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Pulaski County

April 26, 2024

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# Pulaski County budget includes no tax increases


By MIKE WILLIAMS  
Patriot Publishing

No one spoke during a public hearing Monday night on a 2024-25 budget proposal for Pulaski County totaling just under \$164 million.

The fact no one spoke is most certainly because the budget proposal is balanced without any proposed tax increases for the coming year.

Finance Director Trish Cox provided a brief overview of the budget to the Board of Supervisors, noting work on the spending plan had been ongoing since January and had been a group effort.

Following Cox's remarks County Administrator Jonathan Sweet noted the budget proposal included no proposed increase in tax rates levied by Pulaski County.



Board Chairman Laura Walters thanked Cox and her Finance Department staff for all their work on the budget.

Massie Supervisor Mike Mooney added that, while this is only his second year of working on a county budget, "it was so much easier for me to understand this year."

Following the public hearing, Sweet said Monday night's presentation on the budget was a first reading, and a final reading and vote on the spending plan

would take place at the board's May meeting.

In another tax related issue Monday night, supervisors approved changes in the county's ordinance providing tax relief for the elderly and disabled.

County Attorney Tim Kirtner explained proposed changes in eligibility requirements would bring the county's ordinance more in line with what is allowed by state statute in terms of the income limitations for those seeking tax relief.

The proposed changes, he added, would also expand the number of acres that can be considered for the tax exemption from one to three acres.

Kirtner said, with the changes, income limits were rising from \$17,500 to \$25,000

See COUNTY, page A2

# Pulaski Councilman, Reis charged with misdemeanors

*Charges relate to alleged violations of ethics, conflict of interest laws*

By WILLIAM PAINE  
Patriot Publishing

Pulaski Town Council Member Michael Reis has been charged with three Class 1 misdemeanors and one Class 3 Misdemeanor relating to alleged ethics violations while serving on town council.

According to these Warrants, at some time on or about January 2021 and through April 2024, Reis allegedly violated Virginia Statutes related to ethics and conflicts of interest.

The charges stem from Reis's



Michael Reis

relationship with the Calfee Community & Cultural Center, where his wife, Jill Williams, serves as Co-Executive Director.

Williams also serves as

the "Principal Consultant" for Wide Angle Strategies LLC, which is involved in the proposed renovations set to take place at the Calfee CCC. Information obtained by a FOIA request reveals that Wide Angle Strategies could have profited handsomely from Calfee's receipt of a proposed \$1 million dollar federal EDA grant.

In addition to serving on the Pulaski Town Council, Michael Reis serves as the Registered Agent for both the Calfee CCC and Wide Angle Strategies. According to Forbes, "A registered Agent is a person or entity you have appointed to handle necessary government, tax and legal correspondence about your business."

Reis is charged with violating

See REIS, page A3



## TURNING 65 SOON?

Have Medicare Questions?




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## Gem City Market

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16 East Main Street  
Pulaski, Va.



Weekly Police Blotter 04/15/2024 - 04/21/2024			
Pulaski Police Department			
Date	Time	Offense	Location (Block Number)
4/15/2024	0:46	Vandalism	200 block East Main St.
	10:59	Identity Theft	1400 block English Forest Rd.
		Fraud	1400 block English Forest Rd.
	13:22	Vandalism	1000 block Olivia Ln
	16:57	Hit & Run	2400 block Lee Highway
	18:28	Resist Arrest	2100 block Peppers Ferry Rd.
4/16/2024	3:03	Trespassing	1500 block East Main St.
		Drunkenness	1500 block East Main St.
		Attempted Vehicle Theft	1500 block East Main St.
	14:17	Trespassing	800 block Washington Square
	15:14	Trespassing	600 block Washington Square
	20:04	Assault & Battery	900 block East Main St.
4/17/2024	18:20	Petit Larceny	1500 block Westwood Dr.
4/18/2024	8:53	Drug/Narcotics Violation	1000 block Wisler Pl
		Drug Equipment Violation	1001 block Wisler Pl
	18:26	Resist Arrest	600 block 1st St. SE
		Trespassing	600 block 1st St. SE
4/19/2024	13:11	Drug/Narcotics Violation	200 block Lexington Ave.
		Drunkenness	200 block Lexington Ave.
	17:00	Assault & Battery	1000 block East Main St.
4/20/2024	10:52	Phone Harassment	900 block N Jefferson St.
	15:34	Vandalism	1000 block 4th St. NE
		Petit Larceny	1000 block 4th St. NE
	18:27	Vandalism	600 block 4th St, NW
	19:04	Petit Larceny	200 block N. Washington Ave.
4/21/2024	2:57	Fraud	600 block East Main St.
	14:01	Drug/Narcotics Violation	Memorial Dr.
	22:57	Counterfeiting	600 block East Main St.

# County

Continued From Page A1

and the net combined financial worth limitation is rising to \$55,000.

Kirtner commended Commissioner of the Revenue Kim Matthews and her staff for their work on the ordinance.

“They try and stay ahead of these things, and I appreciate the work they have put in to make these amendments. They are well thought out and are appropriate to the benefit of the taxpayers,” Kirtner stated.

Again no one spoke during a public hearing on the changes in the ordinance, and they were approved unanimously by the board.

Six-Year Road Plan

Also Monday, the supervisors heard details and held a public hearing on the county’s Six-Year Secondary Road Plan for 2023-24 to 2028-29.

David Clark of the Virginia Department of Transportation told the board the first item on the plan, which will be completed this year is the widening of the curve on Route 693 at Hoover Color in Hiwassee.

The second item on the plan,

which will be started this year, is the hard surfacing of Route 792 – David Hollow Road – which is an unpaved road.

Next on the list is completing the paving of Route 726 (Sayers Road) in Draper. Clark said the end of the road is paved, but the beginning isn’t.

And the final item on the plan is Route 830 – High Road, which is an unpaved road that will be hard surfaced.

Clark said most of the nearly \$300,000 in the county’s Secondary Construction Budget is earmarked for the Davis Hollow Road project.

Of note during discussion on the plan, Clark told supervisors VDOT figures it costs \$1 million to pave one mile of unpaved road.

A resolution will be prepared and added to the Six Year Plan details and then be voted on by supervisors at their May meeting.

Summer Paving

Clark also reported to supervisors on plans for paving this summer.

Clark said the following roads would get paving attention this year:

“Route 11; 5 ½ miles of Little Creek Road; a little less than two miles on Case Knife Road, and about three and three-quarter

miles on Highland Road.”

He added that surface treatment work would be done on four miles of Lead Mines Road; six miles of Little Creek Road; a mile and one-half of Simpkinstown Road and Kent Farm Road. Also some on Parrott Mountain Road, New River Road and Alexander Road.

In supervisors’ road comments, Mooney offered VDOT thanks for their paving work on Route 11 south and noted there “are a few opportunities” for paving on northbound Route 11 as well.

Draper Supervisor Dirk Compton mentioned a large pothole on Pepperell Way, and the fact street lights above it have burned out.

“That’s going to be an important road one day,” Compton noted.

“And some of the aprons on that stretch there need to be filled in,” added Sweet. “We can see a lot of pedestrian foot traffic along that stretch.”

Robinson Supervisor Jeff Reeves asked if anything more had been said about extending the school zone at Pulaski County Middle School and potholes on Alum Spring Road and the Loving Field area.

He also inquired about street

signs in need of replacement.

“I’m concerned about our 911 responders being able to read some of them,” Reeves said.

Clark said the signs are a joint effort of VDOT and county staff.

Cloyd Supervisor Chris Stafford asked about establishment of a school zone on Viscoe Road in Fairlawn, and a “Watch for Children” sign on Oxford Avenue.

He said a citizen suggested placing “Do Not Block Intersection” signs at the intersection at Belspring Road and Peppers Ferry Road in Fairlawn near Walmart. Stafford said traffic there is pretty bad during rush hour, with folks sometimes being caught in the intersection.

“Especially for folks living

on Belspring having to turn out onto Route 114. It’s pretty difficult,” Stafford said.

Clark said he would check on the issue.

Walters thanked Clark for the patch work done recently on Simpkinstown Road, and noted Owens Road needs grass trimming and the need to address a tree limb near Puckett’s in Hiwassee that hangs over the road. Also, a pothole on Greenhouse Road in Snowville.

Supervisor Comments

In the supervisor comments portion of the meeting, Mooney and Compton both mentioned the recent gifts to the county of Calfee Park and Pulaski County Motorsports Park by Larry Shelor and David Hagan.

“I’m excited about the opportunities we have at these two locations,” Mooney said.

Both said it was difficult to keep the gifts secret until the recent announcement.

“We are truly fortunate and blessed here in Pulaski County,” Compton said.

Reeves thanked Kirtner and county staff for their work to make the gifts happen.

He also thanked the county’s Parks and Recreation staff for going above and beyond to hold events for the county’s citizens. Plus, he thanked Planning and Zoning Administrator Markie Saunders and her staff for keeping the county’s zoning up to date.

Stafford honored Bill Propst who passed away last week. Stafford recalled that Propst was Pulaski County High School’s first band director for the first 10 years of the school’s existence.

Walters recognized the county’s Animal Control staff coming off Animal Control Appreciation Week.

Finally, three more \$100 gift cards were presented to participants in this year’s One Bag Challenge anti-litter effort.

Walters noted already 800 bags of trash have been picked up around the county along with 545 tires by so far 179 participants.

She added that an essay contest has been added to the effort with a \$500 scholarship being the prize. The scholarship money was donated anonymously, she said.

## Police: Woman dies after riding on car’s hood and falling off

ELKTON, Va. (AP) — A woman has died in Virginia after she rode on the hood of a moving car and fell off of it, state police said. The driver of the vehicle has been charged with involuntary manslaughter and driving under the influence.

The crash occurred at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday in Rockingham County, which is outside the city of Harrisburg in the western part of the state.

Dymond A.S. Thacker, 34, fell from the hood of a Hyundai Elantra and went down a hill, at which point the vehicle struck her, Virginia State Police said in a news release. Thacker, who lived

in the town of Broadway, died at the scene.

The Hyundai’s driver was Debra L. Elliott, 66, who lives in the town of Elkton, state police said. She was not injured. A second adult passenger in the car also was not injured.

Elliott has been charged with involuntary manslaughter, DUI, possession of a narcotic and driving without a license, state police said. She was taken to a local jail and is being held without bond.

The Patriot  
540-808-3949

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER INITIATIVE

Thursday, May 2, 2024

12 Noon

Everyone Welcome—Bring chair or Blanket

Join Pulaski County Leaders & Ministers for Public Prayer on the courthouse lawn.

Season of Prayer by Various church & civic leaders

Prayer Stations for Small Group Prayer

12:40

Pulaski Prayer Walk/Ride to Emmanuel Bookstore & Giftshop

where lunch is provided for further fellowship & prayer times.

Those who wish to drive/carpool may do so, of course.

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**  
**Republican Party**  
**Primary Election**

Voter Registration and Elections

ELECTION DAY:  
Tuesday, June 18, 2024

ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE AT THE POLLS.  
Please verify your voter registration, polling place, and VALID ID before Election Day!

BALLOT DROPBOX AVAILABLE AT THE VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE  
87 Commerce St, Pulaski VA 24301  
Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
May 3, 2024 to June 18, 2024  
BALLOT DROPBOX AVAILABLE AT ALL PRECINCTS AND THE VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE ON ELECTION DAY  
POLLS OPEN 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 28, 2024: Last day to register to vote or change your voter registration information for this election. After May 28th, please inquire about Same Day Registration.  
Mailed voter registration applications must be sent to the Pulaski County Voter Registration Office postmarked on or before the deadline.

EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING  
87 Commerce Street, Pulaski VA 24301  
Monday-Friday, May 3, 2024 – June 14, 2024: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday, June 8, 2024: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday, June 15, 2024: 8:00 a.m. -- 5:00 p.m.  
Last day to vote an Early In-Person ballot at the Pulaski County Voter Registration Office.

PULASKI COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON:  
MONDAY, May 27, 2024, for Memorial Day  
WEDNESDAY, June 19, 2024, for Juneteenth

MAIL ABSENTEE VOTING  
Friday, June 7, 2024: Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail. Applications must be received in the Pulaski County Voter Registration Office by 5 p.m.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN OFFICER OF ELECTION?  
Pulaski County needs citizens to work at the polling places on Election Day as Officers of Election. You can apply online at [www.elections.virginia.gov](http://www.elections.virginia.gov) or call the Pulaski County Voter Registration Office.  
Leann Phillips  
Director of Elections and General Registrar  
87 Commerce Street, Pulaski VA 24301  
TELEPHONE: 540-980-2111 FAX: 540-994-5883  
Email: [vote@pulaskicounty.org](mailto:vote@pulaskicounty.org)  
Website: <http://www.pulaskicounty.org/registerar.html>



Continued From Page A1

the Code of Virginia statute 2.2-3103, which the arrest warrant specifies as, “Accepting any money, loan, gift, favor, service, business or professional opportunity that reasonably tends to influence him/her in the performance of his/her official duties.”

Reis is also charged with violating statute 2.2-3109 of the Virginia Code. According to the arrest warrant, Reis violated the statute, “while being an officer or employee of any governmental agency of local government, hav[ing] a personal interest in a contract with the agency of which he is an officer or employee.”

The third violation that Reis is accused of is a breach of the Code of Virginia Statute 2.2-3115 which specifies: “That while being an officer or employee of a local government who has a personal interest in any transaction or which he is an officer or employee, fail[ed] to disclose the existence of the interest.”

A video focusing on the potential conflict of interest between Reis’s role on council and Jill Williams’ employment as Co-Executive Director of Calfee CCC and Principal for Wide Angle Strategies, was widely viewed on You Tube in the Summer of 2023. The video features a meeting of the town council that was held on Sept. 6, 2022. In the clip, Reis brings up the idea of funding for Calfee CCC.

“We got a request from the Calfee Community and Cultural Center for money in order to match an EDA grant of up to a million dollars,” said Reis. “The United States Economic Development Agency has a program where they will grant a million dollars, as long as there is a 20% match. So, the request is the town provide \$100,000 and the county provide \$100,000 to be the 20% match for that million dollars, which would put them much, much closer to having enough funds to get a contract and start construction.”

“I think we should make a motion to approve, assuming we get the matching and the grants and all that kind of stuff,” said Reis in closing.

No vote was taken on the matter at that Sept. 6, 2022 meeting of the town council.

The video, listed as Pulaski Town Council – Michael Reis Conflict of Interest Calfee Project, can be found on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbPVNSg8HmY>.

The video shows excerpts

State and Local Statement of Economic Interests

Page 14 of 25

SCHEDULE D  
BUSINESS INTERESTS AND RENTAL PROPERTY

NAME: <i>Michael Reis</i>				
Table 1: Business Interests				
Disclose each business owned by you or a member of your immediate family with a value in excess of \$5,000 and each interest in a business owned by you or a member of your immediate family with a value in excess of \$5,000. DO NOT REPORT any securities disclosed on Schedule C.				
If the business is owned or operated under a trade, partnership, or corporate name, list that name. If the business is not owned or operated under a trade, partnership, or corporate name, describe the nature of the business.				
NAME OF BUSINESS OR NATURE OF BUSINESS	LOCATION OF BUSINESS (CITY OR COUNTY, STATE, AND COUNTRY)	GROSS INCOME (CHECK ONE)		
		\$50,000 or LESS	\$50,001 to \$250,000	MORE THAN \$250,000
<i>Wide Angle Strategies LLC</i>	<i>Pulaski, VA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Table 2: Rental Property  
Disclose each rental property owned by you or a member of your immediate family with a value in excess of \$5,000 and each interest in rental property owned by you or a member of your immediate family with a value in excess of \$5,000.  
List each rental property individually.  
If the rental property is owned or recorded under a trade, partnership, or corporate name, list that name. DO NOT LIST the street address for any rental property. No address will be redacted from this table.

NAME IN WHICH RENTAL PROPERTY IS OWNED OR RECORDED	LOCATION OF RENTAL PROPERTY (CITY OR COUNTY, STATE, AND COUNTRY)	TYPE OF RENTAL PROPERTY (RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, ETC.)	GROSS INCOME (CHECK ONE)		
			\$50,000 or LESS	\$50,001 to \$250,000	MORE THAN \$250,000
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A copy of Schedule D from Michael Reis’s statement of economic interest listing Wide Angle Strategies

from an email dated May 2023 from Calfee CCC President Mickey Hickman to Pulaski County officials, who inquired about Reis’s potential conflict of interests.

The email reads: “It is my understanding that when CCCC matters require a vote of the council, he (Reis) abstains from that vote. I see nothing unusual about the role of Michael Reis that should cause any concern about the CCCC.”

The video then shows a form titled State and Local Statement of Economic Interests, which bears the signature of Michael Reis. Under a section labeled business interests, Reis confirms that he or a member of his immediate family could profit up to \$250,000 from his affiliation with Wide Angle Strategies LLC.

After seeing the allegations made in the video, Pulaski County Supervisor Dirk Compton brought his concerns to Pulaski County Commonwealth’s Attorney Justin Griffith. Compton was named as the Complainant in the case but Griffith, because of his own concerns about the appearance of a potential conflict of interest, sent the investigation to the Tazewell Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office to investigate. Tazewell consented and after an investigation led by the Virginia State Police, Tazewell Commonwealth’s Attorney Katie Asbury filed the charges against Reis.

