

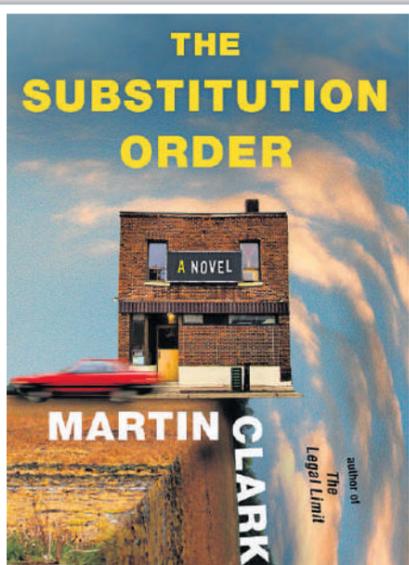
**D2**  
 » Sharon Randall  
 » Scott Hollifield  
 » For the Birds  
 by Bryan Stevens

**D3**  
 » Crossword  
 » Sudoku  
 » Sense & Sensitivity  
 » Horoscope

**D4**  
 » On the Record  
 » Student News  
**D5**  
 » Best-sellers

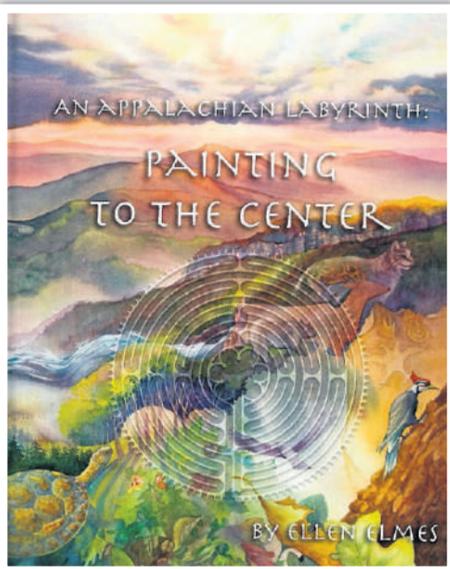
**JAN. 12**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



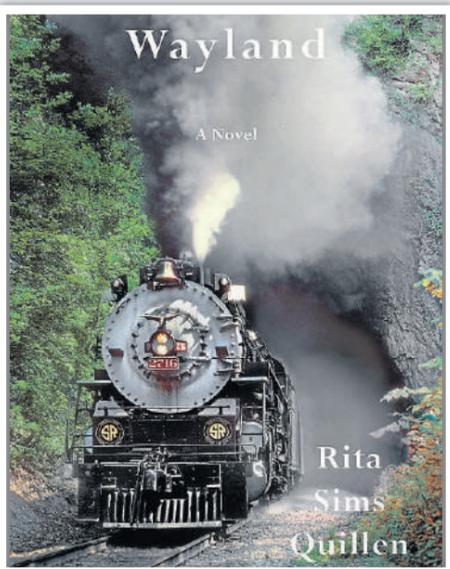
**WHO:** Martin Clark  
**AUTHOR OF:** "The Substitution Order"

**JAN. 26**



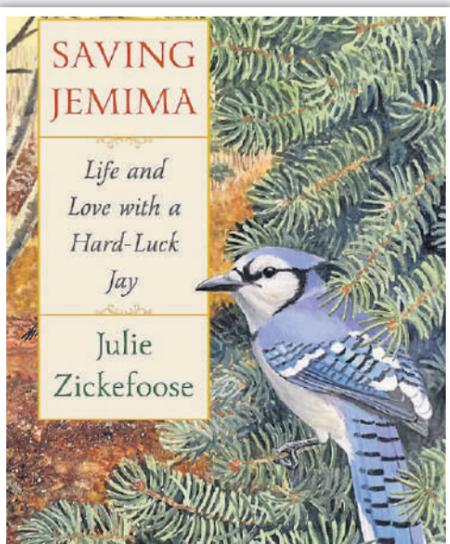
**WHO:** Ellen Elmes  
**AUTHOR OF:** "An Appalachian Labyrinth: Painting to the Center"

**FEB. 16**



**WHO:** Rita Quillen  
**AUTHOR OF:** "Wayland"

**MARCH 29**



**WHO:** Julie Zickefoose  
**AUTHOR OF:** "Saving Jemima: Life and Love with a Hard-Luck Jay"

**MARCH 1**

**WHO:** Quinn Hawkesworth  
**PRESENTING:** "Fred Chappell: The Man Who Came to Dinner" (Chappell is a novelist and poet, was the North Carolina poet laureate.)

**WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

'SUNDAY WITH FRIENDS' SERIES KICKS OFF NEXT WEEKEND

ABINGDON, Va. — Come hear Martin Clark. The attorney is slated to be featured as the first "Sunday with Friends" event of 2020 at the Washington County Public Library in Abingdon on Jan. 12 at 3 p.m.

Clark leads off this year's "Sunday with Friends" literary series, now in its 21st year. This popular series brings leading regional and national writers to the Abingdon area. Later this year, you'll find Ellen Elmes, Lee Smith, Rita Quillen and Gary Powers among the other authors featured at "Sunday with Friends."

The lively Clark is the author of "The Substitution Order," his fifth legal thriller with a Virginia setting.

In this work, the character of Kevin Moore is a high-flying attorney who hits rock-bottom after an inexplicably tumultuous summer leaves him disbarred and separated from his wife.

Still, Moore is determined to set his life right again, but the troubles keep coming.

When a bizarre, mysterious stranger threatens Moore with an "invitation" to join a multi-million-dollar scam, Moore finds that he needs every bit of savvy, using all the law's tricks and hidden trapdoors — just to stay out of prison.

Look for book sales and signings after Clark's appearance. For more, call 276-676-6390.

[jtennis@bristolnews.com](mailto:jtennis@bristolnews.com) | 276-791-0709 | @BHC\_Tennis

### A LOOK AT THE REST OF THE EVENTS IN THE SERIES

After the Washington County Public Library's "Sunday with Friends" series kicks off Jan. 12 with author Martin Clark, the library has events slated through June.

Ellen Elmes will be the visiting writer on Jan. 26. Elmes, one of western Virginia's leading artists, has published a book about her 50-year life in art, "An Appalachian Labyrinth: Painting to the Center." Elmes will give an illustrated lecture on her career, beginning in the 1960s, focused on her paintings and on the 20 community murals, on both indoor and outdoor walls, that she has created.

Scott County novelist Rita Quillen will be showcased on Feb. 16. She is the author of "Wayland," a thriller about a couple who have married in mid-life and have a beautiful daughter. Their blissful life is interrupted by their naïvely taking in a hobo wanderer, Buddy Newman, who suddenly finds that this family has everything he needs, especially the most beautiful little girl he has ever seen.

Abingdon actress and fiber artist Quinn Hawkesworth will present "Fred Chappell: The Man Who Came to Dinner" on March 1. She will present selections from the North Carolina poet and novelist. Chappell taught creative writing at UNC-Greensboro for 40 years and for many years was the North Carolina poet laureate.

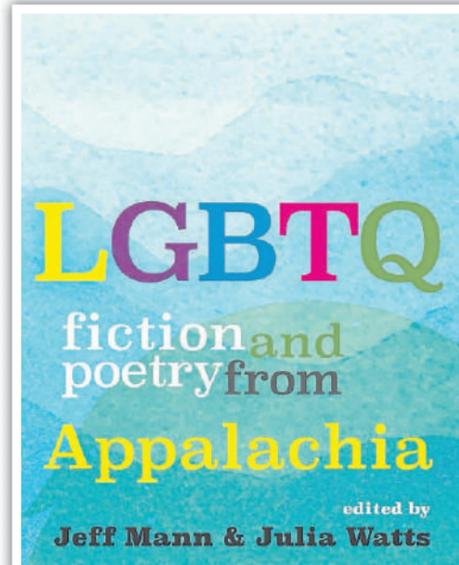
On March 29, attendees can meet Julie Zickefoose, an acclaimed nature writer, wildlife rehabilitator, and wildlife illustrator, discussing her new book, "Saving Jemima: Life and Love with a Hard-Luck Jay." Jemima was a young, orphaned blue jay who was brought to Zickefoose. Starved and very sick, Jemima thrives under her care, eventually taking over the house and the rest of the author's summer as she gains strength to be released into the wild. Zickefoose is known for in many other books and in her commentary on NPR's "All Things Considered."

