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# SMITH MOUNTAIN EAGLE



SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE, VIRGINIA ■ WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022

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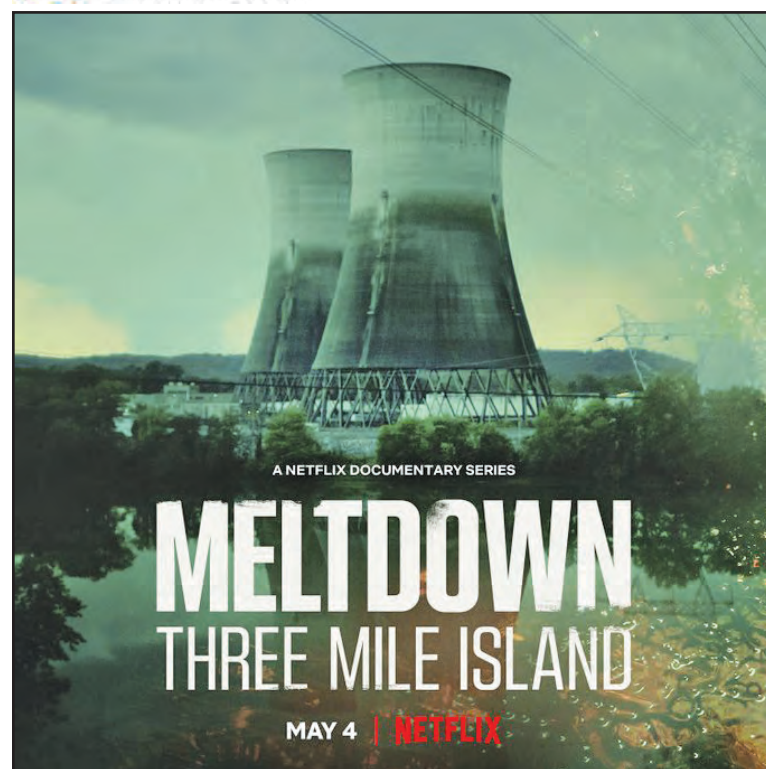


Image at left by Netflix. Still image above is from a video by WSL. At left is a promo image of a four-part documentary on Netflix titled "Meltdown: Three Mile Island." Above is a still image from a video by WSL, in which Smith Mountain Lake resident Lawrence King, who was featured in the documentary, was interviewed.

## SML resident on Netflix

*King was involved in Three Mile Island nuclear cleanup*

**ADAM POWELL**  
Smith Mountain Eagle

featured in a recent documentary on Netflix.

delphia and its aftermath.

King wasn't at the Three Mile Island facility at the time of the partial meltdown, but he was part of a crew who assisted with cleaning up at the Unit Two site in the early 1980s. In King's commentary, which takes place

largely during Part 3 of the four-part documentary, he describes the safety concerns that he identified and addressed with management, the General Public Utility (GPU) Nuclear Corporation and Bechtel, during the cleanup.

King, the director of Unit Two

at Three Mile Island, goes in-depth about the various issues he and others involved in the cleanup faced with a management structure that apparently was more focused on a speedy

See **NETFLIX**, Page 8

## Public help sought for Bedford Co. burglary

On May 10, the Bedford County Sheriff's Office took a residential burglary report from the Woodhaven Drive area of Bedford County.

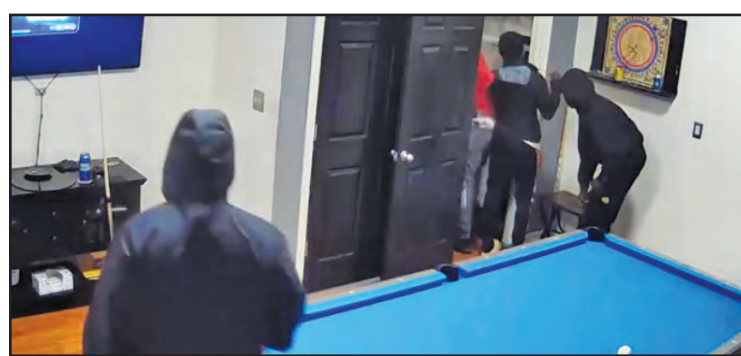
During the investigation, it was determined that the burglary occurred during the daylight hours on April 11. Four African American males forced entry to the house while one

was armed and displaying a handgun. Multiple firearms were stolen from the residence during the burglary.

