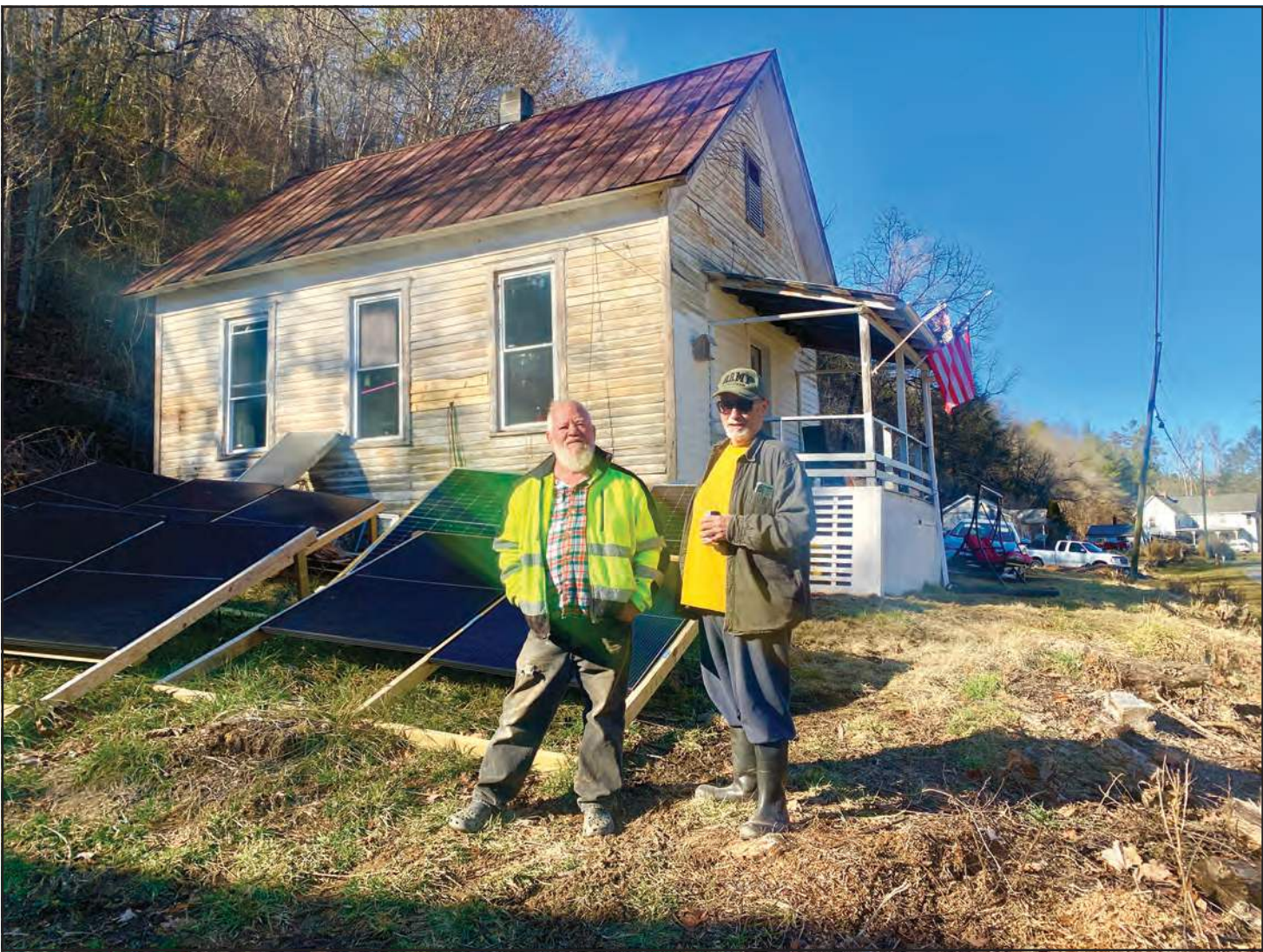
It hasn’t always been smooth sailing, starting with the day of his purchase.

“On closing day, I come down with a trailer with some belongings,” recounted Barker. “Officer Stone of the Pulaski police department decided the trailer that I just bought from Tractor Supply, needed some reflective tape. So, he wrote me up.”

“Then, an hour before closing, I start unloading the trailer and I slip and I broke my friggin’ wrist,” Barker continued. “But I’m like, ‘Screw it.’ We went to lunch and I did the closing and then I went to the hospital.”

The 10 ½ acre property lines the west side of the roadway and includes a sizable pond. Rumor has it there is a box car submerged deep within the pond, as Brookmont runs along the site of an old railroad track.

Barker’s property extends up an adjacent hillside and it is there that he discovered nearly 200 old tires strewn through the woods. Barker found that the EPA allows for 100 tires per parcel and since the tires are spread between two parcels, Barker is not in violation of the law. Even so, he plans to eventually remove all



Lou Barker and Roy Haley in front of Ray’s Schoolhouse: From left: Roy Haley and Lou Barker stand in front of the old schoolhouse on his property – Ray’s Schoolhouse. Barker renovated the interior of the building and has installed solar panels (as seen) to heat his water.



These tires came with Lou Barker’s purchase on Brookmont Road.

the tires from his property and has already begun the process, though he’ll have to bear all the cost himself.

Roy Haley, who lives on Robinson Tract Road, often

comes to lend Lou a helping hand with his projects ... or just hang out. Roy used to mow the lawn for Min Lee Klop, the former owner of the property. Soon after purchasing the place,

Haley and his grandson, Eli brought over some fresh caught fish, as a housewarming gift. Since then, Roy has become a frequent visitor to Lou’s place.

Like Lou, Roy is a veteran of the U.S. Army and finds much common ground through this association.

“Roy and I kind of hit it off and kind of made a friendship,” said Barker.

Barker also found a renter for the trailer on the property, in the form of Travis Howard, who was living in a rental unit across the road. This was the residence of the previous owner and needed little repair to make ready for rental.

Ray’s Schoolhouse, on the other hand, needed much work to make it livable. Outside the historic schoolhouse, which he believes was built circa 1900, Barker installed an array of solar panels, which he uses to heat his water.

“These are 48-volt solar panels,” said Barker. “This is kind of a temporary set up. Nothing is ground mounted,

which means I can move it where I want. I might put it on the roof.”

The interior of the schoolhouse is essentially comprised of one large high ceiling room, which adjoins a tiny kitchen toward the far end of the structure. There is also a small bathroom, complete with a door, tucked into the corner of the structure.