See **SERIES**, Page D5

**ALL EVENTS START AT 3 P.M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY VIRGINIA PUBLIC LIBRARY IN ABINGDON**

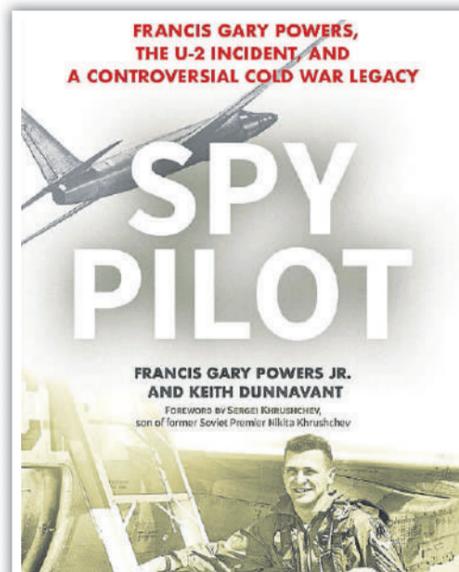
There will be book sales and signings after each of the events. For more information, call 276-676-6390.

**APRIL 5**



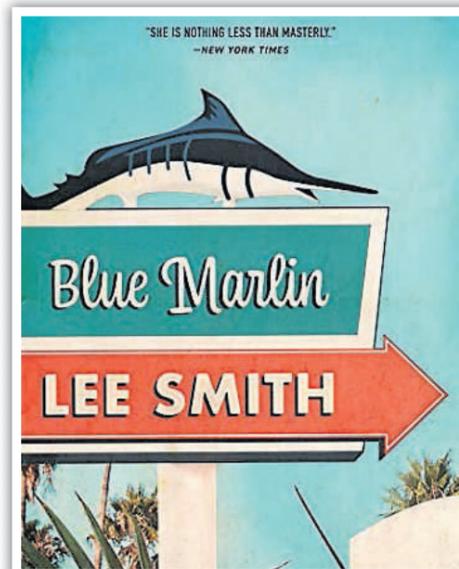
**WHO:** Jeff Mann  
**CO-EDITOR OF:** "LGBTQ: Fiction and Poetry from Appalachia"

**APRIL 19**



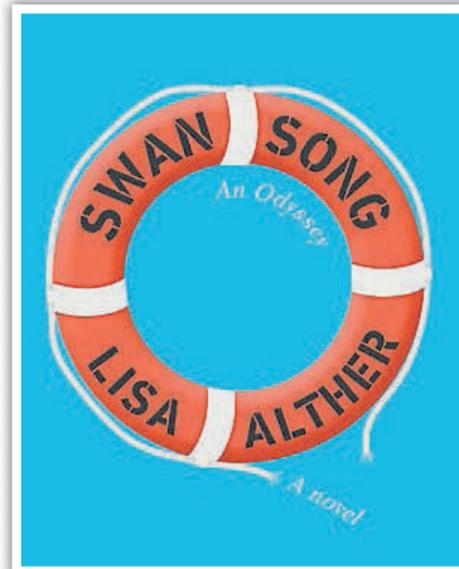
**WHO:** Francis Gary Powers Jr.  
**AUTHOR OF:** "Spy Pilot"

**MAY 17**



**WHO:** Lee Smith  
**AUTHOR OF:** "Blue Marlin"

**JUNE 14**



**WHO:** Lisa Alther  
**AUTHOR OF:** "Swan Song"

#35

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## MOUNTAIN EMPIRE COMICS

# COMIC SHOP IN ITS 35TH YEAR

BY TOM NETHERLAND | SPECIAL TO THE HERALD COURIER

**B**RISTOL, Tenn. — Whenever Robert Pilk opens his 6th Street location of Mountain Empire Comics, it's a beautiful day in the neighborhood. "It is for a lot of people," said Pilk. "We're a destination. It's not like going to the grocery store or to pay your light bill. This is a place where people want to come. We'll ask about your dog, about your family. I love these people. I do care."