Jill Williams made a presentation asking for Calfee CCC funding at the Sept. 20, 2022, meeting of the Town

Council. When the vote was taken on funding, on Oct. 18, 2022, Reis abstained and all other council members voted in favor of the funding. The Town’s pledge letter committing \$100,000 in required local matching funds was recently renewed by the Town of Pulaski Administration. A new vote was not taken, as no new members of council had been elected since the original agreement was made.

Thereafter, the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors agreed to contribute the \$100,000 in matching funds to Calfee CCC, as long as all monies went directly for construction/renovation and not be used in any way for salaries or payroll.

“Because of the County’s stipulation here, we will not be requesting the up to 10% grant admin fees allowed with the EDA request,” Williams wrote in an email to County Administrator Jonathan Sweet. “We were originally planning to request 3-5% to pay a firm (perhaps mine, if selected in a competitive procurement process).”

The Pulaski Board of Supervisors had agreed to provide matching funding for the grant with certain stipulations but that vote was held before newly elected members of the board had taken their seats. To provide these matching grant funds to Calfee CCC, this new board of supervisors must again vote on the matter.

Michael Reis gave this statement about the charges against him.

“On Friday, April 19 I was formally charged with 4 misdemeanors related to my service on Town Council.

Unfortunately, due to the state of our criminal law, I am still in the dark about the details of any alleged violations of law except the most general accusations of conflict of interest. What can be said is that I have always put the interests of the community ahead of my own. If anything, my family is in a worse position financially due to public service.

Sheetz hit with discrimination suit

(AP) - The Sheetz convenience store chain has been hit with a lawsuit by federal officials who allege the company discriminated against minority job applicants.

Sheetz Inc., which operates more than 700 stores in six states, discriminated against Black, Native American and multiracial job seekers by automatically weeding out applicants whom the company deemed to have failed a criminal background check, according to U.S. officials.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed suit in Baltimore against Altoona, Pennsylvania-based

Fortunately, I have excellent legal representation and the resources to challenge the sufficiency and accuracy of these charges (once I find out what they are). I am appreciative of the support from family and friends, though explaining to my children that I am threatened with jail has been a difficult time as a parent.

“While I do not know the particulars of the charges, I do know that they were instigated and enabled by certain people in our community who care more about their public image than the public trust, who use their position, power and influence to discourage public involvement in matters affecting the public and who hide behind the very same laws I am accused of breaking. During the past year I have learned that many more people than I have been bullied and abused for raising issues of public importance. Regardless of the outcome of these legal matters, I will continue to ask questions and speak out on matters of community importance and to use my time and effort to support others who are unfairly targeted for doing the same.”

Class 1 Misdemeanors are the most serious class of misdemeanors with punishments that could potentially include a 12-month jail term and as much as a \$2,500 fine or both.

Reis was summoned to appear in Pulaski County District Court at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 8.

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Dr. Cindy Southern says,  
“Be true to your teeth,  
or they’ll be false to you!”

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Monday-Tuesday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

Wednesday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Friday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

WEEKEND WEATHER



SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy,  
with a high near  
71.



SUNDAY

Sunny, with a high  
near 79.



MONDAY

Sunny, with a high  
near 84.

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THE DRAPER PARK ICE CREAM CHALLENGE

April 29 - May 5, 2024



Visit the **Draper Park** playground, during the listed challenge dates, to locate the code for your free scoop of ice cream at **THE CONERY** in Draper!

Youth ages 15 and under are eligible for a free scoop of ice cream!



**THE CONERY**  
3163 GREENBRIAR RD,  
DRAPER, VA 24324  
Open 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM





# EDITORIAL

## Academy Day

Last weekend, I hosted my annual Service Academy Day at the New River Community College in Dublin.

I enjoy these events as they provide great opportunities for high school students, parents and educators to learn about Service Academies, Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), and other programs.

I take pride in allowing students in Southwest Virginia to have access to opportunities to admirably pursue a career in military service.

The Ninth District is home to many patriotic men and women, and we also have a rich tradition of service.

A major piece of our history involves the D-Day invasion of Normandy during World War II. When Company A stormed Omaha Beach on June 6,



Morgan Griffith

9th District Representative

1944, there were 35 soldiers from Bedford. By the end of the campaign, 23 would be dead, making Bedford, Virginia, the

town with the highest per capita deaths.

Bedford commemorates this sacrifice by true Virginia heroes with its National D-Day Memorial.

Bedford is Virginia's only WWII Heritage City.

I am honored that it is in the Ninth District.

Given our rich heritage, I host Service Academy Days to tap into the patriotic spirit of our youth. Families and children travel from across the Ninth District to attend and get more information. Some even attend from other states.

Invited guests typically include representatives from the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Virginia Military Institute, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, Virginia Tech ROTC, and Emory & Henry ROTC.

The representatives from these programs consist of current and former cadets, admissions officers and ROTC directors and students who actively engage with interested individuals and discuss their options for a college military experience.

As a Congressman, I am permitted to fill five vacancies over a four-year period at each Academy, with the exception of U.S. Merchant Marine.

While U.S. Merchant Marine is not a popular selection for many in Southwest Virginia, I can fill ten vacancies each year there.

Once the U.S. Merchant Marine program is completed, the participant becomes eligible for commission into any branch of the U.S. military, provided that they are in good standing.

ROTC programs are another option. They are great at providing leadership and physical training exercises for students while they continue their academic studies at their university or college.

Some historians trace the roots of ROTC programs to the Morrill Act of 1862, also known as the Land Grant Act of 1862. This was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln.

At the time, there was a stark decline in the numbers of trained engineers present in American colleges and universities.

The Land Grant Act laid the groundwork for a national system of state universities. The bill granted 30,000 acres of public land to each state for the establishment of institutions of scientific learning. The land grant institutions reciprocated by offering military tactics courses.

Virginia Tech maintains a strong record in this space. Their campus features a War Memorial Court, dedicated to the eight VT alumni who are medal of honor recipients. Close to the War Memorial Chapel is a marble cenotaph with their names etched into it.

VT sponsors a ROTC program, as well as VT Corps of Cadets.

The mission of the VT Corps of Cadets program is to nurture and create great leaders. The four-year program draws upon exercises that target teamwork, character and problem-solving skills. This is designed to develop leadership qualities among our brave servicemen and women and shape future leaders within our military.

The VT Corps of Cadets prides itself in giving back to the community. In the 2022-2023 academic school year, cadets collected over 2,000 hours of community service.

I was proud to hear that my alma mater, Emory & Henry College, relaunched their own Army ROTC program in 2018 after nearly a century.

As of 2018, Emory & Henry became one of only five private institutions in Virginia to offer an ROTC program.

Another Virginia private institution that comes to my event is VMI.

VMI has an extensive recruitment network. VMI excels in showcasing their opportunities and highlighting their illustrious history of producing exceptional military talents, the likes of whom include former U.S. Secretary of Defense, George C. Marshall, Jr.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to attend one of our academies, please contact Josh Hess at [josh.hess@mail.house.gov](mailto:josh.hess@mail.house.gov) or (540) 381-5671.

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.

## Child Care Crisis:

### *Child care crisis holding back moms without college degrees*

By MORIAH BALINGIT and SHARON LURYE of The Associated Press and DANIEL BEEKMAN of The Seattle Times

AUBURN, Wash. (AP) — After a series of lower-paying jobs, Nicole Slemple finally landed one she loved. She was a secretary for Washington's child services department, a job that came with her own cubicle, and she had a knack for working with families in difficult situations.

Slemple expected to return to work after having her son in August. But then she and her husband started looking for child care — and doing the math. The best option would cost about \$2,000 a month, with a long wait list, and even the least expensive option would cost around \$1,600, still eating up most of Slemple's salary. Her husband earns about \$35 an hour at a hose distribution company. Between them, they earned too much to qualify for government help.

"I really didn't want to quit my job," says Slemple, 33, who lives in a Seattle suburb. But, she says, she felt like she had no choice.

The dilemma is common in the United States, where high-quality child care programs are prohibitively expensive, government assistance is limited, and daycare openings are sometimes hard to find at all. In 2022, more than 1 in 10 young children had a parent who had to quit, turn down or drastically change a job in the previous year because of child care problems. And that burden falls most on mothers, who shoulder more child-rearing responsibilities and are far more likely to leave a job to care for kids.

Even so, women's participation in the workforce has recovered from the pandemic, reaching historic highs in December 2023. But that masks

a lingering crisis among women like Slemple who lack a college degree: The gap in employment rates between mothers who have a four-year degree and those who don't has only grown.

For mothers without college degrees, a day without work is often a day without pay. They are less likely to have paid leave. And when they face an interruption in child care arrangements, an adult in the family is far more likely to take unpaid time off or to be forced to leave a job altogether, according to an analysis of Census survey data by The Associated Press in partnership with the Education Reporting Collaborative.

In interviews, mothers across the country shared how the seemingly endless search for child care, and its expense, left them feeling defeated. It pushed them off career tracks, robbed them of a sense of purpose, and put them in financial distress.

Women like Slemple challenge the image of the stay-at-home mom as an affluent woman with a high-earning partner, said Jessica Calarco, a sociologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

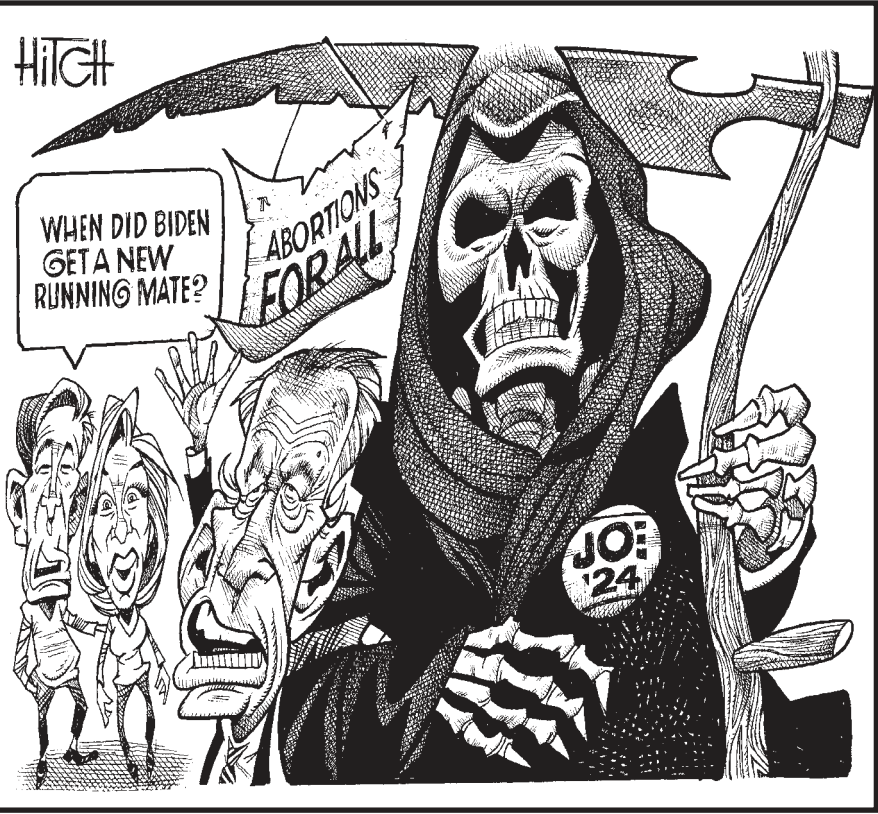
"The stay-at-home moms in this country are disproportionately mothers who've been pushed out of the workforce because they don't make enough to make it work financially to pay for child care," Calarco said.

Her own research indicates three-quarters of stay-at-home moms live in households with incomes less than \$50,000, and half have household incomes of less than \$25,000.

Still, the high cost of child care has upended the careers of even those with college degrees.

When Jane Roberts gave birth in November, she and her husband, both teachers, quickly realized sending baby Dennis to day care was out of the

See CRISIS, page A5



## Where Things Stand

On Wednesday, April 17th, members of the General Assembly returned to Richmond in order to consider Governor Glenn Youngkin's amendments and vetoes to legislation passed during the 2024 session — to include the Commonwealth's budget. Now that the dust has settled, I'd like to give you a brief update on where things stand.

First, the General Assembly and Governor have come to an agreement to continue work on the budget and return for a special session in May to vote on a reworked proposal. The Governor proposed over 200 amendments to the budget, and rather than remain in Richmond for an indefinite period, budget negotiators will now work with the administration in the coming weeks to identify areas of common ground. This is a positive step toward implementation of a state budget before July 1 — the date at which the current budget expires. It's my sincere desire that budget negotiators work toward a product that does not raise taxes, but also spends responsibly on teacher pay raises, transportation infrastructure improvements on secondary roads and I-81, and increases in law enforcement salaries. Virginia is on solid financial footing, and we do not need to raise

## Delegate Jason Ballard 42nd District

taxes in order to commit to these investments.

As to other legislation considered during the reconvened session, as anticipated, all of Governor Youngkin's vetoes were upheld. This is good news for anyone concerned about a raft of far-left legislation similar to what we saw in 2020 becoming law in Virginia. This includes a wholesale ban on popular sporting firearms, an extension of a tax on plastic grocery bags, lessening criminal penalties for those who peddle fentanyl and other dangerous drugs, and more. Democrats have a slim majority in the House and Senate, which means that there wasn't much that Republicans could do in the 2024 session to play defense and stop bad legislation from advancing. Fortunately, Democrats do not control a two-thirds majority in either the House or Senate, which means the

See BALLARD, page A5



Rich Lowery

Editor, National Review

## The anti-Israel delusion

Surely, you've heard of the brutal conflict that has displaced millions of people and killed more than 14,000, while aid convoys have trouble getting where they need to go?

No, the Sudanese civil war hasn't been on your radar screen?

OK, but how about the crisis that has led to more than half the population of a country needing humanitarian assistance amid constant turmoil and war?

You haven't heard much about the conflict in Yemen lately, either?

Perhaps, then, the war that has forced large numbers of people to flee the fighting multiple times, while as much as a quarter of the population is facing hunger or illness?

Actually, the fight between the military and armed opposition groups in Myanmar also isn't top of mind?

These are terrible situations that garner very little or almost no attention, in contrast to the overwhelming level of focus on Israel's war in Gaza, almost all of it through a hostile lens.

This is nothing new. The Jewish state has long been singled out for opprobrium and held to a standard different than that of other societies. Some of this is justified. As an advanced Western-style democracy and ally of the United States, Israel should be better than whatever armed faction is preying on people in some Third World country -- and, indeed, Israel is better.

International organizations, the media and left-wing activists create exactly the opposite impression, though. Given the amount of time and energy devoted to condemning Israel, one would be forgiven for thinking that the world would be a much more peaceful, just place if only it weren't for the existence of a Jewish state.

There are important distinctions between the war in Gaza and the other conflicts mentioned above. Israel isn't staging a coup or fighting a civil war. It was perfectly content -- indeed, in retrospect, much too content -- to live with a Gaza controlled by Hamas, until it was subjected to a heinous attack that no other society today or in any other period in history would tolerate.

Israel also fights differently. It seeks to honor the rules of war while operating in a dense urban environment against a merciless enemy that wants as many civilians to be killed as possible. In other conflicts around the world, there are no rules. In Myanmar, people aren't just fleeing the fighting, but "executions and killings, forced recruitment, torture, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances and persecution," according to the European Union.

TITLE: Nonetheless, it is Israel that is accused of committing genocide. The people braying about Israel's alleged crimes against humanity apparently never spare a thought for the Uyghurs, subject to a massive ongoing campaign of repression by the Chinese government; or the Rohingya people, viciously targeted by the government of Myanmar; or the Baha'i in Iran, the Hazaras in Afghanistan or the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh.

There are all sorts of

See LOWERY, page A5

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# Crisis

Continued From Page A4

question. It was too costly, and they worried about finding a quality provider in their hometown of Pocatello, Idaho. The school district has no paid medical or parental leave, so Roberts exhausted her sick leave and personal days to stay home with Dennis. In March, she returned to work and husband Mike took leave. By the end of the school year, they'll have missed out on a combined nine weeks of pay. To make ends meet, they've borrowed money against Jane's life insurance policy.

In the fall, Roberts won't return to teaching. The decision was wrenching. "I've devoted my entire adult life to this profession," she said.

For low- and middle-income women who do find child care, the expense can become overwhelming. The Department of Health and Human Services has defined "affordable" child care as an arrangement that costs no more than 7% of a household budget. But a Labor Department study found fewer than 50 American counties where a family earning the median household income could obtain child care at an "affordable" price.

There's also a connection between the cost of child care and the number of mothers working: a 10% increase in the median price of child care was associated with a 1% drop in the maternal workforce, the Labor Department found.

In Birmingham, Alabama, single mother Adriane Burnett takes home about \$2,800 a month as a customer service representative for a manufacturing company. She spends more than a third of that on care for her 3-year-old.

In October, that child aged out of a program that qualified the family of three for child care subsidies. So she took on more work, delivering food for DoorDash and Uber Eats. To make the deliveries possible, her 14-year-old has to babysit.