“The kitchen was there and so was the bathroom, but the toilet didn’t work,” said Barker. “We blew in insulation in the walls and we put reflective insulation up top and I’m going to put more on the bottom. We rebuilt the deck, but the foundation is solid and the frame is dynamite. The wood in this place would dull a Sawzall. The whole place is solid. I’m thinking about putting in a loft.”

A wood stove sits at the center of the interior of the schoolhouse and Barker has fashioned a bedroom enclosure from glass block and cloth hangings. A couple of old school desks are part of his interior motif, as well as a few plants, some floor tiles and an old-style American Flag.

“The last person who lived here was probably 20 years ago and it was a lady with a bunch of dogs,” said Roy Haley, who joined Barker in the schoolhouse.

“They had to pressure wash this place because of the stink,” said Barker, adding that a squatter had recently been growing marijuana out of soil bags that he’d dropped in the interior of the schoolhouse.

“There were homeless people sleeping under the floor,” said Roy. “They would crawl under the deck and stay there, but I sealed that off.”

Then there’s the bees. “There is a honeybee hive in the wall behind the refrigerator ... They came with the house,” said Barker, who called Virginia Tech to find out what to do. “They’re still in there right now because the time to move them is evidently in the Spring. So, it’s too late to move them now.”

Apparently, the cool winter temperatures were keeping the bees docile for the moment, as none were seen that day.

Even in its primitive state, the interior of the old Ray’s School House is quite cozy.

Lou stays in the old schoolhouse periodically, but maintains a permanent residence in Augusta County with his wife and son Brad, who

See RAY’S, page B6

George Washington Train Show set March 2-3 in Clifton Forge

Clifton Forge, Va.—Expanding back to pre-pandemic levels when the George Washington Train Show virtually took over the Town of Clifton Forge with events for all ages at multiple venues, the Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Society is excited to bring its winter fundraising event back to the Alleghany Highlands of Virginia. The non-profit organization has announced the return of the full George Washington Train Show, taking place Saturday, March 2 from 10 AM – 4 PM and Sunday, March 3 from 12 PM – 4 PM. Three locations will be active during the train show: the C&O Railway Heritage Center, Clifton Forge Fire Department, and Mountain Gateway Community College in Warren Hall Auditorium.

Despite an increase in expenses since last year’s event, the C&O Historical Society has made a point to keep admission to the entire event at \$5.00, which includes entrance to the extensive C&O Railway Heritage Center museum. For several weeks leading up to the event, C&O Historical Society employees have made preparations at the Clifton Forge museum campus and updated



the onsite Depot Gift Shop. Visitors to the two-day festival have a special opportunity to see the rail-history group’s full lineup of historical gifts and models, saving money on shipping and handling by purchasing onsite.

Two-day event will also include:

- The C&O Historical Society’s O-scale layout will be operating all day and showcasing large-scale model trains. The museum’s model layout represents the C&O Railway’s route from the Virginia shore to the Ohio River.

- Showcasing the Society’s mission to share C&O Railway history, and demonstrating the depth of the George Washington Train Show weekend, a lineup of C&OHS contributors will present a variety of captivating subjects. Presentations are being held at Mountain Gateway Community College in Warren Hall Auditorium, 1000 College Dr, Clifton Forge (full list of speakers and topics included).

- The museum will feature a new railroad photo exhibit on Chessie the Railroad Kitten, the

See TRAINS, page B6

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Rumor has it that there’s a boxcar submerged in this pond on Lou Barker’s property on Brookmont Road.

Ray’s

Continued From Page B5

he put through Virginia Tech. There’s no question that Lou Barker enjoys owning a property in beautiful Pulaski County, but why spend so much time and money rehabilitating and living in an abandoned schoolhouse? “Well, right now my wife is dying,” Lou admitted. “She has terminal cancer. It was February the year before last when we found out and she’s running out of treatments now. This place is a distraction. My wife understood. She gave me the ok. So that that’s why I wanted the property. So, I could just kind of hang out and enjoy nature. Pulaski County, their slogan is play outdoors and this year, we’ve played outdoors, man!” Barker is no stranger to health problems.

“I had a liver replacement in 2019,” Barker admitted. “I drank it away because of PTSD and from my depression. I hit rock bottom in November 2016 and I haven’t had a drop since Donald Trump was elected. When my liver gave out, I quit cold turkey.” Maintaining the property and enjoying the great outdoors serves to keep Barker’s mind and body occupied. “In between cutting firewood, trying to stay warm, making sure the guys in my rental are



Argo six wheel vehicle: This is how Lou Barker gets around his 10.5-acre property.

more comfortable than I am – because I’m not a slumlord – and getting rid of those tires, there’s lots to do,” said Barker. “I’m almost on the edge of retirement, so now I’m going to do a little bit more of what I want,” Barker declared. “So, I’m gonna get into a little bit of farming ... we’re thinking blueberries or cherries. I’ve got an Argo, that six-wheel amphibious vehicle over there. So, we can go wherever we want to go.” Thinking about his new home away from home, Barker had this to say. “Pulaski is close enough for convenience and I think the town has turned a corner now. There seems to be a lot going on.”

Trains

Continued From Page B5 long-time mascot of the C&O Railway, following her 90th birthday in 2023. • N-Scale Layout and hands-on demonstrations at the Heritage Center train depot by C&OHS member and crowd favorite Dale Perry. Come see a variety of specially-imported Kato passenger sets running including Amtrak throughout the day and hear industry information first hand as Dale demonstrates his catalog of N-scale equipment. Great for visitors of all ages. • Operation Lifesaver will be exhibiting their crucial message

for citizens of all ages regarding railroad safety and security. • Traveling from the New River Valley to participate, the Roanoke Valley Model Railroaders will feature a kid-friendly interactive layout. Their volunteers allow kids to operate their three-track HO Scale Layout in an effort to spread the joy and excitement of model trains to today’s children. • Door prizes (full list included) donated from suppliers for the George Washington Train Show. These door prizes include items for men, women, and children. For \$5 admission, guests receive access to both locations that will feature vendors, speakers, food, exhibits, gift shopping, and more.” George Washington Train Show: March 2, 2024, 10 AM - 4 PM and March 3, 2024, 12 PM to 4 PM For questions, please call 540-862-2210 or email brandy@cohsorg.

Should schools ban cell phones all day?