The homeowners were not home when the incident occurred, and the incident was captured on video surveillance.

The sheriff's office requests that anyone with information contact In-

vestigator Hinton at 540-586-4800, dispatch at 540-586-7827, or contact Central Virginia Crime Stoppers at 1-888-798-5900, enter a tip online at <http://p3tips.com> or use the P3TIPS app on a mobile device. Crime Stopper callers remain anonymous and could receive a cash reward up to \$1,000.



Contributed  
Shown are surveillance video images of suspects involved in a burglary April 11 in the Woodhaven Drive area of Bedford County.

## Student conduct changes sought

**TAYLOR BERGER**  
Smith Mountain Eagle

Dr. Mac Duis came before the Bedford County School Board on Thursday, May 12, with recommended changes to the code of student conduct.

These changes mostly target how school administrators should deal with misbehaving students and bullying.

The recommendations come as the school year nears its end and the school board is looking ahead to the next academic year.

Duis recommended that the terms related to the searching of student's property and potential seizing of property be clarified. Duis also suggested adding "No Contact Directives" in response to students misbehaving and wants to implement the STOPit app for students to report bullying and other concerns.

Duis asked the school board to allow the discussion of said items and a few more to be included in the June meeting.

Duis was asked to do research to see if any other schools or counties are using the STOPit app.

Nothing was approved or discussed about this.

## SRHS softball wins Blue Ridge District

*Perfect season ends days before*

**WILLIAM SEIDEL**  
Smith Mountain Eagle

Staunton River High School's softball team got back on the winning track after a tightly contested 2-1 road victory over Northside High School on Monday, May 16. The win also helped the Golden Eagles clinch the Blue Ridge District regular season title.

From the opening pitch all the way through the fifth inning, runs were hard to come by for both teams.

The Golden Eagles got their first baserunner and hot of the evening thanks to a

single out to right field by senior Taylor Foutz. Sophomore Sawyer Tolley would later reach base by an error to give the Golden Eagles two baserunners to start the first inning, but they unfortunately couldn't capitalize on the early opportunity as junior Allie Davison struck out and senior Rachel McGuire grounded out to second to end their threat.

On the mound for the Golden Eagles was sophomore Emily Wood, who just like she has done all season, kept the opponents' bats in check. The Golden Eagles

See **TITLE**, Page 11

**WILLIAM SEIDEL**  
Smith Mountain Eagle

Staunton River High School's softball team suffered its first defeat of the season at the hands of county rival Liberty High School on the road by a final score of 1-0 May 11.

Both teams had three hits combined. The lost snapped the Golden Eagles 14-game winning streak.

The Minutemen got their first base run-

ner and hit of the evening by a double to left field from senior Makaia Flood. After an intentional walk to sophomore Kaidence Gordon and a hit by pitch as junior Emma Kimberlin loaded the bases for the Minutemen, Golden Eagles starting pitcher, sophomore Emily Wood, was able to get out of trouble by striking out junior Brooklyn Gunter to leave the bases loaded.

The Golden Eagles were able to get a

See **LOSS**, Page 11

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## SAV

Continued from Page 4

physical, mechanical, biological and chemical control methods, have been evaluated with consultation with state agencies and other experts in the field of aquatic vegetation control.

In 2013, TLAC contracted and funded the stocking of 6,000 Triploid (sterile) Grass Carp into SML. These nonnative species have been used as a biological control of

invasive aquatic plants in 46 states. This grass carp life span is generally 9-10 years. These sterile carp feed in shallow waters near the surface during warmer months and retreat to deeper water in winter months. They feed heavily when temperatures are between 63 to 86 degrees.

Grass carp consume preferred plants first and then other plant species. Hydrilla is one of the most common foods eaten by grass carp. The utilization of the grass carp was extremely

successful in ridding the lake of SAV; triploid grass carp consumed the nonnative, invasive, aggressive SAV, but also the good, native SAV.