Even so, Burnett had to file for bankruptcy and forfeit her car because she was behind on payments. She is borrowing her father's car to continue her delivery gigs. The financial stress and guilt over missing time with her kids have affected her health, Burnett said. She has had panic attacks and has fainted at work.

"My kids need me," Burnett said, "but I also have to work."

Even for parents who can afford child care, searching for it — and paying for it —

# Ballard

Continued From Page A4

Governor's vetoes were secure.

After much has been reported about the negative tone of budget negotiations — especially from the Senate budget conferees toward the Governor — I believe we've reached a point where both sides understand the necessity of working together to preserve the Commonwealth's sterling AAA bond rating and funding Virginia's many priorities. As with any negotiation, neither Republicans or Democrats are going to get everything they wanted. For example, Senate Democrats have been reticent toward the Governor's desire to relocate the Washington Wizards and the Washington Capitals to Northern Virginia. Now it's time for Democrats to come back to the table

# Lowry

Continued From Page A4

candidates for a list of the most oppressive countries in the world, from North Korea to Equatorial Guinea, from Turkmenistan to Venezuela, from Russia to China. Yet, practically all we hear about is Israel.

The old Soviet Union was long at the forefront of propagandizing against Israel, a cause readily taken up by the so-called non-aligned countries and the left around the world. This tendency has been rife with antisemitism and hypocrisy, exemplified back in the 1970s by the brutal tinpot dictator of Uganda, Idi Amin, denouncing Israel at the United Nations.

Since then, the names and

consumes reams of time and energy.

When Daizha Rioland was five months pregnant with her first child, she posted in a Facebook group for Dallas moms that she was looking for child care. Several warned she was already behind if she wasn't on any wait lists. Rioland, who has a bachelor's degree and works in communications for a nonprofit, wanted a racially diverse program with a strong curriculum.

While her daughter remained on wait lists, Rioland's parents stepped in to care for her. Finally, her daughter reached the top of a waiting list — at 18 months old. The tuition was so high she could only attend part-time. Rioland got her second daughter on waiting lists long before she was born, and she now attends a center Rioland trusts.

"I've grown up in Dallas. I see what happens when you're not afforded the luxury of high-quality education," said Rioland, who is Black. "For my daughters, that's not going to be the case."

Slemp still sometimes wonders how she ended up staying at home with her son — time she cherishes but also finds disorienting. She thought she was doing well. After stints at a water park and a call center, her state job seemed like a step toward financial stability. How could it be so hard to maintain her career, when everything seemed to be going right?

"Our country is doing nothing to try to help fill that gap," Slemp said. As a parent, "we're supposed to keep the population going, and they're not giving us a chance to provide for our kids to be able to do that."

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Carly Flandro of Idaho Education News, Valeria Olivares of The Dallas Morning News and Alaina Bookman of AL.com contributed to this report. Balingit reported from Washington, D.C., and Lurye from New Orleans.

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This series on how the child care crisis affects working parents — with a focus on solutions — is produced by the Education Reporting Collaborative, a coalition of eight newsrooms, including AL.com, The Associated Press, The Christian Science Monitor, The Dallas Morning News, The Hechinger Report, Idaho Education News, The Post & Courier, and The Seattle Times.

with the understanding that serious compromise must be undertaken to keep Virginia moving forward. I look forward to updating you in the coming weeks as the General Assembly progresses toward that goal.

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

the players have changed, but the tendency -- to single out Israel for special obloquy and lie about and obsess over the world's only Jewish state -- has remained the same.

A common lament in commentary about other conflicts is that they aren't getting enough attention. An official with the World Food Programme lamented recently, "The people of Sudan have been forgotten." The EU noted, "In a world of growing humanitarian emergencies and fleeting media attention, Myanmar is getting ignored."

There's a reason for that.

**Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.**

# Cox resigns council seat, Dublin seeks new member

By DAVID QUESENBERRY  
Patriot Publishing

At the regular meeting of the Dublin Town Council on April 18th, Dublin Mayor Benny Skeens announced that long serving councilmember Dallas Cox had submitted his resignation from the Council.

The resignation, effective May 17, 2024, would include any membership on boards or commissions where Cox served as a representative of the Town of Dublin.

Mayor Skeens had high praise for Cox saying, "He is the type of person, that if you have a younger son or daughter, they could emulate that man's life right there and it would be good for everybody."

He publicly thanked Cox for his service on Council and for the many ways he served the community over the years.

Cox served on the Board of the New River Airport Commission as Dublin's representative and was instrumental in establishing the Southwest Virginia Veteran's Cemetery.

Council will now have to name a new member to fill the vacancy left by Cox's resignation.

Town Attorney Sam Campbell told Council that the Town's website would have an announcement of the Council vacancy and would list the names of current Council members and their email address with the Town. Anyone interested in the becoming a Council member could contact current members and learn what is involved in being on Council and enter their name as a candidate.

The new member would serve out the remainder of Cox's term which runs through December 31, 2024. Council hoped to appoint the new member at its regular meeting on May 16,

## Constitution Alive class Tuesday

Dear Reader,

We live in a part of the country where gun rights are not just a slogan to be cheered about but are part of our normal way of life.

If it's been a while since you paid attention to the context of the 2nd amendment, come join Tuesday's Constitution Alive class at Pulaski Presbyterian Church on Memorial Drive, at 6:30 for an energizing talk on all ten of the bill of rights. I promise you'll learn something new!

If you have any questions, contact me, please.

**Susan Peters  
540/994-7122**



2024.

Campbell added that the May 16th appointment date was chosen to fill the vacancy immediately, so that Council would retain full membership. It would also allow time to for Council to consider a prospective appointee and to give a new member time to meet the June 18th filing deadline if they wished to run for a full term in the November general election.

Council next approved a resolution honoring the late Walter "Benny" Keister, Sr. Keister served four years as a councilman and twelve years as mayor of the Town of Dublin, as well as five years as a delegate in the Virginia General Assembly. He was heavily involved in the local community serving as an educator, magistrate, and member of the Pulaski County Lifesaving Crew.

In the budget report, as of March 31st, Town Manager Tye Kirkner said that General Fund revenues were 63 percent as compared to an anticipated 75 percent budgeted. He explained the revenue level was consistent with prior years and reflected the billing cycles for various taxes.

Projections to the end of the year had been made which showed general fund revenue performance close to budget even possibly running a little ahead.

General Fund expenditures were 67 percent as compared to 75 percent budgeted, some 8

percent less than expected.

The Enterprise Fund showed revenues of 81 percent as compared to a budgeted 75 percent and expenditures at 79 percent compared to 75 percent budgeted. Kirkner said that the increased expenditures in the Enterprise Fund did not reflect the transfers made from reserves into Enterprise Fund line items. He expected the fund to conform to budget estimates by the end of the year.

Council learned from Utility Superintendent Darrin Cullip that about 400 radio read meters were left to be installed and that the Town was waiting on the remaining meters to be delivered. The antennae had been installed and staff was scheduled for training on the new system on May 8th.

Sgt. Scott Isom thanked Council for recent equipment purchases for the Police Department. He told how new equipment such as the drone and the license plate readers had proven vital in the successful search for a missing juvenile and in recovering stolen property.

Council set the time for the July 4th Flag Raising at 9:00 am at the Dublin Town Center with the 4th of July Parade to begin at 11:00 am on Giles Avenue.

Kirkner told Council that due to term expirations, Council at its next meeting would have to make appointments for representatives to the New River Resource Authority and REMSI.

Council next recognized employees for their service to the Town. Sgt. Scott Isom was recognized for his valuable assistance with a variety of issues and his willingness to help with any task brought to him.

Council's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Dublin Town Center.

## GiveLocalNRV Giving Day signup ends soon

The sign-up for the annual GiveLocalNRV Online

Giving Day will close soon on Wednesday, May 15. Hosted by the Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV), this event helps raise funds and awareness for nonprofits in our region. The Giving Day itself will be held from noon on Wednesday, June 26 to noon on Thursday, June 27.

Early giving for the event opens on June 1. This allows participating organizations to fundraise for most of June until the 24-hour period of giving. Fueling the excitement of the day are \$20,000 in incentive grants and prizes that are funded by sponsors and the

CFNRV. Since 2014, donors have raised nearly \$3.6 million for nonprofits serving the NRV.

Organizations classified as 501(c)3 by the IRS or units of government such as libraries and animal shelter that serve the NRV are eligible to participate in the giving day. This includes the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Wythe as well as the City of Radford.

Learn more and sign up for the 2024 event by May 15 at givelocalnrv.org. If your business is interested in sponsoring this event, please reach out to Lindsey Gleason at 540-381-8999 or cfnrv@cfnrv.org.

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OBITUARIES



**DALLAS PALMER “MUTT” HANCOCK**  
Dallas Palmer “Mutt” Hancock, age 85 of Draper passed away Monday, April 22, 2024 at his home. Born May 27, 1938, he was the son of the late Buford Palmer Hancock and Maggie May Phillips Hancock. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ellen Watson Hancock; Brothers, Larry, Benny, Dave and Pete Hancock; and sisters, Velma Jane Winebarger and Diane Holdren. Mutt is survived by his Children – Samuel Hancock – Roanoke, Dallas Suellen (Kevin) Morgan – Draper, Timothy (Tammy) Hancock – Draper, Mitzi Hancock-Spencer (Ronnie) – Barren Springs Grandchildren – Lauren Mitzi (Cody Truitt) Nelson, Barry Parker Anderson (Roxanne Ayers) – Pulaski, Tyler Green – Draper Great Grandson – Maverick Reid Nelson Brother – Gary Hancock – NC  
Funeral services will be held 11:00 AM – Friday, April 26, 2024 at the Bower Funeral Home-Chapel with Pastor Eddie Dalton officiating. Interment will follow at the Duncan Cemetery, Draper.  
To sign Mutt’s online guestbook, visit [www.bowerfuneralhome.com](http://www.bowerfuneralhome.com)  
Bower Funeral Homes, Pulaski is handling the arrangements for the family.



**DONALD KEITH ROBERTS**  
Donald Keith Roberts, age 60 of Radford passed away Thursday, April 18, 2024 at his home surrounded by family. Born May 26, 1963 in Bluefield, West Virginia he was the son of Don Arnold Roberts and the late Carrie Margaret Roark Roberts. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Nancy Gail McPeak.  
Donald is survived by his Wife – Suzanne Rice Roberts – Radford Daughter – Amanda (Shawn) Roberts Cassell – Pulaski Stepsons – Ryan Nichols – Menifee, CA, Cory Nichols – Bedford, VA Grandchildren – (Twins) Don Kinton Meredith and Jeffery Keaton Meredith, Gage Michael Cassell, Keyrah Mae Cassell Father – Don Arnold (Edith) Roberts – Clifton Forge, VA Brother – Rickey (Kathy) Roberts – Dublin Three nieces and a nephew Close Family Friends – Cindy Martin and Robyn Bennett Memorial services were held Monday, April 22, 2024 at the Pulaski Church of God with Pastor Donald Jones officiating. To sign Donald’s online guestbook, visit [www.bowerfuneralhome.com](http://www.bowerfuneralhome.com)  
Bower Funeral Homes, Pulaski is handling the arrangements for the family.



**JOANN CALDWELL SPRADLIN**  
After a courageous battle with cancer, Joann Caldwell Spradlin, age 88, peacefully passed into the loving arms of her Lord and Savior on Sunday, April 21, 2024. Born March 21, 1936 in Bland County, she was proceeded in death by her parents Theodore Caldwell and Bessie Stump Caldwell, her loving and devoted husband of 71 years, Andrew J. (Jack) Spradlin, and two sisters Lillian Minnick and Bobbie Webber.  
Left to cherish Joann’s memory is her daughter Jackie Spradlin Adkins along with two nephews Steve Minnick, Charles (Chuck) Spradlin and two nieces Patty O’Tool and Jeanette Goins.  
Joann was a compassionate, loving person who loved life, loved her Lord and loved her friends and family. Being a generous, caring and loyal person, she was known as the “glue” of the family keeping in touch with telephone calls and cards. During the almost 50 years of being owner and operator of Lady Fair Salon located first in Pulaski and then the remaining years in Dublin, VA, she considered the customers who came through the doors of the salon not only friends but family. She would even write down their birth dates and send them a birthday card every year.  
Joann was a proud and loyal member of Dublin Baptist Church.  
The family would like to thank the RNs and staff of Medi Home Health and Hospice for their wonderful assistance and devoted care. A special thank you goes to the friends, family and church members who sent food, phone calls, cards of well wishes and prayers. And a heartwarming thank you to Donna Boyd and neighbor Linda Claudell who would sit with Joann so her daughter could run errands. For all the kindness and caring shown to Joann the family greatly appreciates it with all their heart.  
A memorial service will be held at 1:00 PM – Friday, May 3, 2024 at Bower Funeral Home Chapel, Pulaski, VA with Pastor Shahn Wilburn officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service.  
She will rest with her husband at the Southwest Virginia Veteran’s Cemetery in Dublin. To sign Joann’s online guestbook, visit [www.bowerfuneralhome.com](http://www.bowerfuneralhome.com)  
In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Dublin Baptist Church, P.O. Box 669, Dublin, VA 24084, or to an organization of choice.  
Arrangements by Bower Funeral Home in Pulaski.



**ROBERT WILLIAM “BILL” PROPST**  
Bill was born on May 21, 1937 in Mount Sidney, Virginia. He passed peacefully on April 18, 2024 at the Winchester Medical Center, Winchester, Virginia.  
Bill is survived by his wife of 61 years, Joan Louise Hockman Propst of Berryville, VA; a daughter, Pamela Lynne Propst Moore and son-in-law, Major General (Retired) Kenneth “Ritchie” Moore of Southern Pines, NC; and a granddaughter, Hayley Elizabeth Moore of Republic, MO.  
He is preceded in death by parents, Harry Loy Propst and Edith Mae Simmons Propst and three brothers, Herman Leonard Propst, Harry Lee Propst, and James Neal Propst.  
Bill was educated in Shenandoah County Public Schools, graduated from Strasburg High School in 1955, and attended Shenandoah Conservatory of Music receiving a Bachelor of Music Education degree in 1959 while graduating first in the class. While at Shenandoah, he was a member of a quartet called the Troubadours, who performed at various venues in Virginia, West Virginia, and throughout the South. In 2018, he and his fellow quartet members were inducted in the Shenandoah University Hall of Fame.  
From 1959-1962, he taught band and chorus at the new Strasburg High School in Strasburg, Virginia. It was there that he met and married his beloved wife, Joan in 1962.  
Bill served in the U. S. Army from 1962-1965. After attending the Navy School of Music in Anacostia, his assignments included the Second Army Band at Fort Meade, Maryland

and the Eighth Infantry Band in Bad Kreuznach, Germany where he served as assistant to the conductor and directed the Eighth Infantry Male Chorus.  
After moving to Pulaski, Virginia in 1965, Bill was the band director at Pulaski High School and later as the first band director at the newly consolidated Pulaski County High School. He is known for composing the PCHS school song “Stand Up and Cheer” and his bands consistently received highest rating of excellence at festivals nationwide.  
In 1969, he received the first master of arts degree ever awarded at Radford University, writing his thesis on Selected Choral Works of Ralph Vaughan Williams.  
While living in Pulaski, Bill also served on the town planning commission and the president of Thorn Spring Country Club.  
In 1991, he retired from teaching after eight years as band director at Park View High School, Sterling, Virginia where he was named Teacher of the Year in 1991.  
After retirement, Bill devoted over 11 years as the Musical Director of the Loudoun Chorale, a community based choral group performing many of the great choral works of master composers such as Brahms, Haydn, Mozart, Faure, Handel, and Vaughn Williams.  
He was a volunteer in the AARP Tax-Aide program, an active member in the American Legion Post 41 and served for many years as the Treasurer of the Clarke County Lions Club. He was a Lions Club Melvin Jones Fellow.  
Bill enjoyed gardening, hunting, traveling, reading history, baking, and an avid golfer.  
The family will receive friends 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P. M. and a memorial service will follow at 12:00 P. M. Friday, April 26, 2024 at Enders & Shirley Funeral Home Chapel, Berryville. Burial will be at a later date.  
Memorial contributions may be made to John H. Enders Fire & Rescue, 9 S. Buckmarsh St., Berryville, VA 22611.  
To view the obituary and send condolences online, please visit [www.endersandshirley.com](http://www.endersandshirley.com).

  
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**Land transfers in Pulaski County**

Pulaski County property transfers for March 2024 as reported by the Circuit Court Clerk’s Office.  
Shah Development, LLC to Larry Marshall, property at 5207 Country Meadow Dr, Dublin, \$451,000.  
Johnathan M Hale to 84WMain, LLC, property at 84 W Main St, Pulaski, \$115,000.  
Timothy D Price to Joseph Reynolds, property at 4388 Novell Loop, Pulaski, \$200,000.  
Austin K Moore to David Elbert Mann, parcel off Newbern Rd, Dublin, \$140,000.  
HBO Alternative Holdings, LLC to Trinity J Walton, property at 4763 Black Hollow Heights Lane, Dublin, \$240,000.  
William O Powell III to Brock H Turner, property off Cavern Ln, Allisonia, \$31,000.  
Kristin N Short to Heather L Guthridge, property at 3137 Quesenberry Place, Draper, \$171,900.  
TOWD Point Mortgage Trust 2022 to Hoff Homes LLC, property at 4018 Charles St, Pulaski, \$28,000.  
Christopher H Kiwus to Stephen R Cowne, property at 8266 River Course Dr, Fairlawn, \$769,900.  
Donald L Beverly Sr. to Janna Marie Bryant, property at 629 NE 4th Street, Pulaski, \$11,000.  
Seeds Properties II, LLC to Timothy Dale Sutphin, property off Lee Hwy, Dublin, \$272,100.  
Arlene Gerardo to Juan Paulo Espinoza, property at 3593 Ferncliff Rd, Pulaski, \$650,000.  
Timothy Michael Surratt to Tricia Dawn Tyler, property at 216 Cliff Street, Pulaski, \$71,000.  
More property transfers will be published in next week’s edition.