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In California, a high school teacher complains that students watch Netflix on their phones during class. In Maryland, a chemistry teacher says students use gambling apps to place bets during the school day. Around the country, educators say students routinely send Snapchat messages in class, listen to music and shop online, among countless other examples of how smartphones distract from teaching and learning. The hold that phones have on adolescents in America today is well-documented, but teachers say parents are often not aware to what extent students use them inside the classroom. And increasingly, educators and experts are speaking with one voice on the question of how to handle it: Ban phones during classes. “Students used to have an understanding that you aren’t supposed to be on your phone in class. Those days are gone,” said James Granger, who requires students in his science classes at a Los Angeles-area high school to place their phones in “a cellphone cubby” with numbered slots. “The only solution that works is to physically remove the cellphone from the student.” Most schools already have rules regulating student phone use, but they are enforced sporadically. A growing number of leaders at the state and federal levels have begun endorsing school cellphone bans and suggesting new ways to curb access to the devices.

The latest state intervention came in Utah, where Gov. Spencer Cox, a Republican, last month urged all school districts and the state Board of Education to remove cellphones from classrooms. He cited studies that show learning improves, distractions are decreased and students are more likely to talk to each other if phones are taken away. “We just need a space for six or seven hours a day where kids are not tethered to these devices,” Cox told reporters this month. He said his initiative, which is not binding, is part of a legislative push to protect kids in Utah from the harms of social media. Last year, Florida became the first state to crack down on phones in school. A law that took effect in July requires all Florida public schools to ban student cellphone use during class time and block access to social media on district Wi-Fi. Some districts, including Orange County Public Schools, went further and banned phones the entire school day. Oklahoma, Vermont and Kansas have also recently introduced what is becoming known as “phone-free schools” legislation. And two U.S. senators — Tom Cotton, an Arkansas Republican, and Tim Kaine, a

See PHONES, page B7

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CASE NUMBER	COMMONWEALTH OF VA. VS.	ACTION	F/M
155CR23000855-00	ALLEY, CHRISTOPHER STEVEN INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000834-00	ALMARODE, CHRISTIAN BLAYKE INDICTMENT - PWID/SCH/I/II	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000835-00	ALMARODE, CHRISTIAN BLAYKE INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000836-00	ALMARODE, CHRISTIAN BLAYKE INDICTMENT - POSS/FIREARM/DRUGS	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000837-00	ALMARODE, CHRISTIAN BLAYKE INDICTMENT - NONVIOL/FELON/POSS/G	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000879-00	ANDERSON, ROBERT CLAYTON INDICTMENT - ELUDE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000880-00	ANDERSON, ROBERT CLAYTON INDICTMENT - ASSAULT/OFFICER	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR24000002-00	BAGLEY, ALAN JOSEPH; JR DIRECT IND. - DIST/METHAMPHETAMINE	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000003-00	BAGLEY, ALAN JOSEPH; JR DIRECT IND. - DIST/METHAMPHETAMINE	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR23000783-00	BISHOP, ADAM RYAN INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR24000004-00	BISHOP, ADAM RYAN DIRECT IND. - CONSP/DIST/METHAMPHE	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR23000856-00	BLANKENSHIP, JAMES KELLY; IV INDICTMENT - DEST/PROPERTY	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000838-00	BRANCH, JERRY WAYNE INDICTMENT - FALSE/STATE/CONSENT/	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000825-00	BRICKEY, JEREMY ETHAN TUCKER INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000858-00	BYRD, STEVEN W INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000766-00	DAVIS, SCOTTY SHANE INDICTMENT - CHILD/ABUSE/NEGLECT	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000797-00	DICKERSON, ALICE MARIE INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000784-00	EDWARDS, MICHAEL LEE INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000785-00	EDWARDS, MICHAEL LEE INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000770-00	ELLIOTT, JESSE SCOTT INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000771 -00	ELLIOTT, JESSE SCOTT INDICTMENT - POSS/GUN/DRUGS	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR24000005-00	FERGUSON, JOSHUA PAUL DIRECT IND. - CONSP/DIST/METH/3RD	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR23000894-00	FINLEY, EBONY MONIC INDICTMENT - ABDUCT/MINOR	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000895-00	FINLEY, EBONY MONIC INDICTMENT - ABDUCT/MINOR	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR24000006-00	FINN, BOBBIE JO DIRECT IND. - DIST/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000007-00	GAMBILL, CRYSTAL YVETTE DIRECT IND. - CC/LARCENY	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000008-00	HAIRSTON, JMARE DIRECT IND. - ASSAULT	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	MISDEMEANOR
155CR24000009-00	HAIRSTON, JMARE DIRECT IND. - A&B	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	MISDEMEANOR
155CR24000010-00	HALL, JASON CHRISTOPHER DIRECT IND. - DIST/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000011-00	HALL, JASON CHRISTOPHER DIRECT IND. - DIST/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000012-00	HALL, JASON CHRISTOPHER DIRECT IND. - DIST/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR23000786-00	HALLETT, JODIE MELISSA INDICTMENT - POSS/OXYCODONE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000839-00	HARDMON, MELISSA DEANNE INDICTMENT - FALSE/STATE/CONSENT/	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000772-00	HARLESS, WILLARD CARL; JR INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000852-00	HARRIMAN, BRIAN KEITH; JR INDICTMENT - STRANGULATION	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000859-00	HENLEY, BRIAN RUSSELL INDICTMENT - DIST/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000841-00	HENLEY, MATILDA LYNN INDICTMENT - FALSE/STATE/CONSENT/	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR24000013-00	HENLEY, MATILDA LYNN DIRECT IND. - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000014-00	HILL, THRILL FERDINAND DIRECT IND. - DIST/COCAINE	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000015-00	HILL, THRILL FERDINAND DIRECT IND. - DIST/COCAINE	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000016-00	HORTON, STEPHANIE DAWN DIRECT IND. - DIST/METHAMPHETAMINE	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR23000842-00	HOUNSHELL, RUSSELL EUGENE INDICTMENT - POSS/SCH/I/II/DRUG	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR24000017-00	HOUNSHELL, RUSSELL EUGENE DIRECT IND. - FELON/POSS/FIREARM	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY

See INDICTMENTS, page B8

Phones

Continued From Page B6

Virginia Democrat — introduced legislation in December that would require a federal study on the effects of cellphone use in schools on students’ mental health and academic performance. Theirs is one of several bipartisan alliances calling for stiffer rules for social media companies and greater online safety for kids.

Nationally, 77% of U.S. schools say they prohibit cellphones at school for non-academic use, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

But that number is misleading. It does not mean students are following those bans or all those schools are enforcing them.

Just ask teachers.

“Cellphone use is out of control. By that, I mean that I cannot control it, even in my own classroom,” said Patrick Truman, who teaches at a Maryland high school that forbids student use of cellphones during class. It is up to each teacher to enforce the policy, so Truman bought a 36-slot caddy for storing student phones. Still, every day, students hide phones in their laps or under books as they play video games and check social media.

