

The Charlotte Gazette

DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY - FIRST, LAST AND ALWAYS

50 cents

Vol. 148 - Number 23

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Drakes Branch, Virginia

County thaws, helps neighbors



Power crews have been working for several days to restore power to Charlotte County following a weekend ice storm that left 97% of the county in the dark. Photo courtesy of Gleaning for the World.

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

Thousands in Charlotte County were left in the dark after ice coated trees and power lines snapped throughout Southside Virginia following a weekend winter storm.

On Monday, Feb. 15, while 5,000 Charlotte County residents dealt with power outages, county officials and local fire departments were working to help those in need.

The Department of Social Services, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, the American Red Cross, God's Pit Crew and Gleaning for the World were all utilized.

Each of the county's seven fire departments received food, water and blankets for citizens while the departments served as warming and

charging stations.

"If you're hungry, we'll feed you; if you're cold, come warm up," Charlotte County Fire and Rescue President and Phenix Fire Chief Walt Bailey said.

Area electric companies are expected to have a portion of the county's power restored early in the week, but Bailey said with the number of fallen trees and power lines he has seen, he feels it could be longer. Citizens may continue to need assistance later into the week and possibly the weekend.

On Monday, Bailey said close to 60 citizens had come into the Phenix Fire Department to pick up food, water, blankets, get warm, take showers, or simply charge mobile devices.

Other departments around the county were seeing citizens utilize

(See **HELPS**, Page 10)

Emergency assistance for residents following storm

The Charlotte County Administration has been working since early Monday morning, Feb. 15 to coordinate with multiple agencies and has released the following information to assist residents following the ice storm over the weekend.

All fire stations are open to dispense water — bring your own containers.

Only Keysville and Phenix fire sta-

tions are open as warming stations.

Bottled water was delivered by God's Pit Crew to the Charlotte Court House fire station and will be delivered to the other stations from there. They are also delivering Gatorade and protein bars.

Charlotte County Schools has

(See **ASSISTANCE**, Page 2)

CCPS suspends virtual learning for week

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

Charlotte County Public School (CCPS) Superintendent Robbie Mason announced Tuesday, Feb. 16, that he was suspending virtual learning for the remainder of the week.

"Due to the power out-

ages and other hardships created by the storm, I am suspending remote learning for this week," Mason said. "We will be monitoring power outages at our schools and power outage rates in our community to determine if schools will be open for in-person instruction each day this week."

Mason's announcement comes just as the county is still struggling with thousands of citizens left without power following a weekend ice storm.

As of Tuesday, Feb. 16, 4,900 residents were without power.

(See **CCPS**, Page 2)

Family loses home to fire

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

A family of three has lost their home following a Monday night, Feb. 15, house fire that left the home a total loss, according to Phenix Volunteer Fire Department Chief Walt Bailey.

Four fire departments were dispatched to the home located on 815 Robin Road, Brookneal, shortly after midnight.

Bailey said one of the occupants awoke to fire and smoke in the home and was able to get the other two individuals out safely.



Firefighters from four departments responded to a house fire Monday evening, Feb. 15.

According to Bailey, the fire started in the attic. Heavy smoke and fire were showing when crews arrived on scene.

No injuries were reported.

The American Red Cross is assisting the family.

Fire departments from Brookneal, Gladys, Red House and Phenix responded to the call.



Power lines and trees block the roadway on Sunnyside Road in Drakes Branch Saturday during a major ice storm that has caused power outages in the area.

Thousands left without power

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

A major ice storm over the weekend froze most of Southside Virginia, including Charlotte County, leaving an accumulation of ice on trees and downed power lines leaving more than 5,000 without power.

Tuesday morning, Feb. 15, 71% of Charlotte County residents remained without electricity while crews from Southside Electric, Mecklenburg Electric and Dominion Energy worked to restore 4,900 customers.

County Administrator Dan Witt said Sunday evening, Feb. 14, he had been coordinating with the Department of Social Services, Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Red Cross.

Witt said the Red Cross would let county officials know what food and water supplies they have to offer.