Each year, AEP, as a part of AEP's license requirements, contracts a survey of SAV in SML and shares the results with several state and local agencies that provide feedback on the results. TLAC and SMLA participate with others in this formal review. SMLA also conducts a smaller scale examination of for-

mer SAV bed areas to assess changing conditions of the beds. As the life span of the sterile grass carp nears its end, careful watch occurs to observe whether the native and non-native aggressive SAV beds re-establish themselves. The seeds within these beds can lie dormant for years and then re-establish themselves.

Once SAV beds start re-establishing themselves, or new vegetation beds appear, a careful evaluation will occur to determine fu-

ture treatment of any non-native, aggressive weeds to establish a desirable balance of SAV at SML. Since grass carp were introduced to SML in 2013, local entities now have more data and a better understanding of the effects of introducing grass carp as method of controlling invasive, subaquatic plant life. Property owners and recreational boaters are a valuable resource to TLAC and SMLA in the observation of SAV in SML.

Membership and chari-

table donations support the good work of SMLA, so we need your help to continue our mission to protect the water of Smith Mountain Lake, and to promote safe recreation. Please visit our website at [www.smlasociation.org](http://www.smlasociation.org) for more information on the work that SMLA performs and how you can support our continued efforts. It is our best and most efficient insurance for maintaining our property values and preserving our treasure — The Jewel of the Blue Ridge.

## Netflix

Continued from Page 1

cleanup and returning to normal operations than addressing safety.

"The executive vice president was unhappy with the way things were moving, so they decided to hire me, figuring I could help out," said King in the Netflix documentary. "I got off to a bad start with Bechtel (the private agency charged with cleaning up the meltdown), because they were trying to get it done fast."

"Larry demonstrated to me his attitude about getting the job done is getting it done right the first time," said Rick Parks, an engineer at the Three Mile Island cleanup who was eventually fired for revealing unsafe practices that could have led to the meltdown. Parks became a whistleblower who helped bring to light the shortcomings of both the reactors and the resulting cleanup in the name of corporate profits.

King already had a presence at Smith Mountain Lake at the time of the partial meltdown, having purchased Lake Haven Marina several years earlier, in 1975. But he was still working in Pennsylvania at the time of the Three Mile Island Incident and wouldn't move to Smith Mountain Lake as a full-time resident until later in the 1980s. King has lived in the area ever since.

King, Parks, and another engineer involved in the cleanup, Ed Gischel, were concerned about possible radiation exposure to the polar crane that was going to be used to lift the vessel head of the reactor in Unit Two, which would allow cleaning to take place at the bottom of the reactor. The men faced swift and fierce resistance from management, who wanted to move forward with the cleanup of Unit Two so they could get back to normal operations at Unit One, which had not been affected by the 1979 crisis.

"The milestone that started the trouble was the reactor build and polar crane. That became the only important thing to pay attention to," Parks explained. "The accident caused melting down the core (of the reactor of Unit Two). There were melted fuel rods and debris at the bottom of the reactor, and so we were going to lift the reactor vessel head with the polar crane to get all that stuff out of there. But the accident, combined with venting all of that radioactive water and steam, had exposed the polar crane to radiation. We had to replace it all with brand new cable — put all brand-new brakes on. Everything had to be spiffy, neat, to ensure that you were operating the polar crane safely."

"I went to review all the modification documentation that would have been done about the polar crane. There was none. The head Bechtel manager onsite didn't want to spend the money. He wanted it done faster," Parks added.

"This is a serious situation. This is no time to be fooling around, cutting corners or anything else," Parks explained. "Ed Gischel, who was the director of engineering working for me, came and said we shouldn't allow that crane to be lifted unless they load-tested it first. So when they both (Parks and Gischel) came to me, I decided that I agree with you. We're not going to lift the (vessel) head, and we're not going to sign for it."

King mentioned how the GPU vice-president got very angry when he told him either he knew what was going on and didn't pay any attention to it, or he didn't know what was going on.

"In either case, it was a problem," King said.

"We knew all of these modifications had been made, but we could not come up with how many, where the materials came from, who did the verification," added Parks. "Bechtel management, (they said) we've got to get it done. Let's do it. Do it now. Organizations rot from the top down. They do not rot from the bottom up. If management does not establish the controlled parameters that everybody is expected to behave in a nuclear power plant, you're flirting with tickling the belly of the dragon. And the potential consequences with a reactor are d\*\*\* dangerous. You can stumble into a situation you cannot walk out of."