Tired of being the phone police, he has come to a reluctant conclusion: “Students who are on their phones are at least quiet. They are not a behavior issue.”

A study last year from Common Sense Media found that 97% of kids use their phones during school hours, and that kids say school cellphone policies vary — often from one classroom to another — and aren’t always enforced.

For a school cellphone ban to work, educators and experts say the school administration must be the one to enforce it and not leave that task to teachers. The Phone-Free Schools Movement, an advocacy group formed last year by concerned mothers, says policies that allow students to keep phones in their backpacks, as many schools do, are ineffective.

“If the bookbag is on the floor next to them, it’s buzzing and distracting, and they have the temptation to want to check it,” said Kim Whitman, a co-founder of the group, which advises schools to require phones be turned off and locked away all day.

Some students say such policies take away their autonomy and cut off their main mode of communication with family and friends. Pushback also has come from parents who fear being cut off from their kids if there is a school emergency. Whitman advises schools to make exceptions for students with special educational and medical needs, and to inform parents on expert guidance that phones can be a dangerous distraction for students during an emergency.

Jaden Willoughy, 14, shares the concern about being out of contact with his parents if there’s a crisis. But he also sees the upsides of turning in his phone at school.

At Delta High School in rural Utah, where Jaden is a freshman, students are required to check their phones at the door when entering every class. Each of the school’s 30 or so classrooms has a cellphone storage unit that looks like an over-the-door shoe bag with three dozen smartphone-sized slots.

“It helps you focus on your work, and it’s easier to pay attention in class,” Jaden said.

A classmate, Mackenzie Stanworth, 14, said it would be hard to ignore her phone if it was within reach. It’s a relief, she said, to “take a break from the screen and the social life on your phone and actually talk to people in person.”

It took a few years to tweak the cellphone policy and find a system that worked, said Jared Christensen, the school’s vice principal.

“At first it was a battle. But it has been so worth it,” he said. “Students are more attentive and engaged during class time. Teachers are able to teach without competing with cellphones. And student learning has increased,” he said, citing test scores that are at or above state averages for the first time in years. “I can’t definitively say it’s because of this policy. But I know it’s helping.”

The next battle will be against earbuds and smartwatches, he said. Even with phones stashed in pouches, students get caught listening to music on air pods hidden under their hair or hoodies.

“We haven’t included earbuds in our policy yet. But we’re almost there.”

Lower auto prices giving Americans a break

DETROIT (AP) — Price increases for cars and trucks in the United States, which helped fuel inflation for nearly three years, are slowing and in some cases falling, helping cool overall inflation and giving frustrated Americans more hope of finding an affordable vehicle.

Behind the price slowdown is a vastly expanded number of vehicles on dealer lots after years of severe shortages. With more autos available, the pressures that had sent prices surging have eased. At the end of January, American dealers had 2.61 million new cars, trucks and SUVs on their lots, according to Cox Automotive. By contrast, the supply a year ago was just 1.74 million.

Though inventories of new autos are still well below the roughly 4 million level that prevailed before the pandemic, analysts and dealers say the rising availability suggests that 2024 will be the most affordable year of the past five in which to buy a new car or truck.

“When the lots are empty, there’s not much of a bargaining position from a consumer standpoint,” said Glenn Mears, owner of a four-dealership group around Canton and Dover, Ohio. “But now that we have inventory, it’s much more competitive. Much more like it has been historically.”

The price spikes that followed the 2020 pandemic were caused mainly by a worldwide shortage of computer chips, which are vital to auto manufacturing and had forced plants to curb production. As vehicle availability shrank, prices soared. By 2021, some dealers had no new cars at all in stock. Many frustrated buyers turned instead to the used market. The resulting surge in demand for used cars caused those prices to surge, too, elbowing many people out of the auto market entirely.

But with computer chips now abundant, auto production is rising steadily, especially since the United Auto Workers returned to work after strikes last fall.

The average price paid for a new vehicle in the United States fell 1.2% in January from a year earlier, to \$47,338, according to data collected by Edmunds.com. That’s down 2.4% from a peak of \$48,516 set in December 2022. Though the drop is relatively modest, analysts predict that prices will keep falling this year, especially for new vehicles, as availability grows and automakers are compelled to lower prices.

The average price of a used vehicle — \$27,297 as of last month — is down 3% from a year ago and 12% below the peak of \$31,095 in April 2022. Analysts expect used-auto prices to fall further before rising slightly once the peak buying season resumes in the spring.

In January, automaker discounts on new vehicles, including rebates and low-interest financing, averaged \$1,469 per vehicle — five times what they had averaged a year earlier.

“What we anticipate is that there will be significantly more discounting, more incentives,” said Michelle Krebs, executive analyst for Cox Automotive. “We’re already seeing that.”

When Gary Morrow of Pickerington, Ohio, started shopping for a new SUV earlier this month, he wasn’t prepared to receive any discount at all. But he was pleasantly surprised when Larry Scott’s dealership in Columbus, Ohio, offered a \$500 cash incentive, plus a five-year 4% loan — far below the roughly 7% average new-car loan — on a Hyundai Palisade SUV that cost him around \$47,000.

“You can’t look a gift horse in the mouth,” said Morrow, a retired teacher. “I was pretty comfortable with the final figure.”

Thanks to the lower-cost financing, Morrow said he managed to keep some money he had set aside for the new vehicle invested, where he hopes it will deliver a higher return than the rate on his 4% loan.

New vehicle prices didn’t rise at all from December to January, government figures show. Still, they’re up more than 21% since the start of 2020, when the pandemic erupted and triggered severe parts shortages.