**Honor Your Loved One With An In Memoriam Notice.**

Call 540-808-3949.

Deadline Is Noon Wednesday.





# Three photographers winners in Photo Club contest for April

Rebecca Harris of Radford and Eva Hinrichsen of Blacksburg tied for first in the Radford Photo Club's April challenge, photography in the dark, using artificial light.

Harris photographed the lily and koi pond in her yard, using her Nikon D5600 SLR camera to capture the colorful fish in the fading light.

Hinrichsen's photo showed the underground prayer room at the Haedong Yonggungsa Buddhist Temple in Busan, South Korea. Also called the Korean Dragon Palace, it is part of a large, traditional group of buildings that together are considered a temple. This site was built into the cliff next to the Pacific Ocean some 600 years ago. Current buildings date back to the 1930s.

Joyce Crowder of Dublin won the open category with a photo of the 1944 Rat Rod owned by a musician who performs at the old Post Office near Mabry Mill

on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The old Post Office, now a country store, will also host a craft market on the lawn on weekends this summer.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 23, at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. Toni Pitts of Radford will present the works of American photographer Laura Gilpin (1891-1979) and then her own work taken in Gilpin's style. The photo challenge is wildflowers.

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 [lucyg.gilmore@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg.gilmore@gmail.com) or Michele Borgarelli at [mborgarelli@gmail.com](mailto:mborgarelli@gmail.com)

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



Lily and koi pond.

Underground prayer room.



Rat Rod



## Miss An Issue?

See it online at [www.pcpatriot.com](http://www.pcpatriot.com)  
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*The Patriot*

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## VALLEY AUCTIONS LLC

**TOMORROW April 27 at 10:00am-Multi-Estate Auction Closes**



2004 Dodge Dakota pick-up, 5 banjos including OME, 2 guitars one by Martin, 2 mandolins including Washburn, furniture, glassware, rare Sterling flatware, Fenton, Pyrex, Jugtown, Longaberger, P. Buckley Moss, Roseville, Le



Crueset, Lladro, local collectibles, barrister bookcase, ice cream parlor tables & chairs, six board poplar chest, Floyd Co. meal chest, stained and leaded glass, wicker, store cabinet, CB radio equipment, & more!

**May 11 at 10:00 am-In person Ace Hdwr Storage Unit Auction**

Located at 4697 Cleburne Blvd, Dublin, VA with approx. ten units at auction.

**May 11 at 1:00 pm-In person Monte Vista Storage Unit Auction**

Located at 2121 Monte Vista Dr, Pulaski, VA with eleven units at auction.

**May 18 at 10:00 am-Soft close of online Back Country Auction**

Over 400 lots of outdoor adventure gear-kayaks, clothing, shoes, and more!

**May 3rd - Last day to consign firearms, ammo, or coins for next auction!**

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# CHURCH



## Journey To Faith

By Pat Priddy

## When Heaven Seems Silent

“I’ve been praying Lord. I need you. Where are you? They say you ‘know the need,’ but I’m not hearing anything from you.”

Times have been particularly tough in these unusual and disturbing times. Earthquakes and tornadoes seem to be on the news daily as does the alarming rate of violence and cancers in younger adults.

Perhaps you are experiencing anxiety or depression in your life. You may be facing a financial uncertainty, or perhaps the scare of the results of an x-ray or laboratory report. There are those who are experiencing a disobedient and disruptive child. Others suffer from an estranged spouse.

How do we get through these times while keeping our faith and renewing our strength? We never stop praying, and we must stand on the truth knowing God sees us and is with us in all circumstances.

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything, according to his will, he hears us.” 1 John 5:14

This is the law of His Word. The scriptures cannot be broken. Pray His promises. Turn your thoughts to Him, and surrender to His will in your life.

Whatever God has for you is enough. Just by being loved by Him and being His friend is enough from now to eternity. You can hold on because your God is faithful.

“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” Psalm 73:26

Open your heart to receive what He has for you, and allow Him to remove whatever does not serve you or Him. Fear and uncertainty are not of the Lord. He is not a God of confusion.

Believe His word. Pray with gratitude that He does hear you and knows your situation. Give thanks to Him for His miracles seen and unseen! Praise and thank Him for providing for all of your needs.

Every prayer you have prayed was heard in heaven. Never lose hope, and never doubt the authority, love, and power of our God!

“For nothing will be impossible with God.” Luke 1:37


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.

### Honor Your Loved One With An In Memoriam Notice.

Call  
540-808-3949.

Deadline Is Noon Wednesday.



## Church Directory

- Draper Valley Baptist Church**  
3200 Lee Highway  
Draper, Va. 24324  
Pastor: Alan Pearce  
Bible Study Sunday, 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening, 5 p.m.  
email: drapervalleybc@gmail.com  
www.drapervalleybaptist.org
- Grace Baptist Church**  
552 E. Main Street  
Dublin, Va. 24084  
Pastor: Doug Testerman  
674-1762  
Primary Services:  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11 a.m. Sunday worship  
Sunday Night Power Hour, 6 to 7 p.m.  
Wednesday Night 7 to 8 p.m.  
Grace Kids and Teens Bible Study
- Open Door Baptist Church**  
4576 Miller Lane  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
Pastor: Rev. N.K. Howlett  
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship, 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Night, 7 p.m.  
Phone: 980-2046
- Draper Methodist Church**  
3080 Greenbriar Road  
Draper, VA 24324  
Pastor: Lee Wiggins  
Email: office@draper-methodist-church.com  
Primary Service Times:  
Sunday School, 10 a.m.  
Worship, 11 a.m.
- Christ Episcopal Church**  
144 North Washington Ave., Pulaski  
P.O. Box 975  
Service: 10 a.m. every Sunday  
Phone: 980-2413  
Email: christ24301@gmail.com
- Jordan Chapel Methodist**  
Pastor: Ginny Tompkins  
Worship: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
- Cecil's Chapel Church**  
5801 Cecil's Chapel Road  
Hiwassee, VA 24347  
Pastor: John Kellam  
540 230 8837  
Worship Service: 9am  
Sunday School: 10am  
www.facebook.com/cecils.chapel
- Valley Harvest Ministries**  
1 Harvest Place  
Dublin, VA 24084  
Senior Pastor Steve Willis  
Associate Pastors: Perry Slaughter,  
Walter Gueste, Derick Burton  
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.  
Hispanic Ministry Service- Sunday 6 p.m.  
Wednesday School 7 p.m.  
www.vhmdublin.org  
540-674-4729
- Dublin Baptist Church**  
100 Hawkins Street, Dublin, VA 24084  
540-674-6061  
secretary@dublinbaptistchurchva.org  
Website: dublinbaptistchurchva.org  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 11 a.m.  
Tuesday Women's Bible Study: 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Youth Bible Study, 7 p.m.
- Allisonia Pentecostal Holiness Church**  
1560 Julia Simpkins Road  
Allisonia, VA  
Pastor Justin Phillips  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship: 6 p.m.
- First United Methodist Church**  
301 N. Jefferson Ave. - Pulaski (physical)  
135 Fourth St., NW - Pulaski (mailing)  
Pastor's Name: Josh Kilbourne  
Sunday Service: 10:00 AM  
Hispanic Service: 3 p.m.  
Contact Info. Phone: 540.980.3331  
e-mail: office@fumcpulask.org  
website: www.fumcpulask.org  
FACEBOOK@FirstUMCPulaski and  
WBLB 10:00 am
- Belspring Baptist Church**  
6887 Depot Street  
Belspring, VA 24058  
Pastor Darrell Linkous  
Service Times:  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study and  
Youth Group: 7 p.m.  
Darrell Linkous: 353-0081  
belspringbaptistchurch@gmail.com
- Delton Church of God of Prophecy**  
4570 Boyd Road, Draper, VA 24324  
Pastor Vickie Lee Viars  
deltoncogop@gmail.com (276) 620-3191  
Sunday mornings - 11 AM to 12 PM  
Sunday evenings-Facebook live services  
announced on Facebook
- Heritage Church**  
6195 Cleburne Boulevard, Dublin  
Joe Ratcliff, Pastor  
Service Times:  
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.;  
Sundays, 10 a.m.  
(540) 674-9220  
Website: www.heritagechurch.net  
Facebook.com/  
HeritageChurchDublinVA
- Evangelists Jodie and Rosanna Whittaker**  
Monday night services at 7 p.m.  
Quality Inn in Dublin  
Conference Room  
540-674-1100  
You're invited to attend powerful spirit-filled  
services.
- First Missionary Baptist Church**  
7318 Manns Drive  
Fairlawn, Virginia 24141-8524  
(540) 639-5331  
email: fmbc1872@verizon.net  
Associate Minister:  
Rev. Annette Cheek  
Clerk: Mrs. Carlotta Lewis  
Sundays:  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
The Lord's Supper - Each First Sunday  
Wednesdays: Prayer Meeting &  
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
- Draper's Valley Presbyterian (PCA)**  
2755 Old Baltimore Road,  
Draper, VA 24324  
Senior Pastor: Rev. Roland Mathews  
Interim Pastor: Rev. David Gilleran  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship Service 6:15 p.m.  
Wednesday Youth Groups and Adult Prayer &  
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.  
Phone - 540-994-9015  
e-mail - drapers.valley@dvpca.org  
website - www.dvpca.org  
Sunday Morning Worship Live-Stream • 10:30  
a.m. (or anytime on YouTube)
- Trinity Lutheran Church ELCA**  
2 Fifth Street, N.W., Pulaski  
540-980-3624  
Pastor: Rev. Jessica Darty  
trinitypulaski@gmail.com  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.  
(Sept. - May)  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
(June - Aug.)  
Sunday Worship Live stream on Facebook  
Bible Study: Wednesday, Noon  
www.trinitypulaski.org
- Trinity United Methodist**  
Pastor: Bill Schoeneman  
540-695-0054  
Sunday Worship - 9:45 a.m.  
Bible Study - Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
528 5th Street, S.E.  
Pulaski, Va.  
Phone - 980-0820
- Grace Ministries Church of God of Prophecy**  
1021 Macgill Street  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
Cell: 276-233-8083  
Bus Ministry: 540-230-2485  
www.pulaskigracemin.com  
Email: pulaskigracemin@hotmail.com  
Pastor Mike Williams  
Children's Ministry  
Aaron & Becky Sampson  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Church 10:30 a.m.  
Men's & Women's Ministry Wed. 6:30
- Faith Bible Church**  
110 LaGrange Street, Pulaski, VA 24301  
Pastor: Jim Linkous  
Associate Pastor: T.J. Cox  
540-980-5433  
www.facebook.com/faithbiblechurch  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.  
Sunday Children's Church: 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening: 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.  
Children's Meal: 6:30 p.m.  
Children's & Youth's Group Classes: 7 p.m.
- Grace Episcopal Church**  
210 Fourth Street, Radford  
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part of the Radford community for more than  
130 years.  
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We offer an 8:00am Contemplative Eucha-  
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



# Passionate



What are you passionate about? For some it is politics, and for others, it is a particular sport. I'm sure the list is long. What I hope you are passionate about is loving Jesus and living your life with Him in mind. In the Bible there is a story of a man whose passion was eating, drinking, and making merry. He devoted everything he had to that passion. On the other hand, the Apostle Paul was passionate about devoting his life to God. He made these statements about his passion for God: "That I may know Him," "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain" and, "I have fought a good fight and I have kept the faith." King David was passionate about bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. He was not satisfied until it was done, and when it happened, he had a great celebration which included music, shouting, and a sacrificial offering. King David broke out into a dance before the Lord. He was surely, a man after the heart of God. May you and I have such a passion for the Lord.

We must not let anything interfere with our passion for God. We are often disappointed, but we should not let disappointment hinder our passion for Him. We should not allow discouragement. Things do not always turn out the way we desire, but the results of our efforts are in God's hands, and we must continue to trust in Him. Do not let giving in to temptations interrupt your passion for God. The Bible instructs us to flee from temptation. If you have fallen into temptation, ask for His forgiveness and return to serving the Lord. Some people let hobbies interfere with their passion for the Lord. Hobbies are fine to have, but God should always take priority. We should be determined to make God the most important passion in our lives.

How does a Christian who is passionate about God show it? Psalm

63, a Psalm of David, answers the question. He claims God as his own. He said, "Thou art my God." He showed his desire for God, saying, "My soul thirst for You, and my flesh longs for You." He remembers past blessings when he says, "I have seen Your glory in the sanctuary." He praises God, declaring, "My mouth shall praise You with joyful lips." He blesses God. He raises his hands in worship of God. He meditates on God, even at night when he is in bed. That is a great habit to develop. I would rather go to sleep thinking about God than anything else.

If we maintain our passion for God until the end of our lives, we will see Him and all the glories of heaven. On that day, it will be joy beyond any joy we have ever experienced. An old song says, "Oh, I want to see Him and look upon His face. There to sing forever of His saving grace. On the streets of glory let me lift my voice, cares all past, home, at last, ever to rejoice." Stay passionate about God!

## Sheetz hit with suit

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM  
Associated Press

The Sheetz convenience store chain has been hit with a lawsuit by federal officials who allege the company discriminated against minority job applicants.

Sheetz Inc., which operates more than 700 stores in six states, discriminated against Black, Native American and multiracial job seekers by automatically weeding out applicants whom the company deemed to have failed a criminal background check, according to U.S. officials.

President Joe Biden stopped by a Sheetz for snacks this week while campaigning in Pennsylvania.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed suit in Baltimore against Altoona, Pennsylvania-based Sheetz and two subsidiary companies, alleging the chain's longstanding hiring practices have a disproportionate impact on minority applicants and thus run afoul of federal civil rights law.

Sheetz said Thursday that it "does not tolerate discrimination of any kind."

"Diversity and inclusion are essential parts of who we are. We take these allegations seriously. We have attempted to work with the EEOC for nearly eight years to find common ground and resolve this dispute," company spokesperson Nick Ruffner said in a statement.

The privately held, family-run company has more than 23,000 employees and operates convenience stores and gas stations in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Ohio and North Carolina.

The lawsuit was filed in federal court on Wednesday, the day Biden stopped at a Sheetz market on a western Pennsylvania campaign swing, buying snacks, posing for photos and chatting up patrons and employees.

Federal officials said they do not allege Sheetz was motivated by racial animus, but take issue with the way the chain uses criminal background checks to screen job seekers. The company was sued under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits workplace discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion and national origin.

"Federal law mandates that employment practices causing a disparate impact because of race or other protected classifications must be shown by the employer to be necessary to ensure the safe and efficient performance of the particular jobs at issue," EEOC attorney Debra M. Lawrence said in a statement.

"Even when such necessity is proven, the practice remains unlawful if there is an alternative practice available that is comparably effective in achieving the employer's goals but causes less discriminatory effect," Lawrence said.

It wasn't immediately clear how many job applicants have been affected, but the agency said Sheetz's unlawful hiring practices date to at least 2015.

**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: triplesecretary@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

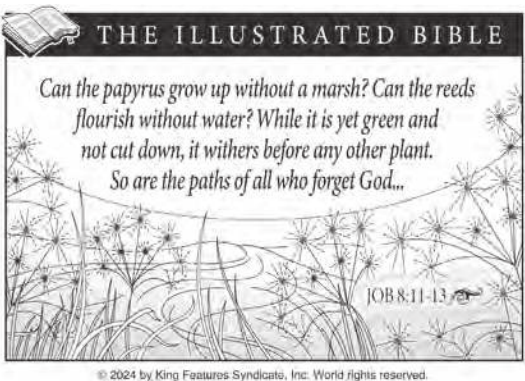
**Pathway to Heaven Worship Center**  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 434  
Dublin, VA 24084  
Physical Address: 7889 Cleburne Blvd.  
Dublin, VA 24084  
Pastor Winfred Keene - Phone 540-239-8092  
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 a.m.  
Tuesday Evening Worship Service: 6 p.m.