In March 1983, a full four years after the initial partial meltdown at Three Mile Island, executives — eager to get the plant's No. 1 reactor back up and running — scheduled the lifting of the polar crane to fully clean the Unit Two reactor. The decision was made to use the polar crane despite the objections of King, Parks and Gischel. The men decided to take their concerns to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, who ultimately sided with utility management and green-lit the polar crane operation.

"Bechtel was going forward with the polar crane. Myself, Ed Gischel and Larry King were asking them to review everything with an approach to overall safety. But Bechtel didn't want to hear anything. So Larry said, go tell the NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission). And so I did," Parks explained.

"Parks felt they weren't following the procedures well," said Lake Barrett, the NRC regulator in charge of the Three Mile Island clean-

up. "There could be an explosion of some sort. It's not safe, and bad things are going to happen when they use that crane. I think I looked at it, and I didn't agree with him. If the merits of the argument don't warrant action, I'm done with it."

"The head NRC agent onsite, Lake Barrett, was letting them get away with it," said Parks.

"Whatever he told me, I obviously didn't go along with it," Barrett added. "I didn't go into the drama and soap opera about whose procedures were the better procedures. We analyzed what he had to say, and I was satisfied that the crane was safe enough. Was it an acceptable risk to move forward and defuel? Yes. And, therefore, I approved it."

"If you've got the head guy on the NRC playing patty-cake with the utility and letting them run wild, how can you trust the NRC? You'd have to have a camera on both corners of their mouth to figure out which one they were lying out of," said Parks.

"Having the NRC watching nuclear plants is like having the fox watch the henhouse," added King. "They're not regulating the industry. They're hand-in-hand with Bechtel."

Bechtel came to King and requested use of the polar crane, which King refused to sign off on, relaying his safety concerns. King was eventually fired for not signing off on the polar crane usage in Unit Two.

"What are you worried about? The NRC says it's OK. You're to sign off," recalled King. "And I refused to sign off. So I was actually stopping progress — stopping them from getting their money."

"They fired him (King). That is how they handled dissent," Parks said.

Dr. Gischel was subjected to a psychological evaluation before he could return to the job site, and Parks was eventually fired from Three Mile Island as Bechtel readied to conduct the polar crane operation.

"After he identified the problem with the polar crane, they wanted to get rid of him," said King.

"They ordered Ed Gischel to a psychological evaluation, and not allowed back on the job site until he passed the psychological evaluation. Now that sounds to me like the Stalinist tactics I read about when I was studying history. I knew my days were numbered (at Three Mile Island)," added Parks.

Parks eventually made his way to the Government Accountability Project, where he demonstrated to the governmental watchdog group that if the polar crane failed and there was even more damage done to Unit Two, it could cause a

full nuclear meltdown that could threaten all of Eastern Pennsylvania, parts of New York, and the eastern seaboard all the way down to Washington, D.C.

Soon after Parks went public with his safety concerns at Three Mile Island, reports surfaced that company management had falsified and destroyed documents to federal regulators allowing Three Mile Island to stay up and running leading up to the partial meltdown in the spring of 1979, and had intentionally lied the first day of the accident by attempting to minimize the significance of the meltdown and what they knew about the nature of the crisis.

Parks, with assistance

from Government Accountability Project attorneys, successfully halted the polar crane operation at Unit Two in 1983, which ground the entire cleanup project itself to a halt for several months. Had the polar crane operation taken place in March 1983, as company management initially insisted, the possibility of a major crisis — as King, Parks and Gischel had warned about — was legitimate.

Eventually, the polar crane operation did take place in the summer of 1984, where there were multiple complications despite a series of repairs and modifications. By 1985, Unit One of Three Mile Island was back up and running, while

Unit Two, the damaged unit never produced nuclear fuel again after March 28, 1979. On Sept. 20, 2019, Unit One at Three Mile Island was decommissioned.

Lawrence King has lived a relatively low-key life at Smith Mountain Lake in the four decades following his involvement with Three Mile Island. He has rarely given interviews or spoken on the record about his experiences there. But by taking part in this new Netflix project, King has done a service to history by addressing Three Mile Island management, safety concerns, and what he and his colleagues tried to do to ensure that proper protocols were followed at the site.