According to the county's CodeRed system, which citizens can enroll in to alert them of weather issues, each county's seven fire departments have been set up as warming and charging stations.

At 7:40 a.m. Monday, Southside Electric was reporting 40,087 members without power from the ice storm.

Director of Community Relations Lloyd Lenhart said about 70 percent of the system had been affected by the powerful winter storm.

"Reports showed 154 broken poles, 125 broken cross arms, and 221 reports of wire down," Lenhart said.

Mecklenburg Electric crews are continually assessing the widespread damage in their service area and, as of Monday morning, were reporting 80 broken poles with 9,285

(See **POWER**, Page 2)

High school sports set to kick off

Page 6

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A community in action

Walt Bailey, president of the Charlotte County Fire and Rescue Association, posted a need for help on his Facebook page Tuesday, Feb. 15, seeking help to repair a roof due to a fallen tree. The tree had fallen on an elderly woman's home, leaving a hole in the roof, exposing her home to rainfall and cold temperatures. Within hours volunteers showed up to clear debris and repair the roof.

HELPS: 'If you're hungry, we'll feed you'

FROM PAGE ONE

services as well.

Bailey said some departments were going door to door, checking on citizens and making house calls to those in need.

"We had one individual that called the rescue squad and wanted to go to the hospital because he said he was freezing," Bailey said. "We brought him here to the department and got him warm and fed."

Gwendolyn Pillow, who was going on day three without power on Tuesday morning, Feb. 16, said she has only a small gas log fireplace in her dining room to heat the whole house.

"It's cold, but I'm snuggled up in bed to stay warm," Pillow said. "I ventured out Monday and grabbed breakfast at Robbie's Service Center. He has a generator and hot coffee and hot bacon and egg sandwiches, which were delicious. I'm reading a lot. My Bible has been my comfort during this storm and power outage."

Red House Fire Chief Chad Reeves said his department has had several citizens come by to pick up food and water,



Gleaning for the World dropped off water, food and blankets on Tuesday, Feb. 16, in Charlotte Court House to be distributed to citizens.

but most of his firefighters have been out helping cut trees and clear debris as well as answer other emergency calls. "I think we've had over 30 calls in the past few days," Reeves said.

God's Pit Crew, a Danville-based relief organization, dispatched its immediate response team to the county with 12 pallets of water and will help in the coming weeks by clearing fallen trees and removing debris.

Gleaning for the World based in Concord delivered blankets, Gatorade, protein shakes and water to the area on Tuesday morning, Feb. 15.

In addition to community organizations, many businesses and

churches in the county have also responded to the need for help.

Anita's Homestyle Cooking in Drakes Branch gave out free meals to citizens on Monday while the Village Drive Inn in Charlotte Court House was providing free meals to fire, EMS and linemen.

King Street Church in Keysville distributed food boxes while other churches like Tabernacle Baptist Church in Drakes Branch opened their doors to provide warmth, Wi-Fi and a place to cook a meal.

Just as the community is recovering, the area is preparing for another round of winter precipitation expected to hit on Wednesday evening into Thursday.



God's Pit Crew delivered 12 pallets of water and protein bars on Monday, Feb. 15, to help citizens in need left without power.

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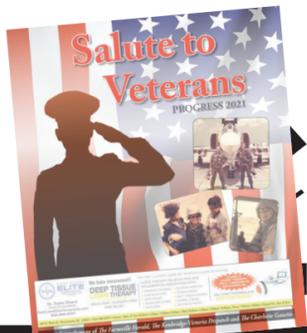
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PROGRESS: Local veterans tell their stories **INSIDE**

Charlotte Gazette

THE BEST INTERESTS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY - FIRST, LAST AND ALWAYS

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Vol. 148 - Number 24

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Drakes Branch, Virginia

Citizens frustrated over power outages

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

Ten days without electricity has left citizens with spoiled food and no heat. Fuel levels are running low, and emotions are running high.

Charlotte County residents have been dealing with outages stemming from a Valentine's weekend storm that left thousands without power for more than a week.

Beth Ann Jackson, who has been helping with food and water distribution at the Keysville Volunteer Fire Department, said people are tired and worried.