**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



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**April 2024**

**Fri. April 12th: Sister Ginger Cancino**  
**Sat. April 13th: Evangelist Joyce Greer**

**Sat. April 20th: Food/Clothing Event from 11 am till 1 pm. We will be serving free barbecue plate, coleslaw, fries, dessert and drink. The Clothing Bank will be open with a huge selection of free men's, women's, boys' and girls' clothing.**

**Fri. April 26th: Sister Ginger Riggins**  
**Sat. April 27th: Evangelists Dave and Marisol Scott**

Each Service Broadcast Live on streaming video at: [www.streets4god.com](http://www.streets4god.com)

For More Information Contact: Charlie Barbettini : 276.620.4293

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**PULASKI COUNTY**

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**JUNE 1 & 2, 2024**



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For More Information Visit: [pulaskicountyfleamarket.com](http://pulaskicountyfleamarket.com)



# SPORTS

## Kinneberg to manage River Turtles in 2024

### From Pulaski River Turtles

The Pulaski River Turtles will enter their fourth year of competition in the Appalachian League with new leadership in the clubhouse, as respected baseball veteran Bill Kinneberg joins the organization as manager for the 2024 season. The appointment marks Kinneberg's second season in the Appalachian League; Kinneberg managed the Bristol State Liners in 2023. "I am extremely honored to manage the Pulaski River Turtles, and I'm looking forward to getting to know the passionate fan base in Pulaski this summer," Kinneberg said. "I look forward to working with our players, coaches and the

River Turtles staff to have a very successful summer." A decorated baseball veteran with 39 years of coaching experience, Kinneberg has enjoyed considerable success in college baseball. Regarded as one of the most accomplished head coaches in the history of the University of Utah's baseball program, Kinneberg amassed 381 wins, two NCAA tournament appearances, one Mountain West tournament championship and one Pac-12 conference title during his 18-year career (1996, 2005-21). Kinneberg received the Pac-12 Baseball Coach of the Year award in 2016. He retired from full-time coaching following Utah's 2021 season. Head coaching stints at UTEP



**Bill Kinneberg**  
(1985) and Wyoming (1986-92) preceded his tenure at Utah. His teams established school records for victories in a season at UTEP in 1985 and Wyoming

in 1990, an achievement that earned him WAC Coach of the Year honors. Other milestones in Kinneberg's extensive coaching career include three seasons on the staff of the USA National Team, including one season as manager of the program in 2010. He coached for two seasons in the Chicago White Sox Minor League system. He has held assistant coaching positions at UTEP, Arizona State and the University of Arizona, where he played his final two seasons of college baseball as a pitcher in 1978 and 1979. "This organization has been blessed with exceptional leadership since our inaugural

See **MANAGER**, page B4



## Game Day Banter

Jeramey Fleenor

## Sports world in transition mode

Let's start this week's banter by celebrating the remarkable dedication and hard work of the Cougars' JV softball team! They're on a winning streak, extending their undefeated season. This is a significant achievement, and these talented ladies are truly an inspiration, answering the call with their unwavering commitment!

Looking at the sports world, we find ourselves in transition mode as the NBA finals have started, baseball is in full swing, the NHL is approaching the Stanley Cup, and the NFL draft began this week. I don't know about you; the NBA seems a little lackluster in the past years. As I will be transparent with you, this could be because I am not a basketball fan but a bat and ball guy. Nonetheless, it seems like it made the adrenaline rush given to some of these fantastic NCAA games; everyone is crashing from the rush, and the NBA seems to take it or leave it.

However, there is some excitement on the baseball end of the spectrum! If I read true, Baltimore fans are being "real" fans. We all know a "real" fan tries to do the coach's job for him. I am convinced that a "real" fan cares so deeply for the team that they use the phrase "if I was the coach" not for their displeasure with the coach but for the team's love. The hype around Holliday is building, or the tension and turmoil. The O's made a genius move. I am taking the first overall pick in the draft and sending him to AAA. Whether it was for development or publicity (in my opinion, it's the latter), you gave all of your minor league fans something to see and then made a special about bringing him up. The public relations department in Baltimore should be proud!

This is a great time to pause and remind you that this is a widespread practice; the only difference is over the years, instead of hearing this news instantly on a smartphone, you had to read the sports page, and more often than not, you had to have a local sports page, but very seldom do you find an athlete going straight to The Show out of High School or College. The difference in the game is too different, and that shows with Holliday, who has officially stamped his ticket to the struggle bus at the plate. This is why all "real" fans call for him to be returned to AAA. Again, this shows you the difference in levels of baseball; you can take a superstar at the AAA level, and once inserted into the Big Dance, it "takes a little time sometimes."

Yes, Holliday is setting a record with more strikeouts than hits, and his on-base percentage is atrocious. But remember, Bryce Harper made it through several series this year before he touched base. Even Captain Derek Jeter had around a six-game streak of no hits. Now, with all of that being said, I want to drop this little nugget. Good luck to all of our young athletes this spring and summer; as our readers in Pulaski know, recreational sports are in full swing, and so is travel baseball (we will spend some time in another banter about travel sports). Here is some unsolicited advice. First, don't treat the Rec

See **BANTER**, page B4



Brian Bishop/Patriot Publishing

## Cougar Softball Falls To Blacksburg

Pulaski County pitcher Laken Greever (above) drives a pitch to right center in the Cougars' game Tuesday against Blacksburg. At left, Madolyn Legg hauls in a catch in the outfield. The Cougars fell to Blacksburg, 13-3 to see their record drop to 5-8 with the loss.

## Sports physicals offered May 1 at PCHS

Pulaski County High School, in conjunction with LewisGale Hospital Pulaski, will again be providing sports physicals to Pulaski County Public School students who will be enrolled in the 6th through 12th grades during the

2024-2025 school year. The physicals will take place at PCHS in the Career and Technical Education Building on Wednesday, May 1st beginning at 3:20

See **PHYSICALS**, page B4

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### James Hardie

SW Times & Patriot

#### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

### Laken Greever

Pulaski County Softball's ace hurler, Laken Greever is having another strong season. So far this season, the Cougar softball team is 5-8 on the season. Greever has pitched the Cougars to wins over Floyd, Cave Spring, Radford, Patrick Henry and Salem.

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CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE  
627 East Main Street,  
Pulaski, Virginia 24301 Tax  
Map No. 072-051-0246-0013  
PULASKICOUNTY,VA

In execution of a credit line deed of trust dated December 17, 2014 (the "Deed of Trust"), recorded in the Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Pulaski, Virginia, as Instrument No. 140003723, the undersigned substitute Trustees, any or all of whom may act, will offer for sale at the front steps of the Pulaski County Courthouse, 45 Third Street, NW, Pulaski, Virginia 24301, on **May 1, 2024, at 2:00 o'clock p.m.**, property located at or near 627 East Main Street, Pulaski, Virginia, which property is more particularly described as follows:

All that certain tract or parcel of land, with all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being in the Town of Pulaski, Massie Magisterial District of Pulaski County, Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows: to-wit:

Lot No. 13 of Block 246, as shown on the official map of the Town of Pulaski, Virginia.

Tax Map Number 072-051-0246-0013; Account Number 1651 Property Address: 627 E. Main Street, Pulaski, Virginia 24301.

This sale is subject to all liens, easements, restrictions, conditions, and reservations of record affecting the title to the property hereinabove described, to the extent any of them have priority over the lien of the Deed of Trust.

TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of up to ten percent (10%) of the successful bid in certified funds required (certified or cashier's check made payable to Spilman, Thomas & Battle, PLLC). Settlement within thirty (30) days of sale with balance of purchase price paid in cash. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale outlining additional terms of sale and settlement that will be available for review prior to the announcement of sale.

Bryson J. Hunter,  
Peter M. Pearl, and  
Brian H. Richardson,  
Substitute Trustees

For Information Contact:  
Bryson J. Hunter, Esquire  
bhunter@spilmanlaw.com  
Spilman Thomas & Battle,  
PLLC  
P.O. Box 90  
Roanoke, Virginia 24002  
540-512-1800 Telephone

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE  
June 4, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.  
Online and at the Historic Train Station  
TAX DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE

Pursuant to certain Decrees of Sale from the Circuit Court for the County of Pulaski, the undersigned Special Commissioner will offer for sale at a simulcast live and online public auction the following described real estate.

The auction will begin online and will close with in-person and online bidding on June 4, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., live at the Historic Train Station (20 S. Washington Avenue, Pulaski, Virginia 24301). Please visit [bid.forsaleatauction.biz](http://bid.forsaleatauction.biz), or call (540) 899-1776, for more information and to bid online. If interested bidders are unable to participate online, please call for assistance in placing your bids.

OWNER(S)	DESCRIPTION	TAX MAP NO.
Stephanie L. Smith, f/k/a Stephanie Lynn Hernandez	Lots at the end of Craig Street	072-098-0002-011A, 0010, 0011
Wanda Gayle Hankins	49 Bertha Street	072-017-0100-0012
Cynthia C. Edmonds, et al.	140 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW	072-140-0000-0002
Russell S. Adams	1015 Dora Highway	072-026-0204-0012
Roger Lee Odham (Life Estate)	150 Prince Avenue	081-001-0000-0071
Donald J. Taylor	927 Jackson Street; Lot on Jackson Street	072-026-0198-0015; 072-026-0198-0016

TERMS OF SALE: All sales are subject to the approval of the Circuit Court. A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the highest bid and will become a part of the total sales price on each property. The highest bidder shall make a deposit of twenty percent (20%) of the total sales price, or Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00), whichever is more, which sum shall be credited toward the purchase at closing. The balance of the purchase price shall be delivered to the Special Commissioner within fifteen (15) days of Court confirmation. All properties will be conveyed by Special Warranty Deed, subject to any easements and covenants of record, and any rights of persons in possession. We do not provide and do not assist with obtaining title insurance. Terms of Sale stated online and in the Purchase Contract take precedence over any prior written or verbal terms of sale. For more information, please contact Jerry Bertram at (804) 229-9271.

N. Reid Broughton, Esq.  
Special Commissioner  
Sands Anderson PC  
P. O. Box 2009  
Christiansburg, Virginia 24068-2009

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104  
Case No. CL24000044-00  
Pulaski County Circuit Court  
45 3rd Street, NW, Pulaski, VA 24301

RONALD KEVIN DELAPP v. KELLY ANNE DELAPP

The object of this suit is to: OBTAIN A DIVORCE

It is ORDERED that KELLY ANNE DELAPP appear at the above-named court and protect her interests on or before JUNE 21, 2024.

APRIL 22, 2024 TRISHA L. ALBERT,  
Deputy Clerk

Advertising Deadlines

The deadline for all advertising - including yard sales, legal notices, classifieds and display ads is noon on Wednesday for that Friday's paper. Send your ad via email to: [pulaski@pcpatriot.com](mailto:pulaski@pcpatriot.com) or [swt@pcpatriot.com](mailto:swt@pcpatriot.com) OR call us at 540-808-3949 or 540-980-5220.

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The salary scale for this position is \$44,158 - \$65,514 and is commensurate upon education and experience.

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Interested individuals may apply at the appropriate Virginia Employment Commission Office or may download and submit an application from [www.pulaskicounty.org](http://www.pulaskicounty.org) to Tammy Nichols, Human Resources Director at [tnichols@pulaskicounty.org](mailto:tnichols@pulaskicounty.org).

To request an accommodation for disabilities, contact Human Resources at 540-994-2406.

Pulaski County, VA is committed to the principles of diversity and, in that spirit, seeks a broad spectrum of candidates including women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and veterans. As an Equal Opportunity Employer and certified Virginia Values Veterans (V3) organization, we are dedicated to nondiscrimination in recruitment, selection, hiring, pay, promotion, retention or other personnel action affecting employees or candidates for employment. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex/gender/identity/sexual orientation, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.

Position is open until filled.

Equal Opportunity Employer

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF NON-JUDICIAL SALE  
June 4, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.  
Online and at the Historic Train Station  
TAX DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 58.1-3975, the following properties will be offered for sale at a simulcast live and online public auction. The auction will begin online and will close with in-person and online bidding on June 4, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., live at the Historic Train Station (20 S. Washington Avenue, Pulaski, Virginia 24301). Please visit [bid.forsaleatauction.biz](http://bid.forsaleatauction.biz), or call (540) 899-1776, for more information and to bid online. If interested bidders are unable to participate online, please call for assistance in placing your bids.

Name	Description	Parcel Numbers
Steve Clark c/o John L. Clark, Sr.	Lot 17, Block 57 Randolph Ave.	072-032-0057-0017
Jethro A. Hogan & Lora Hogan	1.67 Acres Case Knife Rd.	080-008-0000-0012
Raymond Lottier	Two (2) lots on Lottier Street	071-017-0000-0019, 019A
Raymond Lottier	Combined total of 5.32 Acres(+-) on Lottier Street	071-017-0000-0020, 0021, 022A, 0023

TERMS OF SALE: All sales are subject to the approval of the Finance Director. A Buyer's Premium of 10% or \$250 (whichever is higher) will be added to the highest bid and will become a part of the total sales price on each property. The highest bidder shall pay the full amount of the purchase price and the costs of recording the deed. The property will be conveyed by Special Warranty Deed subject to all matters of record and without covenants or warranty of any kind. We do not provide, and do not assist with obtaining title insurance. Terms of Sale stated online and in the Purchase Contract take precedence over any prior written or verbal terms of sale. For more information, please contact Jerry Bertram at (804) 229-9271. This sale is being conducted by the undersigned for the Finance Director of the Town of Pulaski.

N. Reid Broughton, Esq.  
Sands Anderson PC  
P. O. Box 2009  
Christiansburg, Virginia 24068-2009

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
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APRIL 22, 2024 TRISHA L. ALBERT,  
Deputy Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE

ABC License

Narayan, Inc., trading as **Dublin Food Mart**, 4861 Cleburne Boulevard, Dublin in Pulaski County, VA 24084-4549.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store license, for off-premises sale of beer, wine.

Naineshkumar Soni, President

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

LEGAL NOTICE

The Towers LLC is proposing to construct a 154-ft Monopole Tower telecommunications facility located at 3610 Robinson Tract Road, Pulaski, Pulaski Co., Virginia 24301. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 011135-PR - ENB, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 407.792.9506.

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For Sale: Four cemetery plots at Highland Memory Gardens, Dublin. Located in the Garden of the Good Shepherd. Side-by-side near road. \$6,200. Call 540-980-2226.

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.

### YARD SALES

Three-day Combo Sale of antiques, crafts and yard sale items May 2-4, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. First brick house on right beside Memorial Baptist Church, 805 Orchard Road, Pulaski. Under cover, rain or shine. Antiques include amber glass jars, full bedroom suite, tools, dolls, Snoopy collectibles, books and more. Crafts include wood items, wreaths, unique candle holders, gift bags, do-it-yourself craft items and more. Yard sale items include two-story furnished doll house, comic books, curtains, toys, small appliances, pocket knives, video games, artwork, kids items, lots of clothes and much more.

The Ladies Of Thornspring United Methodist Church, 5670 Thornspring Church Rd., will be having a yard sale, Friday May 10th from 8 am-2 pm. On Saturday, May 11th only there will also be a bake sale, hot dog sale, pinto beans and cornbread sale. From 8 am-2 pm rain or shine. More new items. Everyone is welcome.

Yard Sale: Friday, April 26 from 8 a.m. until ? and Saturday, April 27 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at 404 Maple Street, Dublin.

Indoor Moving Sale: April 26 and 27 at 5431 Ridgeview Way, Dublin. Mountain View Subdivision in front of Pulaski County High School. 8 a.m. until.

Yard Sale: May 3rd - 4th Bradley's Ridge Apartments in Dublin (across from High School) off Hatcher Rd. 8 am - ?? Entire Complex! In case of Rain, will cancel.

Yard Sale: Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, 224 Valley Street, Pulaski. Weather permitting - if rain will hold the following week.

Yard Sale-Saturday, April 27 at 5664 Cleburne Blvd (Near Dublin Fairgrounds) from 8 AM to 3:00 PM.

### FOR SALE: MISCELLANEOUS

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For Sale: If you have a booth in an antique mall, I have an assortment of unique items and collectibles I need to sell. For an appointment call 540-320-6676.

For Sale: 100-gallon propane tanks (empty). \$100 each. Three Papa Bear wood burning stoves, \$500 all three. Pot belly stove, \$75. Call 540-629-9003.

For Sale: Computer chairs, \$7; microwaves at \$15 and canning jars. Call 540-230-5386.

For Sale: For Sale: Two vintage metal wagon wheels with axle. 35-inches round. Pulaski seller. (210) 416-7986.

For Sale: Full set, mounted to Chevy wheels 205-55-16 tires, 4150. Full set, like new 225-60-16 Goodrich tires, \$125. 540-629-9003.

For sale: 2019 Pioneer Travel Trailer, sleeps 6, bathroom, ac, heat, kitchen. Like new. Kept under cover. Ready to go camping with everything you need. Call 757-508-8437.

For Sale: 24 four ft. sections of roof ridge vents w/filters (new) \$100.00; Oster A5 single speed pet clippers, \$80.00. (540) 980-3877.

For Sale: Poplar wood table with two leaf extensions and six chairs. \$150. Full-size, remote controlled bed with caster wheels. Has a massage and vibration control as well. \$200. Antique porcelain dolls - the more you buy the less the price. 540-629-9003.

For Sale: Small (4 by 4?) solid wood dining table with two solid oak chairs - table needs some sanding but otherwise all in excellent condition. \$75.00. Dublin area 540-440-6389.