## Wish

Continued from Page 2

able to recognize Bridgewater Marina and thank some of the residents and tourists who have made this truly unique fundraiser such a success."

The marina started "Feed the Fish for Make-A-Wish" in 2017. The program's objective was to turn a decades-long Smith Mountain Lake tradition — kids feeding popcorn to the massive carp that gather around the docks at Bridgewater Plaza — into a way to contribute to a charity that serves children.

Bullen said the aver-

age wish costs \$10,000, so Bridgewater Marina's donation equates to approximately 10 wishes for children in Virginia facing critical illnesses. Examples include meeting celebrities, working a dream job and visiting a desired destination such as Chicago or New York.

"Make-A-Wish is an organization that's near and dear to my heart, and I can't thank everyone enough who has purchased popcorn over the years and helped make this accomplishment possible," Waters said, noting that Bridgewater Marina will continue the program this year with a goal of raising \$25,000.

For more information,

contact Waters at 540-721-1639 or Paige Bullen at 804-217-9474, ext. 1278.

Bridgewater Marina has served the Smith Mountain Lake region since 1989. Headquartered at Bridgewater Plaza, the company offers rentals of pontoons, tritoons, ski boats, wakeboard boats, deck boats, personal watercraft, kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, water toys and more from six locations.

In addition to sales of used fleet vessels, Bridgewater Marina sells dockside gas and is a full-service retail store offering convenience items, water sports equipment, life jackets, apparel and SML souvenirs.

# Birthday Wishes!

Want to wish your loved one a Happy Birthday and show just how much they are loved? Unfortunately birthday parties and get-togethers can not happen right now, but a public spotlight can!

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[office@smithmountaineagle.com](mailto:office@smithmountaineagle.com)

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# SMITH MOUNTAIN EAGLE



SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE, VIRGINIA ■ WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2022

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## 100-year anniversary!

Contributed  
Shown are Goodview Baptist Church's Kelly Phillips, Pastor Joey Phillips, Associate Pastor Chris Walker, Jessica Walker, and Children's Director Nicole Sensenig.



## Goodview Baptist Church to celebrate century of service

**ADAM POWELL**  
Smith Mountain Eagle

Going all the way back to the early 1920s, Goodview Baptist Church, located at 1057 Grace Court in Goodview, has been providing the local community with a place for worship and celebration.

Along with the thousands of church services that have been held at Goodview Baptist over the decades, there are the scores of weddings, funerals, homecoming dinners, and other functions that have brought the local community together.

This summer marks the 100th anniversary of Goodview Baptist Church ministering in Goodview, and Sunday, Aug. 21, has been set



Above is the first church of Goodview Baptist Church and below is the current building.

See 100, Page 7



## School safety plan presented

**TAYLOR BERGER**  
Smith Mountain Eagle

During the Bedford County School Board meeting Aug. 11, Bedford County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Marc Duis, Safety Manager Scott Simmons and Sheriff Mike Miller discussed their cohesive safety plans and processes for the upcoming school year.

Duis began the presentation by discussing the components

of the school safety plan, which involves building security, law enforcement partnerships, staff training and more useful resources.

Building security was elaborated on by Simmons as he briefly discussed the safety measures that will be taken to ensure safety of public-school buildings. This includes licensed background checks, surveillance cameras, replacing radios and other communication devices on a regular

basis, safety inspections, and having federal and state grants to aide as needed. Simmons said maintaining the buildings will be a year-round focus.

Simmons then discussed the preparation, communication and training that staff will be a part of.

Simmons said that having prepared and trained staff is the most important role, and safety is

See SAFETY, Page 7

## TLAC approves no-wakesurfing zone at meeting

**ADAM POWELL**  
Smith Mountain Eagle

At a crowded meeting of the Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 9, the appointed members approved a no-wakesurfing zone — the first of its kind at Smith Mountain Lake — at the Merriman Run cove.

Amidst a standing-room-only crowd at the TLAC Commission offices at Westlake, the commission approved a request from CPT Boys LLC for two no-

wakesurfing zones within Merriman Run, a cove adjacent to the north shore of Smith Mountain Lake.