Indictments

Continued From Page B7			
155CR24000018-00	HOUNSHELL, RUSSELL EUGENE DIRECT IND. - B&E	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000019-00	HOUNSHELL, RUSSELL EUGENE DIRECT IND. - LARCENY/FIREARM	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000020-00	HUGHES, STEVEN WAYNE DIRECT IND. - DIST/BUPRENORPHINE	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000021-00	HUGHES, STEVEN WAYNE DIRECT IND. - DIST/BUPRENORPHINE	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000022-00	HUGHES, STEVEN WAYNE DIRECT IND. - DIST/BUPRENORPHINE	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000023-00	HULL, DUSTIN SHANE DIRECT IND. - DIST/METHAMPHETAMINE	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000024-00	HULL, DUSTIN SHANE DIRECT IND. - DIST/METHAMPHETAMINE	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000025-00	HULL, DUSTIN SHANE DIRECT IND. - DIST/METHAMPHETAMINE	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR23000810-00	JOHNSON, CURTIS EDWARD INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR24000026-00	JONES, MARCELLA MCCANN DIRECT IND. - FINANCIAL/EXPLOITATI	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR23000860-00	KEMP, JOSHUA GAIGE INDICTMENT - FELON/POSS/AMMO	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR24000027-00	KING, CHRISTOPHER MATTHEW DIRECT IND. - ELUDE	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR23000893-00	LEDONNE, JACOB ALEXANDER INDICTMENT - ABDUCTION	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000843-00	MAXEY, STEVEN RUSSELL INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000798-00	MCCROSKEY, DARREN PRESTON INDICTMENT - FALSE/SWEAR/INDIGENC	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000804-00	MCCROSKEY, DARREN PRESTON INDICTMENT - AGG/MAL/WOUND	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000805-00	MCCROSKEY, DARREN PRESTON INDICTMENT - AGG/MAL/WOUND	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000806-00	MCCROSKEY, DARREN PRESTON INDICTMENT - MAL/WOUND	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000807-00	MCCROSKEY, DARREN PRESTON INDICTMENT - MAL/WOUND	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000808-00	MCCROSKEY, DARREN PRESTON INDICTMENT - STRANGULATION	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR24000028-00	MCCROSKEY, DARREN PRESTON DIRECT IND. - MAL/WOUND	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000029-00	MCCROSKEY, DARREN PRESTON DIRECT IND. - STRANGULATION	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000030-00	MCCROSKEY, DARREN PRESTON DIRECT IND. - VIOL/PROT/ORDER	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	MISDEMEANOR
155CR24000031-00	MCCROSKEY, DARREN PRESTON DIRECT IND. - VIOL/PROT/ORDER	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	MISDEMEANOR
155CR23000787-00	MCVEY, JAMES LACY; JR INDICTMENT - FTR/SEX/OFF	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000788-00	MCVEY, JAMES LACY; JR INDICTMENT - FTR/SEX/OFF	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000789-00	MCVEY, JAMES LACY; JR INDICTMENT - LEAVE/VA/COND/RELEAS	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000775-00	MITCHELL, JAMES NATHAN INDICTMENT - GRAND/LARCENY	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000863-00	MITCHELL, JAMES NATHAN INDICTMENT - FELON/POSS/GUN	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000776-00	MONTGOMERY, ROGER LEE INDICTMENT - SELL/DIST/STOLEN/PRO	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR24000032-00	NESTER, PAMELA NICOLE DIRECT IND. - CONSP/DIST/METHAMPHE	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR23000844-00	ODELL, CHARLES MITCHELL INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000845-00	ODELL, CHARLES MITCHELL INDICTMENT - POSS/HYDROCODONE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000823-00	PARKS, STEVEN MAIDEN INDICTMENT - ELUDE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR24000033-00	PERKINS, DANNY. RAY; JR DIRECT IND. - POSS/W/INT/SELL/STOL	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000034-00	PERKINS, DANNY RAY; JR DIRECT IND. - GRAND/LARCENY	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000035-00	PERKINS, DANNY RAY; JR DIRECT IND. - EMBEZZLE	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR24000036-00	PERKINS, DANNY RAY; JR DIRECT IND. - EMBEZZLE	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR23000777-00	PHILLIPS, CODY RYAN INDICTMENT - POSS/HEROIN	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR24000037-00	PORTER, ROBIN RENEE DIRECT IND. - DIST/COCAINE	TRUE BILL - CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR23000769-00	POWERS, SHANNON GRAY INDICTMENT - IND/LIBERTIES/W/CHIL	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000790-00	PRICE, BLAKE ANDREW INDICTMENT - OSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR24000038-00	QUESENBERRY, ERIC ADAM DIRECT IND. - POSS/BROMAZOLAM	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR23000811-00	RECTOR, AUSTIN TYLER INDICTMENT - MAL/WOUND	TRUE BILL	FELONY
1SSCR23000864-00	RICE, KOREY TREVON INDICTMENT - MURDER/2ND/DEGREE	TRUE BILL	FELONY

Indictments

Continued From Page B8			
15SCR23000865-00	RICE, KOREY TREVON INDICTMENT - UNLAW/WOUNDING	TRUE BILL	FELONY
1SSCR23000767-00	SAFEWRIGHT, JOSHUA MARK INDICTMENT - A&B/FAM/MEM	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000882-00	SARVER, STACY LYNN INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000883-00	SCHLEICH, JACOB JOSE KOLBY INDICTMENT - ASSAULT/OFFICER	TRUE BILL	FELONY
1SSCR23000791-00	SHAFFER, DAMIAN ALEXANDER INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000866-00	SHELTON, REX DOUGLAS; JR INDICTMENT - FELON/POSS/GUN	TRUE BILL	FELONY
1SSCR23000816-00	SMITH, CHRISTOPHER JOHN INDICTMENT - MAL/WOUND	TRUE BILL	FELONY
1SSCR23000822-00	SMITH, EDDIE DEAN INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
15SCR23000892-00	SMITH, JOSEPH; III INDICTMENT - STRANGULATION	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000867-00	STACKS, SHAWN MITCHELL INDICTMENT - GRAND/LARCENY	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000868-00	STACKS, SHAWN MITCHELL INDICTMENT - GRAND/LARCENY	TRUE BILL	FELONY
15SCR24000039-00	STILWELL, KIMBERLY RENEE DIRECT IND. - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
155CR23000847-00	TAYLOR, PHILLIP SCOTT; JR INDICTMENT - POSS/HEROIN	TRUE BILL	FELONY
15SCR23000792-00	VIARS, GARY WAYNE INDICTMENT - POSS/METHAMPHETAMINE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR24000040-00	WAGNER, ERNEST DEAN; JR DIRECT IND. - FALSE/STATE/CONSENT/	TB - ARREST/CAPIAS	FELONY
1SSCR23000801-00	WILLIAMS, BARBARA INDICTMENT - UNAUTH/USE	TRUE BILL	FELONY
1SSCR23000779-00	WORRELL, COURTNEY LEIGH INDICTMENT - DRUGS: POSSESS SCH I	TRUE BILL	FELONY
155CR23000781-00	YORK, WILLIAM MICHAEL INDICTMENT - VIOL/PROT/ORDER/3RD	TRUE BILL	FELONY

Indictments are listed as presented by the Pulaski County Circuit Court - Criminal Division.
An indictment is a finding enough evidence exists to hold a trial. It is not a finding of guilt.