"We have seen a lot of dreary faces that are exhausted from refilling

water jugs," Jackson said. "We've had many come in needing food because of loss from their refrigerators. They're worried about when their lights will be on. We've had some come in needing just warmth for a few hours."

Jackson said people are trying to remain as positive as possible.

"Many will smile when you ask how they are and say smiling is all they can do," she said.

For Lisa Fortune, she and her family found themselves in the cold and dark as well. On day seven of the power outage, Fortune commented on Facebook.

"We have no kerosene, no generator. We have candles and blankets,"

she said. "We have lost all food. I pray all the linemen will be able to restore power soon. We're so tired of being cold."

Thankfully, with the help of Phoenix Fire Chief Walt Bailey and other members of the community, a kerosene heater was located for Fortune.

Leticia Walker said trying to feed three teenagers and take care of a young adult with heart disease was no easy task after losing all of their food and having nowhere to cook.

"Having to buy kerosene and staying at a motel for \$80 a night plus buying breakfast, lunch and dinner for the last seven days is expensive,"

(See **POWER**, Page 3)



Photo courtesy of Beth Ann Jackson
Alexis Jackson helps a citizen fill a water jug at the Keysville Volunteer Fire Department.



Photo by Titus Mohler

Some food to go from the governor

Gov. Ralph Northam hands out a meal to a resident Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 23, in front of the Charlotte Court House Town Office. Northam made several stops in Charlotte County Tuesday, including at the town office where disaster relief volunteers were headquartered from American Red Cross Disaster Relief and Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Disaster Relief.

Northam tours farm

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam toured a Charlotte County farm Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 23, to see first-hand how Archlynn Farm owners are utilizing the latest technology to increase production.

The tour followed Gov. Northam's announcement that Charlotte County would receive a \$20,000 grant from the governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) Fund Planning Grant program to support local agriculture initiatives.

Archlynn Farm, located on Hill Cross Road in Charlotte Court House, is family-owned and operated by Michael and Amy Carwile.

With 35 years of experience, the Carwile's have diversified and use high tunnel houses to supply the community with a variety of year-round produce and cut flowers.

High tunnel farming allows growers to increase the production of certain crops, grow some crops that could not otherwise be produced in their area, and extend the growing season for certain crops.

During the tour, members of the Southside Virginia Fruit and Vegetable Producers Association (SVFVPA)

(See **TOUR**, Page 2)

CCPS reopens after power outages

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

After more than a week of being closed due to power outages, Charlotte County Public Schools (CCPS) reopened to students Tuesday, Feb. 23.

"We recognize that there are challenges to remote instruction due to electrical outages," Mason said. "We encourage remote students and parents to reach out to their teachers to get caught up on missed assignments once their power has been

restored."

Students who have had their electricity restored should resume working on Google Classroom assignments.

CCPS Superintendent Robbie Mason closed schools and suspended virtual learning in an announcement on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Following the Valentine's weekend ice storm, more than 5,000 citizens in Charlotte were without power.

As of Tuesday, Feb. 23, the number has dropped to 415.



After clearing downed trees off the property of Gary and Trish Morgan on Evergreen Road, a member of God's Pit Crew used a chainsaw to carve this cross on the stump of a Bradford Pear Tree.

God's Pit Crew brings blessings

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

God's Pit Crew, a crisis response team, located in Danville, has spent the past several days in Charlotte County cutting trees and cleaning up the aftermath of the Valentine's weekend ice storm that left thousands without power.

More than a week after the ice storm, many residents were still without power and relying heavily on each other and organizations such as God's Pit Crew for help.

Chris Chiles, immediate response coordinator with God's Pit Crew, was in Charlotte Court House Wednesday, Feb. 17.

(See **BLESSINGS**, Page 3)

Longwood men's basketball team nets 10th Big South win — Page 5

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SEC: ‘In all power restoration circumstances, there are uncontrollable variables’

FROM PAGE ONE

company has received notice from the SCC that they will be reviewing the company’s restoration procedures and preparedness.