"The no-wake surfing zone is actually new legislation and new option for lake shoreline property-owning people to apply for, if they feel that there is a problem with erosion or safety. And that legislation has been a little bit in the news here lately," said Kristina Sage, executive director of TLAC, in a recent interview

See TLAC, Page 9



This social media image shows former Rocky Mount Sgt. Jacob Fracker (left) and Officer Thomas Robertson in front of a statue of Gen. John Stark at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. The image was cropped to remove a middle finger gesture from Fracker.

## Robertson is sentenced to 87 months

### Six months probation sought for Fracker

Former Rocky Mount police officer Thomas Robertson was sentenced Thursday to 87 months (seven years and three months) in prison for his actions during and after the breach of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

His and others' actions disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress convened to ascertain and count the electoral votes related to the presidential election.

Robertson, 49, of Ferrum, was sentenced in the District of Columbia.

Another off-duty officer and co-defendant, Jacob Fracker, 30 of Rocky Mount, Virginia, pleaded guilty on March 18, 2021, to a federal conspiracy charge. His sentencing was scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 16.

Federal prosecutors sought six-months of probation for Fracker's role.

Fracker had cooperated in the investigation and testified against Robertson, who he accompanied

See SENTENCE, Page 8

## Suspects sought in Huddleston home invasion/robbery

The Bedford County Sheriff's Office is searching for two suspects in connection to an early morning home invasion/armed robbery Aug. 9 on the 3800 block of Tolers Ferry Road in Huddleston.

The sheriff's office responded to the incident, and the victims advised that one of the suspects was Travis Ray Asbury, who came to the home with an unknown black male.



See SUSPECTS, Page 9

Asbury

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# Safety

Continued from Page 1

everyone's responsibility. School staff will be trained on recognizing red flags and steps to prevent school violence. Students being able to anonymously report instances through the STOPit app will be available, too.

Miller then spoke, giving an overview

of the Bedford County Sheriff's Office and Safety Advisory team, and discussing their commitment to routine training. Miller is proud that the D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program will be returning.

Lastly before accepting questions, Duis returned to discuss the new strategies that will be implemented, such as digitally mapping each school, and additional safety inspections to ensure top-tier safety.

# Voltage

Continued from Page 4

hire a licensed electrician to upgrade your dock's electrical service to the latest electric code and install ground fault interrupter technology on your dock's circuits.

Some residents around the

lake have spent thousands of dollars in search of a permanent solution to make their docks safe from stray voltage. Some well-intentioned electricians have sold stray voltage "solutions" to residents. Unfortunately, the only way to stop stray voltage from getting to your dock is to completely remove all

the electrical service to your dock.

Don't pay for solutions that don't work, simply follow the safety guidelines listed above to insure you are safe from stray voltage.

(Article submitted by Neil Harrington, SML Marine Fire and Rescue and SMLA Water Safety Council.)

# 100

Continued from Page 1

aside for a special service and fellowship meal to celebrate this occasion.

"We're inviting the community, and we're sending letters out to people who have attended our church in the past. You have people who move out of the area. You have people that attend different churches. We're just inviting them back for the special anniversary celebration," said Goodview Baptist Pastor Joey Phillips.

Prior to the 11 a.m. worship service on the morning of Sunday, Aug. 21, the church is going to welcome testimonies and interaction time. Following the 11 a.m. worship service, which will include a dramatic presentation and a reunion choir, there will be a dinner around 1 p.m.

"People can just interact and share what the church has meant to them, and memories of being at the church (during the testimony and interaction period)," Phillips explained. "At 11 a.m. will be our worship service. We're going to have a drama (presentation). We're going to have a reunion choir, which not only involves our choir, but maybe people who sang in the choir in the past, or people who like to sing. That will be a part of the service as well. We'll have some video comments from some people in the church. Then we'll have a meal at 1 p.m."

For members of Goodview Baptist Church, who have been working on this 100th anniversary celebration for several months, this Sunday's festivities are the culmination of a labor of love.

"There's a lot of excite-

ment. We've been promoting and making this celebration known for most of this year," said Phillips. "As we get closer, there are more details. Several committees have helped in different ways, so all of the load hasn't fallen on just one person. The excitement has been high."