Critter love wins Radford Photo Club contest

Joyce Sims of Radford won the Radford Photo Club Valentine/ Love challenge with a photo that shows the love between a mama groundhog and her baby. Tracy Burlingame of Riner won the open category with a photo of her 1½-year-old cat, Scottie, a rescue from Radford animal shelter.

The next meeting will be March 21 at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. Members will show photos taken at stations during the February meeting.

The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. If you have questions about the club, email Lucy Gilmore at



Burlingame cat

lucy.gilmore@gmail.com or Michele Borgarelli at mborgarelli@gmail.com



Sims groundhog

The library address is https://www.loc8nearme.com/virginia/radford/radford-public-library/8303150/

Renowned civil rights leader speaks at CCCC gala

FAIRLAWN – The Let’s Paint the Town Red gala to benefit the Calfee Community & Cultural Center took place on February 24, 2024 at the Omni Place Event Center and featured honored speaker, Leon W. Russell, Calfee Training School alumnus and chairman of the National Board of Directors for the NAACP. Russell shared fond memories of his teachers at Calfee, including Mrs.

Dorothy DeBerry Venable, who was also in attendance. “It’s important that we remember those names,” he said, “because, for me, those are the people who built the foundation that I stand on. They provided me with that inspiration. They were the reason that I can stand up and say that if you did anything in your life, you ought to thank a teacher.”

Russell has served on the national NAACP board of directors since 1990 and has dedicated his life to fighting for human rights. In his remarks, he emphasized the importance of preserving Calfee’s history to build the future. Russell referred to the NAACP lawsuit for equalization that 23 African American families in Pulaski signed onto in 1948, laying the foundation for the pivotal Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court case. “Understand that even though we didn’t have the reputation of a Mississippi or an Alabama, significant contributions were made here,” he said.

“Like so many other folks, I never knew Pulaski County was actually part of the civil rights movement,” Russell said. “It’s important for you to recognize and to celebrate that, but it’s also important that you’re here so that we can build something that helps the future understand where it got its foundation. That’s why I’m so pleased that this project is underway.” He later said, “I hope that this community will take this vision and grow this vision so that it really can reverberate within not just this town, but across Virginia so that this story can take its place as part of the great American civil rights story.”

About Calfee Community & Cultural Center: From 1894 to 1966, the Calfee Training School educated African American children in Pulaski, VA. 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.

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Ribbon cutting held at Sittin’ Pretty

Sittin’ Pretty Beauty Lounge opened their doors in 2022 and have since added numerous new services to their beauty offerings. Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony in celebration of the salon’s journey

as it introduces a distinctive line of services aimed at meeting evolving customer demands.

The salon’s team of certified and licensed professionals ensures quality and reliability in every service offered including medical grade facials, coolsculpting, spray tanning, laser treatments, tattoo removal, eyelash and hair extensions, teeth whitening, as well as traditional hair styling services.

The ribbon-cutting event, attended by customers, local dignitaries and Chamber of Commerce members, highlights Sittin’ Pretty Beauty Lounge’s unwavering commitment to innovation and customer satisfaction. Small businesses like Sittin’ Pretty, offering unique services tailored to the community’s needs, play a vital role in shaping the cultural fabric and identity of our local

community. Check them out at 5217 Dominion Drive, Dublin, VA.

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by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



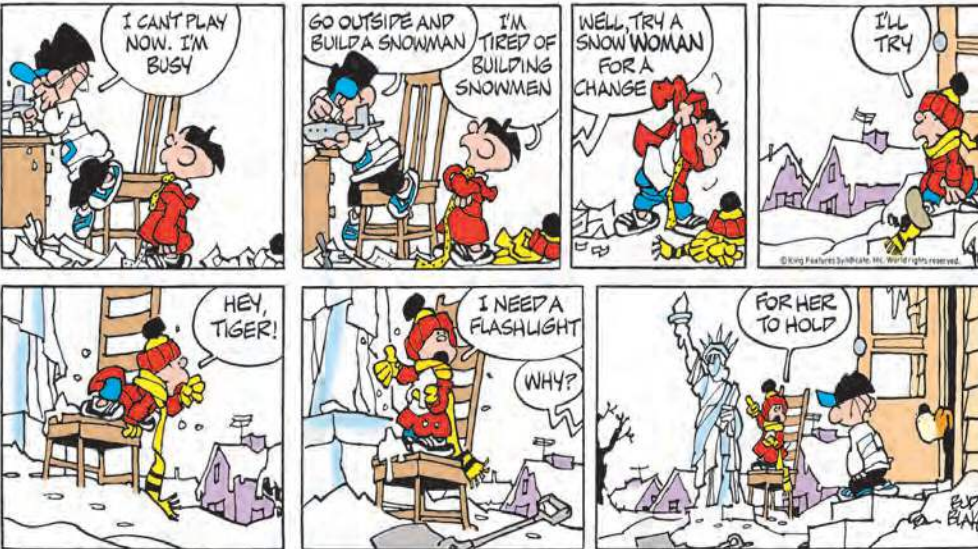
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



OLIVE

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



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: G equals R

WY ZJH AGJKIL V AIMQWSILI
VML V SVGGJQ, W UJMLIG
WY ZJH'L IML HS UWQN V
UVROWI-QVROWI.

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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!

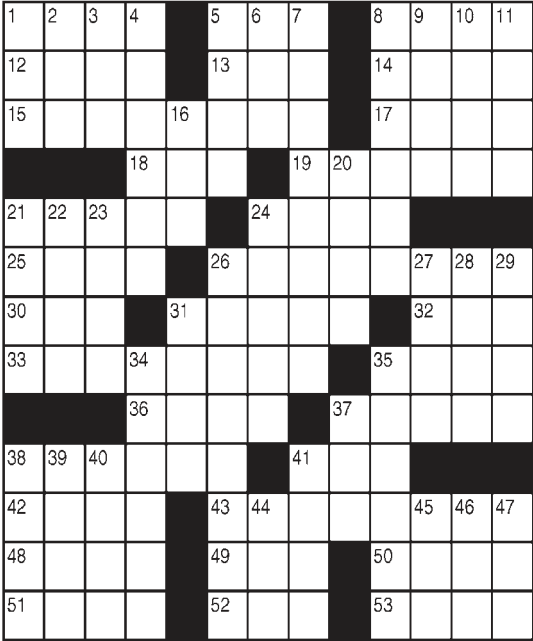
Solve CHIRPE
Fantasy ARMED
Distort BLAGER
Record ATTONE