Pilk, Bristol's Mister Rogers, recently

marked 35 years of Mountain Empire Comics.

"Gosh, it's been so fast," Pilk, 66, said. "I can't imagine doing anything else."

Neither can anyone else who knows the mild-mannered entrepreneur. Customers can find Pilk stationed behind the counter, gifting them a smile and words of warmth as they enter the store.

See **COMIC**, Page D6

PHOTO BY TOM NETHERLAND/  
SPECIAL TO THE BHC

"I can't imagine doing anything else," said Robert Pilk, co-founder and co-owner of Mountain Empire Comics. Reading on the job is an occupational perk for Pilk.



## Book delves into women's suffrage movement in Va.

This year marks a century since women won the right to vote in Virginia. And, in a 208-page paperback, editors Brent Tarter and Marianne E. Julienne detail "The Campaign for Woman Suffrage in Virginia" (The History Press, 2020, \$23.99).

The book has been published as part of The History Press' American Heritage series and as the Library of Virginia's Dictionary of Virginia Biography project. Barbara C. Batson, in turn, serves as exhibitions coordinator at the Library of Virginia, in conjunction with the book's publication.



Joe Tennis

Tennis Anyone?

Loaded with 71 images, the book explores — what is now so incredulous — how Virginia's General Assembly refused to ratify the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution to grant women the vote in 1920.

That means Virginia's suffragists lost their campaign.

Yet they would not be completely defeated. In time, as the 36th state ratified the amendment, women gained voting rights across the nation.

Never mind the decision of the Virginia General Assembly!

This means, in short, Virginia suffragists actually became part of the nationwide victory.

As you may have guessed, their role has been nearly forgotten.

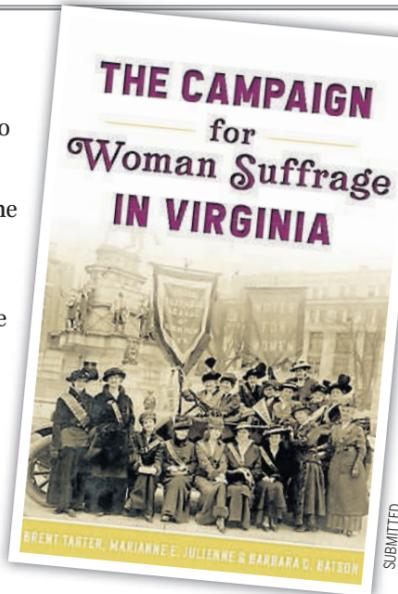
Which is why a book like this proves so important.

This publication details how the suffragists marched in parades, rallied at the state capitol, spoke to crowds on street corners, staffed booths at fairs and lobbied legislators.

The suffragists also picketed the White House and even went to jail.

"The Campaign for Woman Suffrage in Virginia" also unfolds the story of how women created two statewide organizations in the campaign to win the right to vote — even if that win came indirectly.

jtennis@bristolnews.com  
276-791-0709 | @BHC\_Tennis



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**THE BEATLES**



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# TASTE TEST

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

With the recent release of plant-based burgers at restaurants chains, the Bristol Herald Courier performed a blind taste test of veggie burgers from four area restaurants: Burger King, Cootie Brown's, Hardee's and Quaker Steak & Lube. Folks who tried the burgers didn't know where the burgers came from and were asked to give comments and a rating out of five stars. The only thing they were told is that they are not meat burgers.

Below are the burgers, a brief description, cost, comments and average rating of each burger.

## BURGER KING



Average rating (out of 5 stars): 3.7 stars

### COMES WITH

Tomato, pickles, onions, lettuce, mayo

### COST

\$13.11 (four burgers)

### COMMENTS

"Appealing appearance. Tastes like a meat burger. Would eat again." **4 stars**

"It was yummy but not amazing. Similar taste and texture to a burger."