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

**Advertising Works! Try it. Call The Patriot at 540-808-3949 or The Southwest Times at 540-980-5220**

## STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

### AUCTIONS

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RUNNER UP	RYAN TOLLEY	BEDFORD, VA
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5.70 INDEX		
WINNER	DRIVER	HOMETOWN
RUNNER UP	NATHANIEL HAYES	RURAL RETREAT, VA
RUNNER UP	MIKE SEXTON	RADFORD, VA
6.70 INDEX		
WINNER	DRIVER	HOMETOWN
RUNNER UP	SHERMAN HAWKS	DUBLIN, VA
RUNNER UP	CHRIS SHELTON	ROANOKE, VA

# Youngkin signs state’s NIL bill on athlete pay

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed measure into law Thursday that allows state colleges and universities to directly pay their athletes through name, image and likeness compensation deals, a measure believed to be the first of its kind.

The law, which takes effect July 1, was signed one day after the NCAA eased some of its NIL restrictions but noted that its longstanding “prohibitions against pay-for-play and schools compensating student-athletes for use of their NIL remain in place.”

Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel said other states may follow Virginia’s lead. Several states have legislation pending, including Oklahoma, Nebraska and Louisiana.

“The Virginia decision — by the lawmakers there and the governor to sign it — I think really kickstarts it and puts it right at all of our doorsteps,” Manuel said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The NCAA in July 2021 allowed college athletes to earn money from deals with brands or businesses that compensate them for such things as endorsements or personal appearances. That has made millions of dollars available to athletes and prompted many states to put laws in place preventing the NCAA from restricting NIL revenue, seen by most as a recruiting enticement.

“If this law gets us closer to a federal or a national solution for college athletics then it will be more than worthwhile,” University of Virginia athletic director Carla Williams told ESPN. “Until then, we have an obligation to ensure we maintain an elite athletics program at UVA.”

Earlier this week, the NCAA moved forward on legislation that would allow its 1,100 member schools to be more actively involved in securing sponsorship and endorsement deals for their athletes, including facilitating opportunities between third parties and athletes.


The Virginia law clears the way for donors to work directly with a school on paying athletes. One of the bill’s sponsors, Del. Terry Austin, told the Richmond Times-Dispatch, that the bipartisan measure was drafted by a University of Virginia deputy athletic director.

Virginia Tech athletic director Whit Babcock told ESPN the school is considering different options for NIL payments, from contracting with a marketing agency or booster-backed collective to pay the athletes rather than money directly from the athletic department.

In December, when NCAA President Charlie Baker proposed a new subdivision of Division I athletics, he said all D-I schools

See NIL, page B5

## LEGAL NOTICE



### Public Notice Board of Zoning Appeals

The Town of Pulaski Board of Zoning Appeals gives notice of a public hearing to be held on May 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Town of Pulaski Municipal Building, NW 1st St. Pulaski, VA 24301, to hear citizen comment regarding the Board of Zoning Appeals intention to act on the following request for a Use Permit:

A request from Mr. Joseph Hoff for a use permit to under section 6.1.4 of the Pulaski Town Zoning Ordinance, under the authority given to the Zoning Board of Appeals in section 7.6.4

## LEGAL NOTICE

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**VA. CODE § 8.01-316**  
**Case No. JJ012512-01-00**  
**Pulaski J&DR - Juvenile Division**

Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* CHOCON, LUISA FERNANDA CHAVAC

The object of this suit is to: GRANT CUSTODY OF THE MINOR TO HER BIOLOGICAL MOTHER

It is ORDERED that the defendant WILLIAM MATIA SUCHIETE appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before MAY 20, 2024 AT 1 P.M.

**APRIL 9, 2024** **AMANDA N. BLAIR,**  
Clerk

# The nine thirty gobbler Banter and other facts of life

I absolutely did not remember the road being this rough. Not full of mud holes and worry about getting stuck rough but just rocky plain ol’ rough. I tried to go as easy as I could and held on to the wheel as the old truck crawled over one rock after another. Looking out the window, even in the darkness I could tell this was all bordering on madness. The trees were whipping in what had to be a thirty mile and hour wind. Any turkeys in the vicinity would only be thinking of holding on this morning, gobbling could wait. (You guessed it, I never heard a peep)

Somehow, I don’t know how, I managed to do it. The first morning of the Virginia spring turkey season and I was able to go from horizontal to vertical and stumble around camp trying to get ready. I had prepared as much as I could the night before. Laying out everything I could think of so I could just get up, gulp coffee, put on and grab everything I needed (and didn’t) and get out the door. Driving blurry eyed before the coffee has kicked in at these evil, dim, misty hours concerns me more than it used to, but I still go.

We have talked about all this before. Spring turkey hunting involves being in the woods before daylight, standing at your listening place so you may hear his first gobbles after he wakes up and has his first cup of coffee. There is no doubt a big tactical advantage in being there early. If you hear the gobbler on the roost the standard procedure is to scramble as quickly as possible to his neighborhood and get set up to have a conversation. If the planets all line up you may be able to entice him with your plaintive hen calls (I notice that hunting writers are using that word a lot lately) and hopefully he will walk in and get decently shot. Hope those of you having your coffee and Cheerios don’t mind me saying it like that, but that is what happens, right? Let’s not sugar coat things if we don’t have to.

Turkey hunters know all this. Most of us want to be there when the first little tweety bird sings and a few minutes later we hear the crazy, raucous sound of a wild turkey gobble. It is really what gets us out there, it is why we endure all of that early morning torture. The getting up in the middle of night and braving the roads in the dark dodging deer and opossums with a death wish. Sometimes there is a long walk from the truck to get to our listening place, this means we have to be there even earlier. A forty five minute walk in the dark is not uncommon. This is just one of the things that turkey hunters must endure to hunt this crazy,



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wonderful bird.

Or is it?

As noted there is an advantage in getting to the turkey while he is still on the roost. We like to call him right off the roost and take him for a truck ride as we go to town or back to camp for biscuits and gravy. But, and that is big but, how many times does it work out differently during the morning? Often what happens is the gobbler rejects our invitation to get together and walks away after gobbling just enough to leave us in a confused, frustrated state. We cannot comprehend how he could resist our calling. The reason of course is quite simple. The gobbler is usually in the company of several of his old girl friends and he is not about to leave them to come over and talk to the mysterious hen calling to him a couple hundred yards away. Now sometimes later in the morning this turkey will part company from those hens and may very well be agreeable to coming to your calls. This routinely happens in a morning of turkey hunting. We know this and almost expect it to happen. We know if we come upon a turkey gobbling a lot in mid-morning there is a very good chance we might get to meet him. So why do we always have to go through all that rigmarole of the early morning stress of dragging out of bed, driving in the pre-dawn darkness, and risk running into grouchy werewolves as they come off the night shift?

I don’t think we do.

I know that is a shocker for some of you and old time turkey hunters will probably excommunicate me for saying it. What is wrong with sleeping in, going out at a more civilized hour, and having a coffee as you leisurely drive to your spot? No middle of the night brain fog from lack of sleep, you can drive the roads safely, the neurotic deer and opossums have all gone home, and the werewolves well, you know they are not out in the daytime. It is a win win.

OK, there is my theory for the 9:30 gobbler, you can berate me but don’t act like you have never thought of it before. Best of luck and watch out for those crazed opossums with lots of issues.

**Larry Case**  
**www.gunsandcornbread.com**

# NASCAR announces Hall of Fame nominees for 2025 class

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (April 24, 2024) — NASCAR today announced the 15 nominees for the NASCAR Hall of Fame’s Class of 2025 and the five nominees for the Landmark Award for Outstanding Contributions to NASCAR.

Greg Biffle, the first driver to win both the NASCAR Xfinity Series and NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series championship joins the Modern Era ballot alongside legendary engine builder Randy Dorton and three-time NASCAR

CRAFTSMAN Truck Series champion Jack Sprague. “Mr. Modified” Ray Hendrick and three-time Convertible Division champion Bob Welborn join the Pioneer ballot for the first time. In addition, Larry Phillips was nominated to the Pioneer ballot after appearing on the Modern Era ballot the maximum 10 times.

Two Modern Era candidates and one Pioneer candidate will be elected as the Class of 2025. The Pioneer ballot honors those

See HALL, page B5

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# Reddick takes checkered in wild Talladega finish

By HOLLY CAIN  
NASCAR Wire Service

TALLADEGA, Ala. – Tyler Reddick prevailed in a typically-frantic Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway run to the checkered flag Sunday in the GEICO 500 NASCAR Cup Series race, narrowly avoiding a multi-car crash in the closing 400 yards – coming from third place out of Turn 4, to earn the win by a slight 0.208-second when race leader Michael McDowell crashed trying to block competitors approaching the finish line; McDowell’s move slowing the bottom line and allowing Reddick in the high lane to motor through to his first victory of the year and sixth of his career.

So pumped to claim this win, the 28-year old Californian climbed the grandstand fence, pumping his fist to the screaming, adoring crowd while one of his 23XI Racing team owners, NBA legend Michael Jordan celebrated on pit lane, taking Reddick’s young son Beau in his arms and grinning from ear-to-ear. This was the first time Jordan had been at track when his team won a race.

“Man, it’s incredible,” said Reddick, who led 13 laps on the afternoon. “Everyone on this 45 Toyota Camry worked really hard today. Didn’t really work out in that third stage for us, but we were able to fight and defend our track position.

“Was that crazy guys?” he yelled toward the cheering grandstands. “A lot of chaos. That’s Talladega for you.”

“I just have to give a lot of credit to Ty Gibbs and Martin Truex, it was just us Toyotas left and they pushed me with everything they

had. Without Martin and Ty and those pushes we don’t win this race.”

The final few laps pitted a low line of Fords – the manufacturer trying to earn its first win of 2024 – and a high line led by the Toyotas. McDowell, the 2021 Daytona 500 winner anticipated a huge run from the cars behind, but conceded later that he was just a little late making the block.

The contact when he pulled down to Roush Fenway Keselowski driver Brad Keselowski sent McDowell’s car off track. Keselowski was still able to recover and finish second – his second straight runner-up finish this season. Afterward, McDowell apologized to Keselowski for essentially costing the former series champion a win with the move.

“We did a good job keeping those Mustang Dark Horses up front,” said McDowell, who led a race best 36 laps. “He [Keselowski] did everything right. He pushed me. I was able to get in front of him the first time but when I came back down I barely wasn’t clear. I’ll have to watch the replay. I hate it. I hate it we didn’t make it to the finish line. We had such a fast mustang today. ... just came up short and took a lot of guys out and I apologize.”

The race ending was in stark contrast to the early portion of the event. For the first time since NASCAR instituted “stage racing” in 2017 there were no caution periods through the opening two stages (other than the scheduled stage breaks).

McDowell won the pole position and as promised all weekend, was set to race

strategically not forcing his No. 34 Front Row Motorsports Ford to the front all day but instead when it needed to be there. There was a lot of hope that Ford would secure its first win of the year Sunday and two of the Mustangs – driven by Austin Cindric (Stage 1) and Joey Logano (Stage 2) – swept the stage victories early in the race.

But as is so often the case, a late race restart – with 27 laps remaining – set the tone for the finish with McDowell leading the bottom line and Fords stacked up behind him. Reddick led the high line with Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota driver Martin Truex Jr. behind him. McDowell and Reddick exchanged the lead 10 times in that final 27-lap stretch to the trophy – indicative of a day when there were 23 race leaders and 73 lead changes, including New Zealander Shane Van Gisbergen’s first NASCAR Cup Series laps out front on an oval (three laps).

It was an exhaustive and exhilarating afternoon depending on what side of the finishing order you came out on. All the drivers – including several collected in the multi-car race ending crash – confirmed they were okay.

“Well, [team co-owner] Denny [Hamlin] keeps saying I’m bad luck,” Jordan said, “And today we proved him wrong.

“The whole team did a good job,” he continued. “I’m very happy to be here to see it. Everybody always tells me when we win we have a good celebration but this is the first time I’ve been here [for a win].

“As you know this is NBA playoffs right now and to me, this

See REDDICK, page B6

## Hall

Continued From Page B4

whose careers began more than 60 years ago.

Dr. Dean Sickling, who invented the SAFER (Steel and Foam Energy Reduction) barrier which has saved countless lives, joins the Landmark Award ballot for the first time. The Landmark Award honors those who made significant contributions to the growth and esteem of NASCAR.

The NASCAR Hall of Fame Voting Panel will meet in person to discuss and vote for the Class of 2025 and Landmark Award on Tuesday, May 21. The winners of a NASCAR.com Fan Vote (www.nascar.com/halloffame) will comprise the final ballot tallied. The Fan Vote is currently open and will close on May 19 at 12 p.m. ET.

Following are the NASCAR Hall of Fame Class of 2025 nominees and Landmark Award nominees:

### Modern Era Ballot

Greg Biffle, 2000 NASCAR

## NIL

Continued From Page B4

should attempt to bring most NIL activities in-house and consider joint licensing deals with their athletes that would allow schools to pay the athletes.

State lawmakers have been a recent catalyst in prompting changes to NCAA rules around player compensation. In 2019, California lawmakers passed a bill that allowed college athletes to cash in on their fame, other states quickly followed suit and the NCAA was forced to lift its regulations. What remains is a patchwork of rules across the country.

Since then, the NCAA has suffered a number of losses in court tied to its basic model of amateurism amid growing

CRAFTSMAN Truck Series champion and 2002 Xfinity Series champion

Neil Bonnett, won 18 times in the NASCAR Cup Series including consecutive Coca-Cola 600 victories

Tim Brewer, two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion crew chief

Jeff Burton, won 21 times in the NASCAR Cup Series including the Southern 500 and two Coca-Cola 600s

Randy Dorton, built engines that won nine championships across NASCAR’s national series

Carl Edwards, winner of 28 NASCAR Cup Series races and 2007 Xfinity Series champion

Harry Gant, winner of 18 NASCAR Cup Series races, including two Southern 500 victories

Harry Hyde, 1970 NASCAR Cup Series championship crew chief

Ricky Rudd, won 23 times in NASCAR Cup Series, including the 1997 Brickyard 400

Jack Sprague, three-time NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series champion

### Pioneer Ballot

Ray Hendrick, won over 700 times

in NASCAR Modified and Late Model Sportsman

Banjo Matthews, built cars that won more than 250 NASCAR Cup Series races and three championships

Ralph Moody, two-time NASCAR Cup Series owner champion as mechanical genius of Holman-Moody

Larry Phillips, first five-time NASCAR weekly series national champion

Bob Welborn, three-time Convertible Division champion

### Landmark Award

Alvin Hawkins, NASCAR’s first flagman; established NASCAR racing at Bowman Gray Stadium with Bill France Sr.

Lesa France Kennedy, NASCAR Executive Vice Chair and one of the most influential women in sports

Dr. Joseph Mattioli, founder of Pocono Raceway

Dr. Dean Sickling, inventor of the SAFER (Steel and Foam Energy Reduction) barrier

Les Richter, long-time NASCAR executive oversaw competition, helped grow the sport on the West Coast

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## PCHS Tennis Results

### Girls tennis match at Salem from April 16th:

In singles:

- #1 Isabel Weigel lost 0-6, 0-6
- #2 Tori Cantrell lost 0-6, 1-6
- #3 Megan Martin lost 0-6, 2-6
- #4 Miranda Altis lost 2-6, 1-6
- #5 Abby Shockley lost 1-6, 0-6
- #6 Sabryn Landreth lost 4-6, 4-6

In doubles:

- #1 Isabel Weigel/Tori Cantrell lost 1-8
- #2 Miranda Altis/Megan Martin lost 0-8
- #3 Abby Shockley/Sabryn Landreth lost 2-8

We lost the overall match 0-9 vs. Salem.

### In our match versus Floyd on April 17th we lost 1-8.

In singles:

- #1 Isabel Weigel lost 2-8
- #2 Victoria Cantrell lost 3-8
- #3 Megan Martin lost 6-8
- #4 Miranda Altis lost 1-8
- #5 Eleanor Speed lost 3-8
- #6 Sabryn Landreth won 8-5

In doubles:

- #1 Isabel Weigel/Tori Cantrell lost 1-8
- #2 Miranda Altis/Megan Martin lost 8-9 (2-7 in tiebreak)
- #3 Sabryn Landreth/Abby Shockley lost 2-8

### We won the overall match vs. Cave Spring 8-1.

In singles:

- #1 Isabel Weigel won 8-5
- #2 Tori Cantrell won 8-3
- #3 Megan Martin lost 7-9
- #4 Miranda Altis won 8-0
- #5 Abby Shockley won 8-6
- #6 Sabryn Landreth won 8-3

In doubles:

- #1 Cantrell/Weigel won 8-5
- #2 Martin/Altis won 8-3
- #3 Landreth/Shockley won 8-3

### Coach Brandon Lawson

## Blacksburg defeated Pulaski County 8-1

Singles:

- 1. Camden Hite 7-5 1-6 12-10
- 2. Ethan Worley 0-6 0-6
- 3. Eli Duke 0-6 0-6
- 4. Jonah Morgan 0-6 0-6
- 5. Jack Powell 0-6 0-6
- 6. Ryce Washington 0-6 0-6

Doubles:

- 1. Camden/Eli 4-6 1-6
- 2. Ethan/Jonah 1-6 2-6
- 3. Jack/Ryce 0-6 0-6

Coach: Chad Graham

Coach’s Comments

“On April 23rd, the PCHS Boys Tennis team faced a formidable foe in Blacksburg, losing 1-8. However, the night ended up being a historic success for our team. For years, Blacksburg’s #1 player has dominated the courts—a streak unchallenged for over six years. Pulaski’s own Camden Hite, a two-year #1 for our team, had yet to win a set against Blacksburg. This time, however, Camden began with a display of talent and vigor by taking the lead with a game score of 5-2 in the first set. Then reality set in, as our opponent rallied to tie the set. Camden finally escaped the noise by winning the next two games and his first set victory with a score of 7-5. The second set was dominated by Blacksburg’s #1 sophomore. Their tiebreaker was headed the same way as the young player surged to a commanding 9-2 lead. That was when the miracle happened. Camden mounted a thrilling comeback, as he won each grueling and essential point to tie and then lead 10-9. His opponent won the next point to force a longer tiebreaker. But as his opponent’s second failed return crashed into the net, Camden triumphed 12-10 to ultimately silence the home crowd with a spectacular victory. As a senior, this triumph in his final match at Blacksburg was a defining and memorable moment for both of us.”