The SCC is a state agency with regulatory authority over many business and economic interests in Virginia, including public utility regulation.

Edwards said SEC would be providing the SCC with information regarding pre-storm, during the storm, and post-storm activities.

SEC said it too would review what went well and what changes may need to be made.

During and following the ice storm, SEC and Edwards have come under fire as to how the company han-

dled the widespread, lengthy power outages and what some say was a lack of preparedness and communication with its members.

SEC Vice President of Operations Brad Furr said the cooperative is fully committed to preparing for the storms that come their way but admitted the company’s communications need to be better utilized.

“In all power restoration circumstances, there are uncontrollable variables,” Furr said. “With 80% of SEC’s service area damaged by the recent ice storms, restoration was extremely widespread.”

SEC maintains that wet and muddy conditions were one of the issues linemen faced during the power

outages that caused delays in service being restored.

“Had SEC gone into the recent ice storms with dry ground, instead of very wet conditions, moving materials and equipment around the system would have been much easier,” Furr said.

Edwards said it was the magnitude of the damage caused by the ice storm and not lack of preparation that made power restoration incredibly difficult.

“All districts of our 18-county service area suffered damages, some more substantial than others, by ice that covered trees and electrical lines – in some places, there was as much as three quarters of an inch of ice that formed. During and following

the storms, there were countless downed trees and extremely wet ground, complicating fast restoration.” Edwards said. “We thank our members for their resolve to get through the extremely difficult circumstances of the recent ice storms. They were frightened, cold and scared, which is understandable.”

According to Edwards, at all times during the storm, the full operations crew was fully committed to outage restoration as quickly and safely as

possible.

In response to the weather forecast, Edwards said SEC strategically pre-staged significant amounts of materials and personnel to be best prepared to restore power.

According to Edwards, in advance of the freezing weather, 18 mutual-aid crews, 10 contract crews and eight contract tree crews were brought on board, as well as 26 of the cooperative’s own restoration crews. Subsequently, on Monday, February 15, an additional 10 contract crews arrived.

“Going forward, additional crews were added as they became available after it was

determined that the forecasted ice storm did not impact their home territory,” Edwards said.

Crews arrived from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Indiana and Maryland worked to restore power.

According to Edwards, on Friday, Feb. 12, SEC had 191 workers prepared to handle the storm. By Feb. 15, SEC had 269 workers handling the storm, and by Feb. 16, there were over 300 working to restore power. By the end of the restoration process, SEC had more than 900 workers in the field to reconstruct the power grid.

VDEM: ‘It is amazing what a small community does’

FROM PAGE ONE

Stewart said VDEM would hold a series of meetings with those involved in the ice storm’s response efforts to get firsthand accounts of how events were handled.

According to Stewart, in response to the recent ice storms, a practical AAR/IP will include input from individuals outside of the Charlotte County organizational structure who played roles in the response. These include individuals from VDEM, employees from other agencies serving as members of an incident management team, and those representing volunteer organizations.

“We’ll talk with law enforcement, fire departments, and other organizations that helped with the efforts,” Stewart said.

According to Stewart, VDEM will determine the strengths and weaknesses and recommend corrective actions and a timeline following those meetings.

Both Supervisors Kay Pierantoni and Donna Fore expressed the need to have citizen input included in the AAR/IP.

“This is just from one supervisor’s perspective, but it seemed to me that we had a long time to start up the efforts, and then it seemed we might have had more that we needed,” Pierantoni said.

Pierantoni suggested allowing the public to speak and to hold open meetings during the AAR/IP process.

“The public is the ones that were really hurting,” she said.

Echoing Pierantoni’s suggestions, Fore said there were a lot of citizens who did

extraordinary things during the storm recovery efforts, and that needed to be documented.

“What I saw that was so amazing was neighbors helping neighbors,” Fore said. “Their voices need to be heard. How do you capture that?”

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Wise test delivers broadband

By Titus Mohler
The Charlotte Gazette

A county and its school system on the western end of the commonwealth have found a way to bring quality internet access to people in rural areas, and the school division's technology chief highly recommends the arrangement to other rural counties, including those in central Virginia.