"Many of the church attendees are long-term, as well as some newcomers," added congregation member Ruth Fielder, who serves as a volunteer on the church's Anniversary Committee. "This country, family oriented church has a rich history of pulling together to accomplish important goals. Throughout the years, many in the community have been positively impacted, encouraged, taught, loved and nurtured by this unassuming excellent pastor/teacher with his staff following his example. The church leadership is also greatly invested in the youth."

"This church has quietly become a proven, positive landmark in our Goodview community," Fielder added.

Phillips has been engaging in a series of video interviews with Goodview Baptist parishioners, allowing them to express their thoughts about the church and its 100 years of service to the local community. Residents who may be interested in submitting a video for the final production can send to Pastor Phillips at [gvcbpastor@msn.com](mailto:gvcbpastor@msn.com).

"I've began videoing people who have come to church, and let them share their memories about the church," Phillips explained. "We're going to have a DVD presentation that will be available later on (after the event), so that people can see what others

have said about the church, or their memories. I've tried to ask people questions according to their involvement."

"One of the families that I have talked to and interviewed, they were the first family married in the new sanctuary, which was dedicated in 1974," the pastor continued. "I've tried to ask people different questions based on their association with the church. That has been an ongoing process that we've been doing for several months now. It will be a 4-to-6 minute video. There may be people that would like to do that. They can make a video on their phone, and send that to us. We'll try to include that into our DVD that we're going to do."

For the past 37 years, Phillips has been filling the Goodview Baptist Church congregation with love, faith and the Word of Christ. It has been a fulfilling career path for Phillips, who has embraced the local community every bit as much as they have embraced him and his family.

"I came to Goodview in June of 1985. As a matter of fact, I came there the last Sunday of June," he said. "The second Saturday of July, I got married. So for my wife and I, all of our roots to go Goodview. All of our children were born there and grew up there. We've been at Goodview for 37 years now."

"It's been a great experience for us," Phillips continued. "For me — everybody has their own experience — but for me, it's a great family atmosphere. We love the people, and the people in many ways have shown their love to us. There's a verse in Hebrews that talks about loving and supporting your pastor so they can minister and en-

joy, and surely the church has been that for us. So it's been a great experience."

"We have a wonderful, beloved pastor (Phillips), who has been involved in the community and faithfully, humbly serving this church family for 37 years," added Fielder.

Along with Phillips, who has supported the Goodview Baptist Church community for nearly four decades, Associate Pastor Chris Walker has served the congregation for nearly a quarter of a century, and Nicole Sensenig was brought on board as the children's director.

"We also have a great associate pastor, Christopher Walker, who has humbly served this church for 24 years," said Fielder. "The associate pastor started off as the youth pastor and continues to carry this role very effectively in addition to his many other roles. Last year, a children's director was hired, Nicole Sensenig, who is successfully developing programs to better engage and nurture the younger children."

"Our associate pastor, his name is Chris Walker. He helps me and works with the teens," added Phillips. "He's been with us for 24 years. We've got a children's director who is working as an intern. We've got activities for the families, for the teenagers and our children. We've got a Family Life Center, which is a full-sized gym. So I think that has helped. A full range of youth activities helps. If we have weddings, or even funerals, a lot of people use the Family Life Center. That's been an aid."

Despite the persistent challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disrupted churches and their congregations

all over the world, the membership of Goodview Baptist Church has remained strong. Propelled by the loyal service of local parishioners — many of which have been attending the church since they were children themselves in the 1950s and 1960s — Goodview Baptist Church still enjoys an outstanding weekly following.

"We probably average around 200 (parishioners) on an average Sunday," Phillips said. "I would say 400 to 500 would be the number of people who may come back (for the 100th anniversary celebration). As I've talked to people the last few weeks, a lot of people are planning on coming. These are people who once attended our church that I've happened to come across or talk to. Time will tell. It may not be as much."

"I think for all churches, the last couple of years have been a challenge because of COVID. Readjusting to meet peoples' safety needs and preferences," Phillips continued. "We have two services — an 8:30 a.m. service, and an 11 a.m. service. That helped us some. One service, we had masks required, and one was optional. People who wanted to wear a mask knew they could come to a mask-only service, and people who felt uncomfortable doing that, they had that option (for a mask non-required service) as well. So that helped."