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## PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Vinnie! This sweet boy has hopped right off the Jersey Shore and is ready to fist pump his way right into a new bro's heart! Vinnie is a 2-3 year old, neutered male, pit mix with a huge loving heart. He does wonderful with other dogs and enjoys playing side by side with his bros, he does not like cats and would be best in a cat free home. That sweet smile of his could thaw even the most frozen of hearts, and if his smile doesn't get you his cuddly nature will. Vinnie enjoys playing outside with his furry friends, going on long walks, and curling up for a good long nap.



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Home





# Habitat for Humanity home in Dublin dedicated

By DANIELLE REID  
Patriot Publishing

Home. That word invokes many different images. To one, it may be a cottage by the sea. To another, a thatched hut in an arid landscape. Or to another, a high-rise apartment with a terrace overlooking the city.

Irish novelist, Cecelia Ahern once wrote: “Home isn’t a place, it’s a feeling.” But to Kelly Elliott, “home” is more than a feeling. It’s a real place of her own with three bedrooms, a leak-proof roof, a solid foundation with a walk-out basement, a modern kitchen with energy efficient solar and gas appliances – designed and constructed to shelter her family, by volunteers who love to bless others.

Elliott volunteered with Habitat for Humanity NRV for over 130 hours, working on other projects as well as her own. “The program helps teach volunteers how to do things like paint, put up doors, install floors and siding. I really value Habitat’s dedication to helping people. I was trying to figure out how to make changes in life but still be financially independent and raise my two kids. Working with Habitat as an option was definitely life-changing for me in making a new start.”

Like others who have received a home from Habitat, Elliott plans to continue volunteering beyond the family’s move-in. “Volunteering is a super way to be connected to a community. It instills important values of giving back and service to others.”

The Elliotts’ new home, located at 5472 Stafford Drive in Dublin, was dedicated by our local Habitat for Humanity organization on Wednesday, April 17th. The dedication ceremony commemorates the completion



**A part of the Habitat for Humanity home dedication ceremony is to hand the new home owner a symbolic oversized key to display in the new home. Handing the key Kelly Elliott is Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Coordinator Brenda Sternfeld and the NRV Executive Director, James Drader. Also pictured is Elliott’s son, Jason.**

of the first Atmos Energy Corporation-sponsored Zero Net Energy home in Virginia.

By definition, an Atmos Zero Net Energy (ZNE) home is designed to produce as much energy as it consumes within a year, which results in zero energy consumption. The Stafford Drive home is equipped with high-efficiency natural gas heating, water heating, air conditioning equipment, building envelope efficiency, and rooftop photovoltaic solar technology.

According to Danny Bertotti, Atmos Vice President of Marketing, “Atmos has a long tradition of giving back to the community. The Zero Net Energy homes have a low-carbon footprint, and give people choices

of which energy sources they want in their home.”

Atmos Energy, a 100-year-old company headquartered in Dallas, TX serves eight states including Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia and employs over 4,800 people. They are the country’s largest natural gas-only distributor, serving 3 million distribution customers. The company donated complete funding for this project.

Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley built the 1,245 square foot home in partnership with Setter Construction, Pulaski County High School’s Career and Technology Education (CTE) Program, Atmos Energy Corporation and Baseline Solar Solutions of Christiansburg.

Setter Construction, headquartered in Dublin, serves the New River Valley one project at a time. Between co-owners Wesley Smith and Austin Hauslohner, they have over 30 years of experience in the construction industry.

“We provide projects with elegant craftsmanship and timeless value. We believe in fair pricing, working with our clients to give them the final results they desire, while maintaining a realistic budget,” said the co-owners.

Baseline Solar Solutions of Christiansburg Director of Sales, DeWayne Shelton and Meg Root, Baseline Sales and Marketing Specialist, were on hand for the ribbon cutting. “Baseline Solar designs, installs and services

solar energy systems to power homes and business. We believe in minimizing the environmental impact and specialize in PV (photovoltaic) system design and installation, as well as battery backup systems and EV charging stations,” they said.

Baseline Solar designed and provided the roof solar panels, and the installers for the Elliott home.

“Projects like building this home gives the trades student real-world, hands-on-experience,” explained Habitat for Humanity Executive Director, Jim Drader. Drader thanked Setter Construction for mentoring the Pulaski CTE students, adding “This project will create an efficient and affordable home for a hard-working family in Pulaski County.”

A part of Habitat for Humanity’s home dedication ceremony is to hand the new owner a symbolic oversized key that can be displayed in the new home, followed by cutting the ribbon; completing the official transfer of the home to the new owner.

During the ceremony, Christina Christiansen, Multi-Media Manager for Atmos, presented gifts of toys and books to ten-year-old Jason and seven-year-old Hazel Elliott to fill their bookshelves. Each of the children have their own room.

Drader and his associates also prayed over the new home, thanking the Lord for inspiring the hearts of those who have generously supported and volunteered on the project, and asking for them to be blessed because of their contributions.

He concluded his prayer by saying, “As we dedicate this home today, we pray it will be a place of love, joy, and security for

See HABITAT, page B7

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## Reddick

Continued From Page B5

is like an NBA playoff game, I am so ecstatic for the fans who support the sport itself. You know we’ve been working hard trying to get ourselves to compete against all the top guys in this sport. And we’ve done a heckuva job just to be where we are and for us to win and win a big race like this it means so much to me and effort the team has put in.

“I’m all in. It replaces a lot of competitiveness I had in basketball, but this is even worse because I have no control. If I was playing basketball, I’d have total control, but I have no control and live vicariously through the drivers and crew chiefs. I’m very happy for 23 eleven – 110 percent.”

Hamlin, who finished 37th after being collected in a crash, smiled upon hearing Jordan’s elation and Beau Reddicks’ cool celebration with the legend.

“Beau has no idea of the significance of that moment,” Hamlin said.

Stewart-Haas Racing’s Noah Gragson finished a career best third, followed by JTG Daugherty’s Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Hendrick Motorsports’ Alex Bowman.

Anthony Alfredo, who led four laps, finished a career best sixth place for Beard Motorsports. Hendrick Motorsports’ William Byron was seventh, followed by Front Row Motorsports’ Todd Gilliland, Spire Motorsports’ Justin Haley and the Wood Brothers’ Harrison Burton.

Despite a 20th place finish Sunday, Hendrick Motorsports’ Kyle Larson leads the NASCAR Cup Series championship standings by 16 points over Truex, who was 11th Sunday.

The NASCAR Cup Series moves to Dover (Del.) Motor Speedway for next Sunday’s Wurth 400 (2 p.m. ET, FS1, PRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Truex is the defending race winner.

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# ‘Teaching with AI’ subject of Fairlawn man’s new book

By WILLIAM PAINE  
Patriot Publishing

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the latest world-changing technology to burst into 21st Century civilization. According to one definition, AI makes it possible for computer systems to learn from experience to simulate human intelligence and problem-solving capabilities.

To what extent AI will integrate into modern society is an open question, particularly as it concerns education.

Dr. C. Edward (Eddie) Watson, a native son of Pulaski County, has recently co-authored a book on the subject entitled Teaching with AI – A Practical Guide to a New Era of Human Learning. The book is currently one of the best-selling nonfiction books on Amazon.

“We’re kind of neutral in the book about whether or not AI is a good thing or a bad thing,” said Watson. “There’s definitely opportunities and challenges for higher ed and for K through 12 education as well. It’s a challenge that’s going to force us to rethink what our curriculum contains. Do we keep technology out of the classroom entirely or do we embrace it and then help develop competencies within a specific discipline or a specific career path to be able to use it?”

Eddie Watson grew up in Fairlawn, attended local schools and graduated from Pulaski County High School in 1987. His mother Glenna is from the Hiwassee/Allisonia area and his dad Bill is from Fairlawn. His parents first met at the old Dublin High School

Eddie Watson graduated from Virginia Tech with a master’s degree in English and taught for a couple of years in the D.C. area before returning to Virginia Tech to work as an Instructional Designer at the College of Arts and Sciences. He married his wife Joan in 1995.

Watson earned his Doctorate at Virginia Tech and remained there for 15 years before landing a job as the Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Georgia, where he spent the next 5 years.

“My PhD is in Instructional Design and Technology, but I sort of moved more and more into classroom practice around how to make sure that students learn more and that they learn the things that we’re trying to teach them,” said Watson. “Then as my career path took me into leadership roles, I was then charged with how I improve the teaching practice of the entire faculty at University of Georgia.”

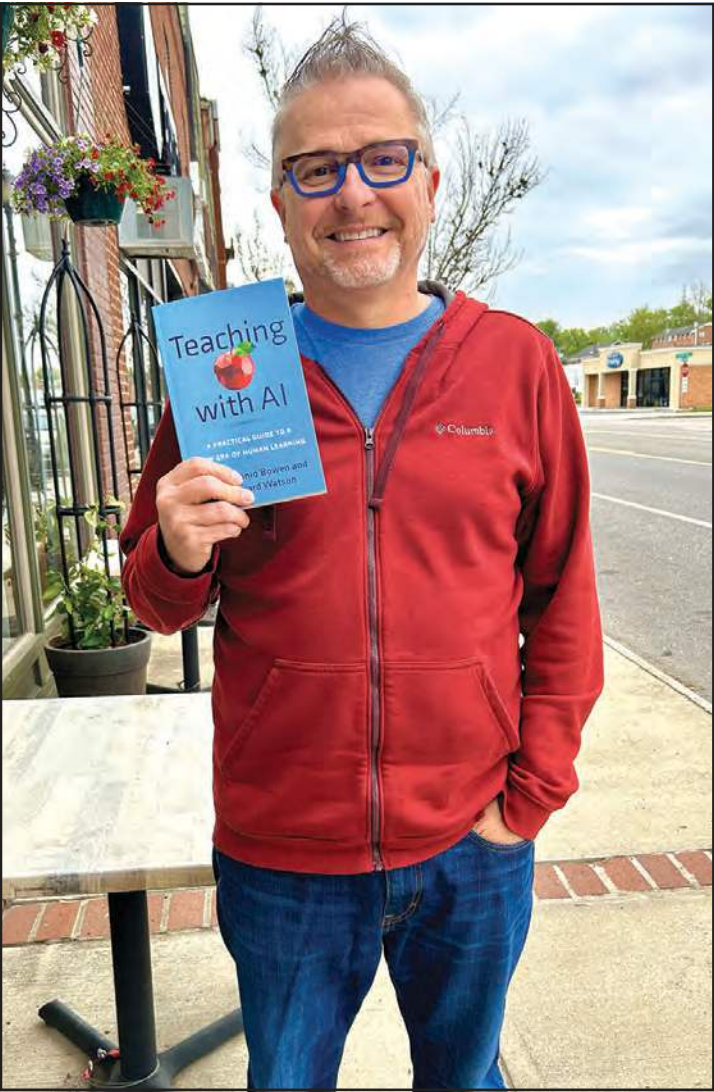
Watson currently serves as the Vice President for the American Association of Colleges and Universities, which is based in Washington D.C.

“The main focus of my work is to identify the key challenges in higher education and then find what the Association might do in terms of programming to be able to help higher-Ed meet those challenges.”

Lately, Watson has been touring the country giving lectures relating to his new book: Teaching with AI – A Practical Guide to a New Era of Human Learning.

“There’s a lot of excitement about the book,” said Watson. “I’ve been pretty much on the road for the last three weeks straight and the feedback has been astonishing. I was at the Medical University of South Carolina yesterday and then the day before that, I was at the College of New Jersey. I’m speaking at Virginia Tech on Friday. So, it’s kind of a blur. I’m going to Wayne State on Monday in Detroit to talk about the book there.”

Though thoroughly well versed in the subject today, it was Dr. Watson’s son Carter, who brought the new technology to his



William Paine/Patriot Publishing

## Dr. C. Edward Watson and his new book

attention on Thanksgiving break in 2022.

“Carter said, ‘Hey, Dad, there’s this thing called Chat GPT. I think you really want to see this,’” Watson related.

Carter asked his father what kind of assignment he might give to a college student. Watson answered that he might assign a student to write an essay and on his son’s prompting, typed some specific subjects to be covered in the essay.

“So, I’m typing that in and hit return and it writes a 1000-word paper on the topic,” Watson continued. “I’m reading the quality of the text and apparently the first words out of my mouth were, Oh, No ... because I saw this is highly problematic for higher education if AI can produce quality work.”

Watson’s response to AI’s capabilities was not uncommon among educators.

“The initial response for really all of higher education, as well as K through 12, was we have to keep this out of the classroom,” Watson continued. “We have to keep it out of the hands of the students and I think that that was a natural response. But then there’s a companion challenge that’s emerged, that if you look at the world of work, employers have rapidly moved to adopting generative AI as a tool within the work world.”

According to Watson, a recent survey showed that 93% of employers said that they expect to be using generative AI if they’re not already doing so. These same companies are having difficulty finding employees with the skills to efficiently use AI.

“So, in higher ed, the inclination is that we have to keep this out of the classroom because we want to ensure the academic integrity

of what’s going on,” said Watson.

“Then we’re also supposed to be preparing students for the real world and the real world already has an expectation that they do have skills. So, I think that this is the grand challenge. How do you ensure that students continue to learn the things that you’re teaching them, but then how do you also prepare them with those literacies around AI to be able to do the work that’s going to be expected of them upon graduation?”

When asked how AI can be a productive tool in a secondary school setting, Watson replied that teachers could use AI to produce “differentiated instruction.”

“It’s a real challenge to have a classroom of 20 or 30 students and you’ve got them at different levels,” said Watson. “AI is really good at coming up with examples and assignments and instructional paths that can help a teacher teach better to students with different levels of preparedness for whatever the content domain might be. So, you can say something like, give me 10 examples of how this historical concept is at play today. And so, it’ll give you an example from ecology and an example from politics and an example from the world of literature. So then, having this variety of examples will help you brainstorm about what you might do in the classroom.”

“The title of the book says ‘Teaching with AI’ and it’s not that you’re using it like you might build a house with a hammer but rather you’re collaborating with it,” Watson continued. “As a teacher, you make the final decision about what you do in your classroom, but as a brainstorming

partner, AI is fantastic because it can instantly give you lots of great ideas to choose from.”

Should high school students use AI in their studies?

“There’s a number of different thoughts on this,” Watson responded. “Certainly, there’s times when we want the technology out of the classroom because we don’t want students to have the technology to do the work for them, but there are an array of tools that are actually designed to help students learn.”

Watson went on to describe one particular AI tool that will record and transcribe a lecture, summarize the notes on that lecture and then create a quiz on that lecture for the student.

“So maybe there’s a quiz and you get 22 questions right and 8 questions wrong,” Watson explained. “What that tells you as a student is I know what I need to study. I missed those eight questions. I’m going to study that content and then ask it to create a new quiz for me. This can help students get to mastery of the content far quicker than just reading through the notes. I don’t think any teacher would say that’s cheating or that’s plagiarism. That’s just a good tool that helps the students learn the content.”

Watson concedes that bias is a major concern when using AI and stresses the need for “AI Literacy.”

“It’s not just about having the technical skills to be able to use the technology or know which tool to use when, but AI literacy is also being able to think through and look for issues of bias or ethical concerns,” said Watson. “Our task of writing will actually be evaluating the quality of the content looking for bias and factual errors. Because AI does have a tendency to hallucinate some things. It’s not a good critical thinker. You can ask it, ‘Why should Barbie be the mayor of Radford?’ and it’ll give you a

good argument for why Barbie should be the mayor of Radford rather than saying ‘Barbie is a fictional character.’ AI is not a good critical thinker.”

Watson argues that the act of writing itself is due to change with the influence of AI.

“Some are suggesting that the way that we currently write is going to change, and that the task of writing will no longer begin with a blank page,” he said. “I think the window is moving for many of us from writing content to editing, revising, and improving content. I think we still need to teach students to write because it’s hard to be a good editor if you’re not a good writer, but certainly, I think both skill sets are what’s now going to be needed going forward.”

“This is the first thing in my 30-year career that I feel like this is going to change things within the DNA of how we do teaching in K-12 and higher education,” said Watson. “If education wants to remain relevant, it really has to figure out how to address this challenge in important ways because really, if we don’t, private service providers like Microsoft and Amazon and Google, they’re already ginning up competitors in the education space to fill the gap if higher ed can’t.”