Wise County Public Schools (WCPS) has become involved in a beta project offered by billionaire Elon

Musk's spaceflight company SpaceX. Starlink is a division of the company that is using a growing constellation of low-orbit satellites to bring high-speed broadband internet to locations around the globe where access has been either unreliable or unavailable.

On the website, Starlink.com, it is noted the division of SpaceX is now delivering initial beta service both domestically and internationally and will continue expansion to near global coverage of the populated world in 2021.



Scott Kiser

WCPS is the first school district in America to utilize the Starlink satellites for ed-

ucation. Service started Feb. 1. Local officials are already impressed with the results.

"We've been very, very pleased," WCPS Director of Technology Dr. Scott Kiser said.

Starlink is known for being able to provide low latency. As is stated on the Starlink website, latency is the time it takes to send data from one point to the next. When satellites are far from Earth, latency is high, resulting in poor performance for activities like video calls and online gaming. Typical in-

ternet service from satellites comes from geosynchronous orbit 26,000 miles above the earth. Starlink satellites are only 350 miles high.

Jack Kennedy, the circuit court clerk in Wise County, is a space enthusiast and the man chiefly responsible for bringing Starlink to the county.

He noted there are currently more than 1,200 Starlink satellites within the Starlink constellation in low-Earth orbit. There will be

(See BROADBAND, Page 9)



Patricia Berkeley recently got to visit in person and hug her husband for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic.

First hug since pandemic

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

After 11 months of visits behind windows and plastic barriers, Patricia Berkeley recently got to hug her husband for the first time in months since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Berkeley's husband, Beaver, was diagnosed in December 2014 with Alzheimer's and has been a resident at Runk & Pratt Pearls of Life Memory Support in Lynchburg since January 2019.

(See REUNITED, Page 5)

SEC's performance to be reviewed

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) will be reviewing Southside Electric Cooperative's (SEC) handling of the Valentine's weekend ice storm that left thousands in the company's 18-county service area without power, some for as long as two weeks.

SEC President and CEO Jeff Edwards confirmed Monday, March 8, that the utility



Jeff Edwards

(See SEC, Page 2)

Pierantoni will not seek second term

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

Charlotte County Board of Supervisors (BOS) member Kay Pierantoni announced Thursday, March 4, she would not seek reelection to her seat.

Pierantoni, who was first elected to the BOS in 2017, represents the Wyliesburg/Red Oak district.

"When I decided to run for BOS, I knew if I was elected, I would only serve for one term,"



Kay Pierantoni

(See PIERANTONI, Page 3)

VDEM to work with county following storm

By Crystal Vandegrift
The Charlotte Gazette

In response to last month's ice storm, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) will work with Charlotte County officials to develop an After Action Report and Improvement Plan (AAR/IP).

According to VDEM Chief Regional Coordinator Gene Stewart, the AAR/IP provides a basis for action items necessary for improving plans and building and sustaining emergency management capabilities.

Stewart addressed the Board of Supervisors Monday, March 8, telling them the plan would be provided free of charge to the county.

(See VDEM, Page 2)

Southern Baptist Convention to help with storm clean up

Volunteers from the Southern Baptist Convention were back in Charlotte County Tuesday, March 9 assisting citizens with tree cleanup and will remain in the area until the end of the week.

Any citizen needing assistance with tree cutting on their property should contact the Charlotte County Administration Office before noon on Thursday, March 11 to

(See CLEAN UP, Page 9)

CDC issues new guidelines

By Alexa Massey
The Charlotte Gazette

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new guidelines this week with tips for Americans who are now fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

The release aims to provide citizens with advice about how to protect themselves and others once they are fully inoculated.

The release says fully vaccinated individuals will be able to start to do

some of the things they had stopped doing because of the pandemic. However, safety precautions are still a factor.