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Not so hot?
- 5 Dog tags, e.g.
- 8 Quick look
- 12 Antioxidant berry
- 13 French vineyard
- 14 Impetuous
- 15 Dungeon's quality
- 17 Actress Rae
- 18 Small batteries
- 19 Detroit hoopster
- 21 Like a neglected lawn
- 24 Coop group
- 25 Within (Pref.)
- 26 Foppish behavior
- 30 Caustic cleaner
- 31 Loud
- 32 Dean's list stat
- 33 Writer Steel
- 35 Three- sloth
- 36 Barn birds
- 37 Travesty
- 38 "Jane Eyre" author
- 41 Tofu source
- 42 Chicago's Mayor
- 43 Hanging loosely
- 48 Location



- 49 Swiss canton
- 50 Roasting spot
- 51 Church song
- 52 Domino spot
- 53 Harvest
- 10 Canadian gas brand
- 11 "Star Trek II" villain
- 16 Aye undoer
- 20 "500" race
- 21 Use a blowtorch
- 22 New Age singer
- 23 Genesis garden
- 24 Salutes
- 26 Prettified
- 27 Composer
- 28 Hitchcock forte
- 29 Created
- 31 Salamander
- 34 Sea off Sicily
- 35 "Fearless" singer Swift
- 37 Boating hazard
- 38 Humdrum
- 39 "Gilmore Girls" daughter
- 40 Utah city
- 41 Use scissors
- 44 "Exodus" hero
- 45 "— had it!"
- 46 Museum-funding org.
- 47 Econ. measure

DOWN

- 1 Bankroll
- 2 Obamacare acronym
- 3 Scooted
- 4 Japanese emperor
- 5 Frosts a cake
- 6 Hosp. workers
- 7 Stravinsky
- 8 Overly proper
- 9 Bridge position

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top ten

Countries with the Most Natural Resources

- 1. Russia
- 2. United States
- 3. Saudi Arabia
- 4. Canada
- 5. Iran
- 6. China
- 7. Brazil
- 8. Australia
- 9. Iraq
- 10. Venezuela

Source: Investopedia

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. LITERATURE: In the children's book, what is Doctor Dolittle's special talent?
- 2. ART: Who painted the work titled "Starry Night"?
- 3. FOOD & DRINK: Which vegetable is commonly used to make pickles?
- 4. MUSIC: What is pop singer Taylor Swift's favorite number?
- 5. MEDICAL: What is a common name for lachrymation?
- 6. BUSINESS: When was the Chia Pet invented?
- 7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first American to win a Nobel Prize?
- 8. HISTORY: The Aztec civilization emerged in which modern-day country?
- 9. TELEVISION: Who played the character Michael Scott on TV's "The Office"?
- 10. GEOGRAPHY: The volcano Mount Vesuvius overlooks which modern-day Italian city?

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WORD LADDERS

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

WRITE

PRIDE

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BLIND

Today's Word

- 1. Cipher
- 2. Dream
- 3. Garble
- 4. Notate

SCRAMBLERS

BRIBE, BRIDE, PRIDE, WRITE, TRITE, TRIPE

Answer

WORD LADDER

Americanisms



"A thing is mighty big when time and distance cannot shrink it."
— Zora Neale Hurston

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Solution time: 23 mins.

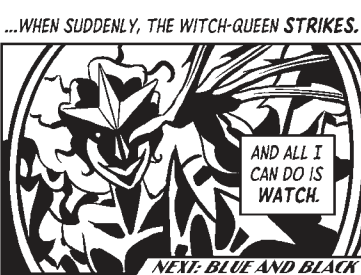
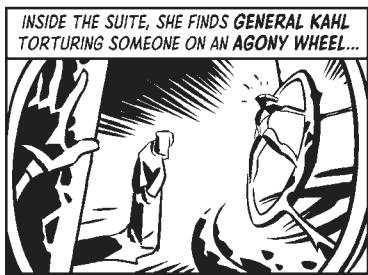
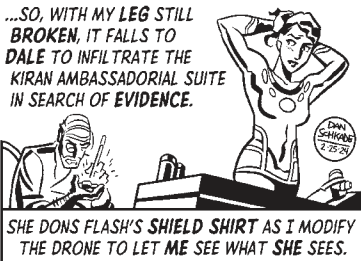
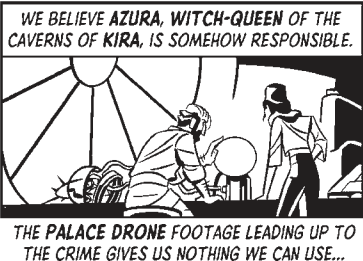
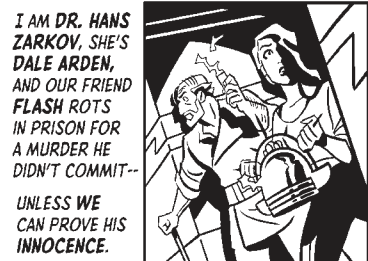
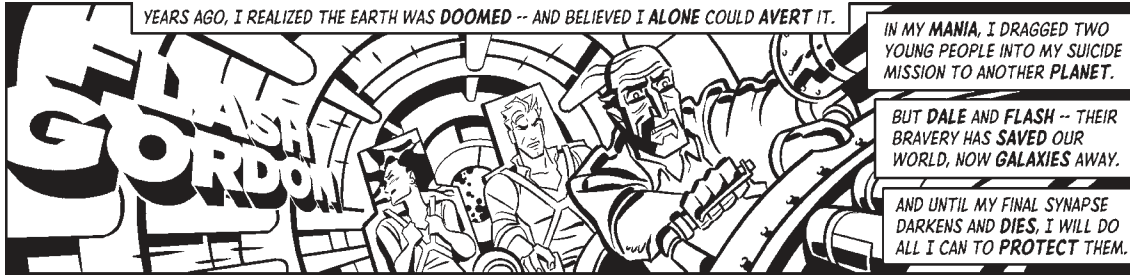
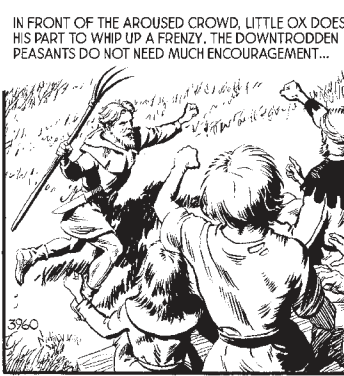
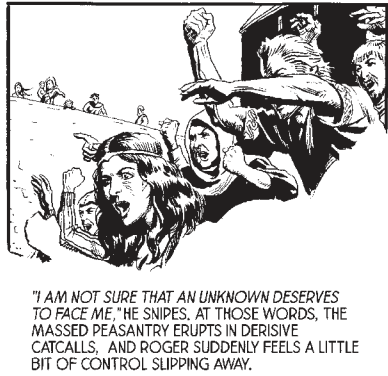
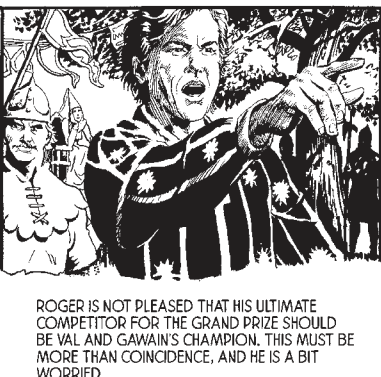
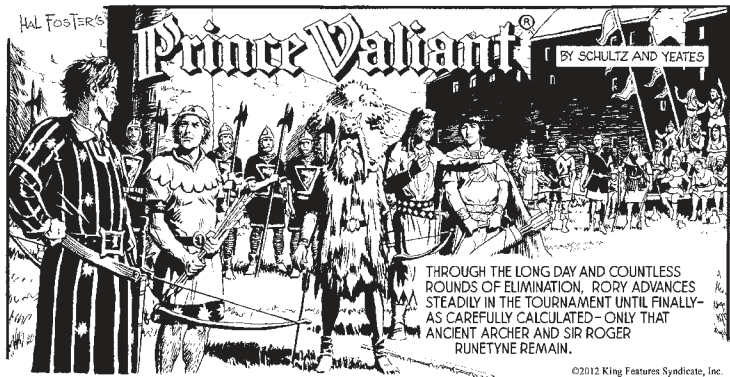
Answers