**3.5-4 stars**

"I could hardly tell this was not a meat burger." **5 stars**

"Best tasting. Nice appearance. Good bun. Tastes less like veggie than others."

**4 stars**

"Texture is similar to beef. I like how it tastes with mayo and tomato." **4 stars**

"Tastes OK. Lots of mayonnaise. Bun OK." **3 stars**

"Tastes like a Burger King burger. Feels like a Burger King burger." **2.5 stars**

"Texture is similar to sausage. Taste is lacking." **2 stars**

"Best patty. Great, smoky flavor, good body and texture." **5 stars**

**COVID-19 note:** Drive-thru is open. Dine-in not available.

## HARDEE'S



Average rating (out of 5 stars): 2.4 stars

### COMES WITH

Ketchup, mustard, lettuce, tomato, onion

### COST

\$26.91 (four burgers)

### COMMENTS

"OK appearance. Vaguely meat-like taste but underwhelming. Nope." **0 stars**

"Good patty. Meat-like texture and flavor." **4 stars**

"Bun is a little dry, not easy to swallow. Burger tastes OK." **3 stars**

"Decent. Lots of mayo. Still tastes like veggie burger." **3 stars**

"Pretty tasteless. Too much onion." **1 star**

"Kind of bland. Also didn't like the pink color, looks like undercooked ground beef." **2 stars**

**2 stars**

"I like the bun on this burger. Otherwise, it's bland." **2 stars**

"Probably best flavor of the four samples, but that isn't saying much. Looks like beef." **2 stars**

**2 stars**

"Texture is acceptable. Tastes like meat." **3 stars**

"This one was decent." **4 stars**

**COVID-19 note:** Drive-thru is open. Dine-in not available.

## COOTIE BROWN'S



Average rating (out of 5 stars): 3 stars

### COMES WITH

Lettuce, cheese; sour cream, pico de gallo on the side

### COST

\$43.48 (for four burgers, includes spiral chips)

### COMMENTS

"Appealing appearance. ... Good seasoning. Definitely eat again." **5 stars**

"Patty lacks texture, falls apart. Nice spiciness, good bun. More like hummus."

**3 stars**

"Spicy aftertaste. Too much lettuce. Bread healthy but not really tasty." **2-3 stars**

"Very meat-like. Good flavor. Falls apart easily." **4 stars**

"Different appearance. Doesn't look like fast food. Taste like black beans. No! Mushy!" **1.5 stars**

"Very pretty. Nice preparation. Like the spiciness. Feels too mushy, though. Would have liked a sauce on it." **3 stars**

**3 stars**

"Does not have the consistency of a burger. It has some spicy flavoring." **2 stars**

"Tastes like beans. Soft, mashed potato-like texture." **3.5 stars**

"Nice presentation. But lack of taste is obstructed by spiciness. And it falls apart." **2 stars**

**2 stars**

"Definitely a different texture, but it's a good sandwich." **4 stars**

**COVID-19 note:** Offering curbside pickup and carryout

## QUAKER STEAK & LUBE



Average rating (out of 5 stars): 2.1 stars

### COMES WITH

Pickles, lettuce, tomato, onion

### COST

\$60.60 (four burgers, includes fries)

### COMMENTS

"Underwhelming appearance. Underwhelming taste. Nope." **0 stars**

"Patty a bit bland but OK texture." **2 stars**

"Hard bun. Meat is OK. Tastes OK." **3 stars**

"Bland. Bun was good. 'Meat' was tasteless." **1 star**

"Pretty good. Sweet taste. Still taste like veggie burger." **3.5 stars**

"Very bland. Didn't have good sauce on it. Also too mushy for my taste."

**2 stars**

"Tastes sweet for some reason. Not sure if it's the meat, bun or some other component." **3 stars**

**3 stars**

"Zero flavor. Looks like a burger, but looks are deceiving." **1 star**

"Patty falls apart easily. Texture is fine. Has meat-like aftertaste but doesn't taste like meat initially." **3.5 stars**

**3.5 stars**

**COVID-19 note:** Offering delivery, carryout and curbside pick-up. Dine-in not available