Residents are advised health officials are still learning how vaccines affect the spread of COVID-19. As a result, the CDC recommends to continue mitigation strategies after being vaccinated against the virus, including wearing masks in public places, staying six

(See GUIDELINES, Page 3)

Golf team starts season with a win
Page 10

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State vaccine website ready

By Alexa Massey
The Charlotte Gazette

After confusion and frustration felt in the wake of the commonwealth's initial vaccine distribution, Virginians now have a one-stop shop for COVID-19 vaccine registration and scheduling in the form of vaccinate.virginia.gov.

The website, which went live Tuesday, Feb. 16, allows individuals to pre-register for the vaccine, check a previously made registration and access additional information on the roll-out.

According to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginians who have previously pre-registered through their local health district have been automatically imported into the new system and do not need to pre-register again. However, data migration will continue throughout the week, and residents are warned it may take several days for their name to appear in the centralized system.

For those who cannot — or do not wish to — register using a computer, an accompanying hotline number was launched Wednesday, Feb. 17. A call center is now open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The center is staffed by 750 live operators who can answer questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and help people get pre-registered. Spanish speaking representatives are also available on the hotline.

To reach the hotline, residents can dial (877) VAX-IN-VA. Call volume is expected to be high in the first week of operations.

OBITUARIES

Horace Lavon 'Von' Ellett

Horace Lavon "Von" Ellett, 65 of Burkeville, passed away suddenly at his home on Thursday, Feb. 18.

He is survived by a daughter, Dawn Ellett Bishop (Shane) of DeWitt; a son, Christopher "Chad" Ellett (Jennifer) of Burkeville; five grandchildren,



Tatum Bishop, Hailey Ellett, Cassidi Ellett, Blaine Bishop and Savannah Smith; a brother, Mark Ellett of Burkeville; several nieces, nephews and cousins and his beloved dog, "Bandit."

Von was preceded in death by his parents, Horace Harper "Doo" Ellett and Barbara Leslie Ellett and a sister, Patricia Ellett Collins.

He was a 1974 graduate of Prince Edward Academy and a retired Rural Mail Carrier with 29 years of service for the United States Postal Service. Von's passion of the outdoors was shown through his longtime farming of tobacco, beef and hay and his love of being a part of the K-9 Alert Search and Rescue Dogs from 2005-2013, which he made a successful search in King George County in 2009.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the K-9 Alert Search and Rescue Dogs, P.O. Box 2572, Midlothian, VA 23113. Arrangements are by the Joseph McMillian Funeral Home of Blackstone. www.mcmillianfuneralhome.com.

L. Carroll St. John

L. Carroll St. John, 69 of Thomas Jefferson Highway, Charlotte Court House, died Sunday, Feb. 14. He was the husband of Cora Van Der Veer St. John.

Born in Brookneal, June 29, 1951, he was a son of the late Eva Odell Lloyd and Martin Terry St. John. Carroll owned and operated Country Club Service Center in Keysville, and he was an independent distributor for Flowers Bakery.



In addition to his wife, he is survived by three children, Chris St. John and wife, Roxane of Concord, Caryn Rundstrom and husband, Billy of Me-herrin and Cam St. John and wife, Brandy of Red Oak; two brothers, Mac St. John and wife, Mary of Abilene and Bill St. John of Meherrin; seven grandchildren, Jeremy St. John and wife, Amy, Jacob St. John, Jenna St. John, Peyton St. John, Layla Rundstrom, Cameron St. John and Brooklyn St. John and a great-grandson, Ian St. John.

He was preceded in death by one son, Craig St. John; three sisters, Verna Waller, Lorena Parsons and Earl Waller and one brother, Rayford St. John.

A graveside service will be held 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 20 at Spring Creek Baptist Church, 918 Darlington Heights Road, Cullen, VA 23934, with Rev. Paul McClinden and Rev. Tony Reeves officiating.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions please consider Historic Staunton River Foundation, P.O. Box 1, Randolph, VA 23962.

Robinson Funeral Home and Cremation is serving the family. An online condolence may be sent by visiting www.robinsonfuneral.com.

Delmas Franklin Lloyd

Delmas Franklin Lloyd, 72 of Keysville, passed away Feb. 12, surrounded by family. He was a graduate of Randolph Henry Senior High in Charlotte Court House. He retired from Verizon and



was known as "Pole-climber" to many. He loved the outdoors and was a very avid hunter. He was a beloved husband, father and friend and loved by many.