King Crossword

Cryptoquip

If you crossed a centipede and a parrot, I wonder if you'd end up with a walke-talkie.

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Here's a Tip!

* Soak your metal tools in Coca-Cola when they get gummed up. It does a great job of loosening the gunk, and after a few hours in a Coke bath, you can almost just brush stuff right off. Makes you wonder about drinking it, but whatever works!

* If you get the Sunday newspaper, you likely get coupons. Perhaps there are others who would enjoy any coupons you don't use rather than your recycling them. Ask your neighbors and friends.

* To make a cottage cheese dip, blend it in your food processor

until smooth and add your dip flavoring packet or season with flavors as you would sour cream.

* "You can use a thermos to keep soup warm as a lunch option. Just get a clean funnel for use in the kitchen. You can use it to add soup to the thermos. It makes a good alternative to mix up your lunch options, especially in cold weather. Before you fill the thermos with your hot food, fill it with boiling water and let it sit for a good five minutes. Then empty out the water just before filling. The food will stay hot longer." -- E.D. in Wisconsin

* If you have a smartphone (or just a cellphone that takes pictures), here's a novel way of keeping track of printed information: Snap a quick pic. This works for store hours (get the store name in the picture with the hours), receipts, sales advertisements for reference when shopping and much much more. You can delete the photo when you are done.

The Patriot
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Top Ten in Movies

1. Bob Marley: One Love (PG-13) Kingsley Ben-Adir, Lashana Lynch
2. Madame Web (PG-13) Dakota Johnson, Sydney Sweeney
3. Argyll (PG-13) Henry Cavill, Bryce Dallas Howard
4. Migration (PG) Kumail Nanjiani, Elizabeth Banks
5. The Chosen: S4.E4 (NR) Shahar Isaac, Paras Patel
6. Wonka (PG) Timothee Chalamet, Gustave Die
7. The Beekeeper (R) Jason Statham, Emmy Raver-Lampman
8. Anyone But You (R) Sydney Sweeney, Glen Powell
9. Lisa Frankenstein (PG-13) Kathryn Newton, Liza Soberano
10. Land of Bad (R) Liam Hemsworth, Russell Crowe

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

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

Alliance Europe Lobster Rhodesia
Cape Flicker Marianas Shrike
Cardinal Hemisphere Michigan Territory
Cross Ireland Pike

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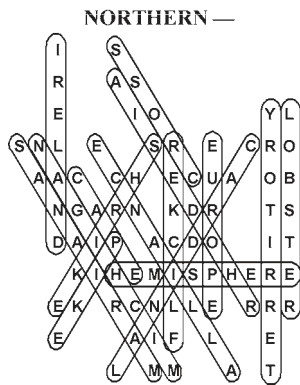
CryptoQuote

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.

XIB NVZO YPO NQX NU XNGPO'W
ARWBEO RW UNE HBNHZB XN
TBJNAB YNEXIO NU BPJI
NXIBE'W XEQWX.
— PZTBEX WJIYBRXMBE

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CryptoQuote answer

The only way out of today's misery is for people to become worthy of each other's trust.
— Albert Schweitzer

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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The Patriot

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PULASKI COUNTY PULSE

March 4

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

March 2

Taco and Potato Bar
Taco and Potato Bar at Pulaski First Church of the Brethren on March 2nd 12-3. This is a free will offering event. The church is located at 1749 Newbern Road, one block behind the DMV. You may eat in, carry out or we can deliver. The church number 540-

980-3798 or Ms. Smith 540-616-6641.

March 7

American Legion
The American Legion, Harvey Howe Carper Post 30 will meet on Thursday, March 7, 6pm at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. If Radford City Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

March 21

Sons of Confederate Veterans
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet on Thursday, March 21, 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 Dana Jackson will speak on the "History of the Confederate Veterans Home in Richmond". If Montgomery or 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.

VFW to host seminar on moral injury

A special program and seminar on dealing with "moral injury" will be held in two sessions Thursday, March 21, at VFW Post 1115 in Hillsville. The 2 p.m. session is for Veterans only while a presentation for the public will be held at 6 p.m. Rev. Dr.

Rita Nakashima Brock, a Senior Vice President for Moral Injury Recovery Programs at Volunteers of America, will speak at both sessions and open the meeting for discussion and questions. Her father served in the military and through his experiences she is a leading national expert on moral injury in combat Veterans.

March 23

Apple Tree Grafting Workshop
FREE WORKSHOP: On Saturday, March 23, at 1:00 p.m., at the Wytheville Farmers Market, 210 W. Spring Street, the Wythe Bland Region Master Gardeners will be offering an Apple Tree Grafting Workshop. The actual workshop is FREE. If you have questions, contact David Danner at 276-223-7773.

April 6

Spaghetti Fundraiser
Please join us for a spaghetti fundraiser at Warriors for Christ II Church on April 6 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the church at 600 Skyline Circle in Pulaski. Tickets for a tray will cost \$12. Tray includes spaghetti plate, salad, bread, a dessert and drink. Orders will be taken for eating in or take out.

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.



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