Dr. C. Edward Watson co-wrote Teaching with AI – A Practical Guide To A New Era Of Human Learning with President of Gaucher College, Jose Antonio Bowen. This is Watson’s fourth full length book.

Eddie Watson has two sons. Liam Watson, 24, who was recently elected to the Blacksburg Town Council and Carter Watson, 23, a graduate student in ecology at the University of Georgia. His wife, Joan, works as Director of Administrative Operations in the Department of Computer Sciences at Virginia Tech. Both currently reside in Blacksburg.

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## Habitat

Continued From Page B6

the family. May it be a sanctuary where they find rest, renewal, and a launching pad for their dreams and aspirations. We commit this house into Your hands, trusting in Your providence and grace. May Your presence dwell within these walls, guiding and protecting all who live here. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.”

For information about Habitat for Humanity NRV, please visit: <https://www.habitatnr.org/>

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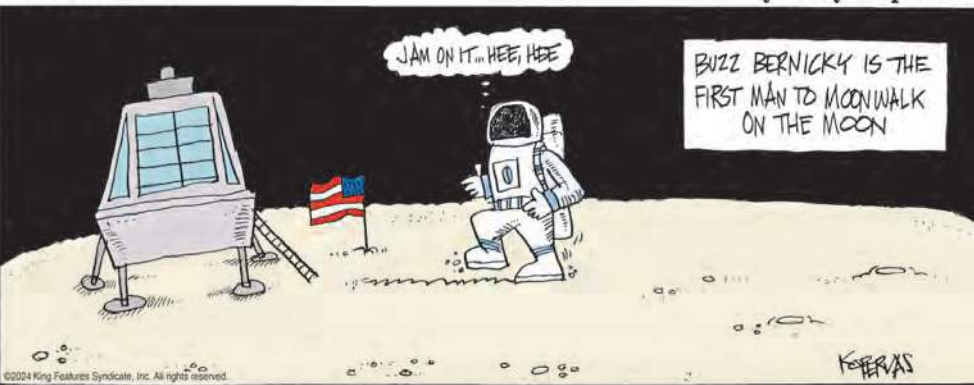
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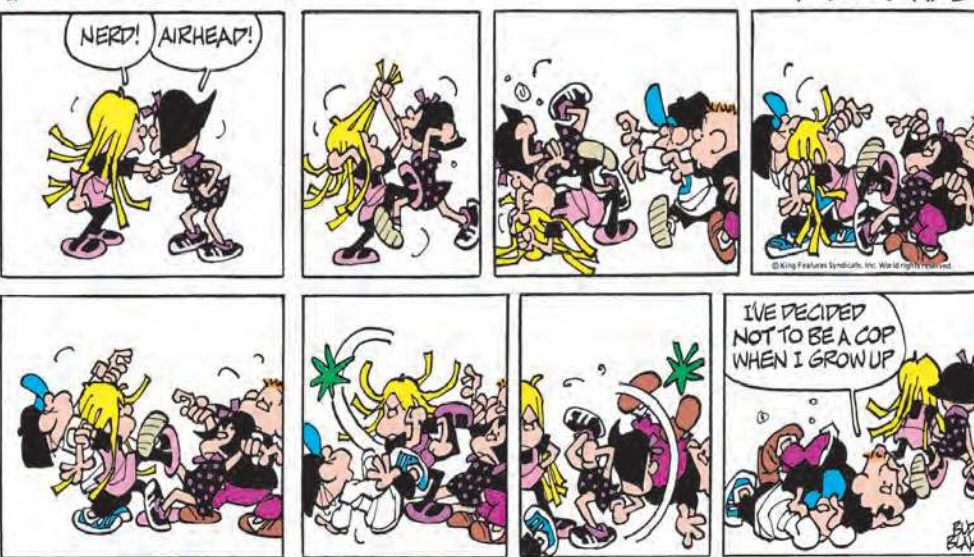
Out on a Limb



The Spats



TIGER



OLIVE



HOCUS-FOCUS



Just Like Cats & Dogs



CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: P equals W

Q N Q D O V C P X M C X G X C X R K X  
P N C Z G Y O O X F P Y L T V C L Y K O X W  
V M N D L L T X P N C O F W S V C Y N D W  
X S Y O W : P Y K Z X F - Q X F Y V .

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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!

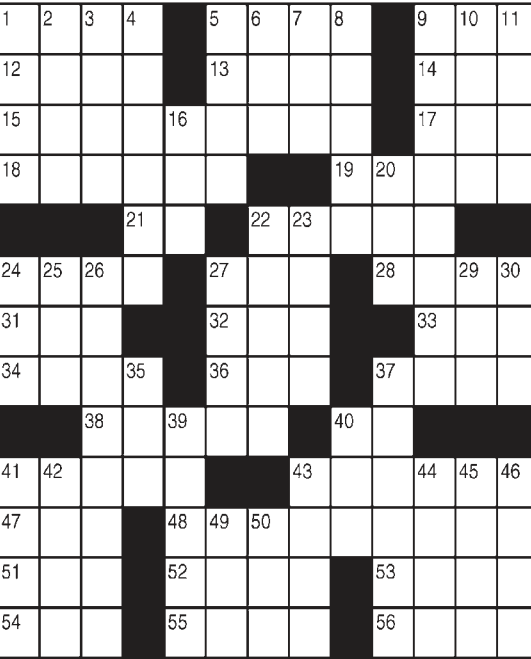
Junk CARPS  
Divide HEARS  
Lure PARENT  
Rant ATIRED

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "House" actor Omar
- 5 Nick and Nora's dog
- 9 Mountain pass
- 12 Mend socks
- 13 "— to differ!"
- 14 Flamenco cheer
- 15 Marmaduke, for one
- 17 Allow
- 18 Realm
- 19 Protuberances
- 21 French article
- 22 Filled fully
- 24 Gear teeth
- 27 Understood
- 28 Hoodwink
- 31 Scary cry
- 32 Flying saucer
- 33 Perch
- 34 Attempt
- 36 Knock
- 37 School support orgs.
- 38 Object (to)
- 40 Battery size
- 41 Ibsen's Gabler
- 43 Golfer Sorenstam
- 47 Land in la mer
- 48 Bruce Springsteen hit
- 51 JFK regulator
- 52 "Her" actress Rooney



DOWN

- 1 Rim
- 2 Italian cheese, for short
- 3 Ready, as for surgery
- 4 Slowpokes
- 5 Staffer
- 6 Govt. loan agcy.
- 7 Toe count
- 8 Representative
- 9 Pricey powder
- 10 Sheltered
- 11 Favorites
- 16 Three, in Rome
- 20 British ref. work
- 22 To date
- 23 Perched on
- 24 "NCIS" ailer
- 25 Sound of delight
- 26 Bargain
- 27 Mentor
- 29 Zadora of "Hairspray"
- 30 Roswell visitors
- 35 Slugger Williams
- 37 Bamboo eaters
- 39 Molten rock
- 40 Some
- 41 LP player
- 42 Israeli airline
- 43 Basra resident
- 44 Shakespeare villain
- 45 Actress Sedgwick
- 46 Pronto
- 49 — -di-dah
- 50 Mouths (Lat.)

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top ten

NFL Teams With Most Super Bowl Wins

- 1/2 New England Patriots, 6 Pittsburgh Steelers, 6
- 3/4 San Francisco 49ers, 5 Dallas Cowboys, 5
- 5/6 Kansas City Chiefs, 4 Green Bay Packers, 4 New York Giants, 4
- 8/9 Denver Broncos, 3 L.A./Oakland Raiders, 3 Washington Commanders, 3

Source: ProFootballNetwork.com

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WORD LADDERS

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

PRIMA

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TRIBE

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Trivia test

- 1. LITERATURE: What are the names of the four sisters in "Little Women"?
- 2. U.S. STATES: Which northeastern state has a desert?
- 3. MOVIES: Which long-running movie series features the character Legolas?
- 4. ANATOMY: What does the lacrimal gland produce?
- 5. GEOGRAPHY: Ellesmere Island belongs to which nation?
- 6. SCIENCE: Which of the human senses is most closely related to memory?
- 7. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "ad meliora" mean?
- 8. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom features a mom named Rainbow Johnson?
- 9. THEATER: Who wrote the play "A Little Night Music"?
- 10. MUSIC: Which alternative rock band went by the name of The Warlocks before becoming famous?

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- 10. The Grateful Dead.
- 9. Stephen Sondheim.
- 8. "Black-ish."
- 7. "Toward better things."
- 6. Smell.
- 5. Canada.
- 4. Tears.
- 3. "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" trilogies.
- 2. The 40-acre Desert of Maine.
- 1. Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy.

Answers

SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

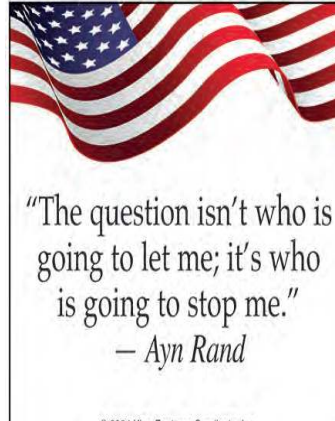
1. Scrap; 2. Share; 3. Entrap; 4. Trade

PRIMA, PRIME, PRIDE, BRIDE, BRIE, TRIBE

Answer

WORD LADDER

Americanisms



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Popular web reference work filled with articles about the world's various evils: Wicked-pedia.

answer

Cryptoquip

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword







# PULASKI COUNTY PULSE

April 29

**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 level and use elevator to 2nd floor.

April 27

**Sifford Cemetery Cleanup Day**  
Sifford Cemetery Cleanup Day is

scheduled for Saturday, April 27 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed to clear brush, tree limbs and debris.

**Annual Spring Cleanup**  
Friends of Peak Creek Annual Spring Cleanup is Saturday, April 27 from 10 AM - 1 PM. We will meet at 41 NE First Street (parking lot behind the Senior Center). All equipment will be provided. Please wear appropriate clothing. Snacks, water, and lunch will be provided. Email info@friendsofpeakcreek.org for more information.

May 10

**Yard Sale**  
The Ladies Of Thornsprng United Methodist Church, 5670 Thornsprng Church Rd., will be having a yard sale, Friday May 10th from 8 am-2 pm. On Saturday, May 11th only there will also be a bake sale, hot dog sale, pinto beans and cornbread sale. From 8 am-2 pm rain or shine. More new items. Everyone is welcome.

**On going:**

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

**Ballroom Dancing**  
Ballroom Dance every first Saturday of the month at the

Carroll County Virginia Senior Center @ 7pm. Find us on Facebook @ Ballroom Dance in Hillsville.

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

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

**Lifestyles Changes**  
If you are currently trying to lose weight, we may have what

you need. Contact Bill Brewer at 540-813-1605.

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

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

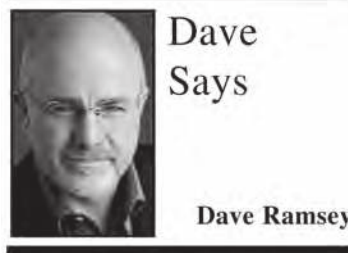
**Email Your Notice To**  
[pulaski@pcpatriot.com](mailto:pulaski@pcpatriot.com)

## The Walking Debt

**Dear Dave,**  
A few years ago, I had a real problem with credit card debt. Since then, I've gotten much better at handling my money, and I'm making about \$80,000 a year. Two weeks ago, I received a letter about a credit card I had in 2020. The amount owed is \$7,688. The letter doesn't say I'm being sued, but it says I have to appear before a judge in two months for a pretrial conference. I live in Florida, and I've never heard of anything like this. I only have \$1,000 in savings.

**Damari**

**Dear Damari,**  
I'm glad to hear you're handling your finances better now than you did in the past. But at this point, you're learning that old debts don't necessarily die, aren't you? Ignoring debts isn't a good plan, because many times they come back to life like a zombie and come looking for you.  
I'm not an expert on Florida law, but a pretrial conference in a case like this—over a \$7,688 credit card bill—is highly unusual. I've been helping people with money problems for 30 years, and I've never heard of anything like this. It could be some kind of new tactic the collections attorney is using to try to intimidate you.  
If I were in your shoes, I'd call the attorney who's suing you and try to negotiate a payment plan or settlement. Do you have anything you can sell? Because I've got a feeling if you can come up with \$3,000 or so and offer it as payment in full, they'll take it. I don't mean to be unkind, but these guys figure you're a deadbeat because you've got a 5-year-old debt hanging over your



Dave Says

Dave Ramsey

head and haven't tried to pay it. They'll take almost anything they can get at this point.  
In general, when you go to court over a situation like this, you're going to lose. You have a legal debt, and you haven't paid it. It's that simple. So, if you don't have anything to sell to make some money that way, you need to get busy working an extra job or two. I'm talking about doing Door Dash or something—in the morning before work or in the evening after work. Kiss those weekends goodbye too. Just go nuts for a few weeks, and make a bunch of extra money fast.  
It won't be easy, and you're going to be dog-tired for a while. But you can scrape together \$3,000–4,000 before June easily if you'll just put your head down and make it happen. Then, offer it up to the attorney. Demand a written release, with the debt declared settled and paid in full, and chances are, this thing will be off your back!  
— Dave  
\* Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show," the second-largest syndicated talk radio show. He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS Mornings," "Today," Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and

## First Cruise-In of the season at Citizens

Floyd, VA -- Time to polish up your classic and muscle cars and trucks for the first Cruise-In of the season at Citizens Telephone Cooperative. The event will be held on Saturday, June 8th from 4 pm to 6 pm at 220 Webbs Mill Road in Floyd. There is no entry fee and there will be food available for purchase.  
The public is invited to join car enthusiasts from all over the New River Valley. Last year there were over 100 different makes and models. "Citizens is happy to offer our parking lot to the public to hold this event. We are all about connections and we enjoy connecting with the community at local events like this," stated Tina Osborne, Events Coordinator for Citizens.

Citizens plans to open their parking lot for several more this year. The dates set are: Saturday, June 8th, 4 pm to 6 pm, Friday, July 26th, 6 pm to 8 pm Saturday, September 28th, 4 pm to 6 pm.  
For more information, visit [www.citizens.coop](http://www.citizens.coop) or call 540.745.2111.  
Citizens is a member-owned Cooperative providing telephone, Internet, and TV to Floyd County and surrounding communities for over 110 years. Citizens also offers symmetrical Ethernet and hosted phone service for businesses.  
Citizens is located at 220 Webbs Mill Road in Floyd. Lobby hours are 8 am - 5 pm Monday - Friday; and 9 am - 12 pm on Saturday.



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**Open Monday - Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.**

**We appreciate your business!**

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**Route 11 - Dublin**

## General Assembly fails to overturn any of Youngkin's vetoes

By Morgan Sweeney

(The Center Square) — The Virginia General Assembly was unable to secure a 2/3 majority needed to overturn any of the governor's vetoes during its reconvened session but was able to push back on some of Gov. Glenn Youngkin's amendments, rejecting about half of them — including his amendments to the proposed budget.  
A speech from the House of Delegates majority leader kicking off the reconvened session and impugning the governor's budget amendments made it seem like both chambers might have a long and contentious day ahead. But Del. Charniele Herring, D-Alexandria, finished on a gentler note, saying party leaders reached a sort of compromise with the governor that morning.  
"The governor did sit down with us today, this morning. He expressed a way to work together," Herring said. "We look forward, on this side of the aisle of the chamber, to working to find a way forward with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle."  
From what followed, it appeared the compromise involved the Assembly rejecting Youngkin's amendments and returning to the drawing board over the next several weeks.  
Minority Leader Del. Todd Gilbert, R-Shenandoah, urged his

party to join Democrats in ruling the governor's amendments "not specific and severable," "not necessarily because of anything other than we have to find a clean way forward to dispatch this bill."  
That same day, the governor issued two statements underscoring his commitment to working with General Assembly budget conferees and delivering a budget on time — along with a call for a special session on May 15. The budget is anticipated to be finished for the Assembly's review by May 13 so the body can vote on it two days later.  
Sen. Jennifer Boysko, D-Fairfax, shared with The Center Square high-priority areas that the governor will likely have to cede more ground to appease the majority party.  
"We will be working together in Richmond over the next few weeks to find consensus on the budget," Boysko said. "Obviously, at top of mind will be education, transportation and health and human services funding while assuring that we maintain our excellent AAA bond rating."  
Senate Minority Leader Ryan McDougle, R-Hanover, alluded to new information that may factor into revived budget negotiations.  
"Budget conferees are having conversations, and there's a lot of additional information that

is being collected and reviewed as we go through that process," McDougle told The Center Square. "I think some of the things that are included are the revenue numbers that were released last week."  
The governor announced March general fund revenues on Tuesday, the day before the reconvened session, with year-to-date collections up 6.2% compared to last year.  
"Strong employment growth continues to drive consistent outperformance versus our prudent near-term and long-term forecasts," Youngkin said in a statement. "As the majority of Virginians complete their state tax filings by May 1, we'll have stronger confidence in the fourth quarter outlook by May 15. That being said, March's solid results provide stable ground for us to work together to land a budget that meets our collective goals."  
Last year's budget negotiations dragged on past the end of the fiscal year in June to September.  
At this point, conversations are "very collegial and positive," McDougle said.



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