He was preceded in death by his wife Deborah Ann Lloyd, his parents Junior "Jilly" and Mary Lee Lloyd and brother, Thomas Lloyd.

Left to cherish his memory are his three daughters, Michelle Vick and her husband Bryan of Capron, Sherry Williams and her husband Michael of Hurt, Cheryl Lloyd Card of Chase City; son, Billy Joe Lloyd and his wife Deanna of Saxe; three grandchildren, Dawson, Braelee and Crystal; sister, Mary Ann Woodel and her husband Eddie of Pamplin; as well as niece, nephews and friends.

Our thanks go out to our special friends and caregivers who gave love, friendship and support.

Due to the COVID pandemic, no services are planned at this time.

www.wrightfuneralhome.org.

BLESSINGS: 'Damage here is widespread'

FROM PAGE ONE

"The damage here is widespread," Chiles said. "We've been working here for two days There's a lot of hurting families. There are trees down everywhere."

In a Facebook video post, Chiles said that he and his crew removed a tree that had fallen on a 90-year-old woman's home Wednesday, Feb. 17.

"She said the water was just pouring into her house. She doesn't have to worry about that anymore," Chiles said. "She was just praising the Lord when we left."

Gary and Trish Morton, Charlotte Court House residents, received help from God's Pit Crew in clearing trees from their property.

"What a wonderful blessing having God's Pit Crew helping out," Trish Morton said.

"Upon leaving, they used a chain saw and carved a cross from a beautiful Bradford Pear tree that the ice storm had damaged. What a wonderful gesture that warmed our hearts."

Later on Wednesday afternoon, the crew was fed a hot meal at Grace Community Church.



Many trees in the area were shredded by the heavy ice brought from the Valentine's weekend ice storm.

POWER: 'We have seen a lot of dreary faces'

FROM PAGE ONE

Walker said. "It's stressful and frustrating."

Charlotte County Board of Supervisor member Kay Pierantoni, who represents the Red Oak Wyllyesburg district, said she has seen and heard stories of citizens' frustrations.

"There have been some heartbreaking stories the last 10 days," Pierantoni wrote on her Facebook page. "Stories of great inconvenience, stories of danger to health, stories of frustration. People without power all these days are at the end of their rope."

Pierantoni said at times, the frustration and anger seemed aimed at everyone connected to the electric companies because the power had not been restored.

"I know our citizens know the linemen are doing the best they can."

Over the past week, Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC), which serves a majority of the county, has come under fire for what some say is an irresponsible handling of the outage situation.

"A citizen suggested contacting the Board of Directors of Southside Electric Cooperative," Pierantoni said. "It seems like a good idea."

Several SEC customers held a protest at the company's headquarters in Crew on Monday, Feb. 22.

Following the protest, SEC CEO Jeff Edwards released a statement concerning the issues the cooperative has had restoring power over the past 10 days.

"Power restoration efforts are complex.

There is no way around that fact," Edwards said. "Individual poles must be dragged hundreds of feet into muddy terrain to be set by hand. This work is dangerous even in the best of conditions, and the wet weather we continue to see has made for extremely hazardous conditions. We know these conditions are dangerous for you as you try to maintain a normal life without power. Our hearts break for you because we truly know what you are facing. We

want to assure you that we are working as hard and fast as we can, but safety always must come first."

As of Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 23, the number of customers without power in Charlotte County was reduced from 1,712 Monday to 416.

Charlotte County Public Schools Kindergarten Enrollment

Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year will begin February 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021. Children must be 5 years old by September 30, 2021 to be eligible to attend. According to the Virginia Code Section 22.1-254, all children who will be age 5 by September 30 must be enrolled in an appropriate school setting. Information and enrollment forms may be obtained at www.ccpk12.org or by contacting the school at which the student is enrolling.

Bacon District Elementary School - (434) 735-8612

Eureka Elementary School - (434) 736-8458

Phenix Elementary School - (434) 542-5570

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