Along with having multiple services, Goodview Baptist also got through the pandemic by streaming services. But now that COVID-19 is falling by the wayside, Phillips and the rest of the Goodview Baptist congregation is excited at the chance to welcome

back hundreds of former church members for the special 100th anniversary celebration.

"We also had planned on starting a streaming online service at Easter of 2020. Because of the pandemic we moved that back a couple of weeks and started early with the streaming. We didn't plan it that way, but the timing just worked out well for us. That probably for a lot of churches has been good and bad. It's been good to have services online where people can watch it. The difficult thing is I think some people have gotten used to staying at home and not coming out to church, because it's convenient just to watch at the house. I regularly run into people who are watching it, or people that used to be a part of our church, and maybe live in another state. Now they can touch base as often as they want. At least they get a feel for home from that."

Goodview Baptist Church is active in the local community, supporting causes such as the Agape Center and various missions. Goodview Baptist has long been a supporter of charitable causes throughout its century of service to the people of the region.

"As far as the community, we're back to full capacity. The pandemic hasn't stopped us from the activities that we do," Phillips added. "Our church, we support the Agape Center in Moneta. The Agape Center Rescue Mission. We're planning a missions trip next summer to Tokyo. One of the men who grew up in our church is now a missionary in Tokyo, Japan. That was exciting to see somebody grow up in the church and feel called to ministry, and go out into ministry."



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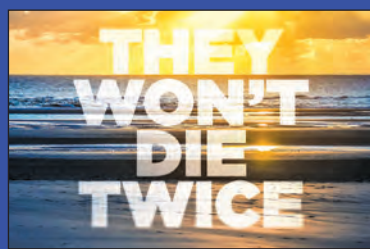
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Sea Tow Smith Mountain Lake/Contributed

A cameraman documents Sea Tow Smith Mountain Lake and a dive team from Lake Hickory Scuba in North Carolina as they raise a nearly 40-year-old, 28-foot cabin cruiser that sank into the lake. The incident was featured on the season finale of The Weather Channel's "Deep Water Salvage" on Aug. 7.

## Sea Tow SML featured on Weather Channel's 'Deep Water Salvage'

ADAM POWELL  
Smith Mountain Eagle

A local business that specializes in helping stranded local boat owners and assisting with the removal of sunken vessels throughout Smith Mountain Lake was showcased on the season finale of The Weather Channel's "Deep Water Salvage" on Aug. 7.

Rick and Nancy Ellett of Sea Tow Smith Mountain Lake joined forces with a dive team from Lake Hickory Scuba in North Carolina to raise a nearly 40-year-old, 28-foot cabin cruiser that recently sank into the lake adjacent to a dock near channel marker R22.

"It was sunk at the docks. It looks like a bilge pump had

failed. It was a 28-foot 1984 Carver cabin cruiser (that had sunk). The bow was still out of the water," said Sea Tow's Rick Ellett in a recent interview, adding that the water depth was approximately 12 feet at the stern of the sunken vessel. "We contracted divers out of Lake Hickory,

See **SEA TOW**, Page 6



Sea Tow Smith Mountain Lake/Contributed

Shown is a nearly 40-year-old, 28-foot cabin cruiser that was removed from Smith Mountain Lake by Sea Tow Smith Mountain Lake and a dive team from Lake Hickory Scuba in North Carolina.

## Not a time-lapse: Shedoos of SML



Dale Grady/Contributed

This almost looks like time-lapse photography! It's the famous Shedoos of SML coming around the bend heading to Mitchell's after their weekly Thursday ride.

## Wanted man dies after traffic stop

At the request of the United States Marshals Service (USMS) of the Western District of Virginia, the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation's Salem Field Office is investigating a death that occurred during a felony traffic stop in the area of Route 220 in Roanoke County.

On Sept. 27, the USMS Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force was conducting an ongoing criminal investigation into a fugitive suspect known to be

in the area of Route 220 in Roanoke County.

Task force members identified a passenger in a Toyota pickup as the wanted individual and initiated a traffic stop at approximately 9 p.m.

Task force members activated emergency lights and siren to initiate the traffic stop, and the Toyota turned off Route 220 and stopped on Crossbow Court.

See **DEATH**, Page 7

## Vote for your favorite SML businesses!

Lake Life Magazine is hosting a Best of the Best business competition in multiple categories for which you can vote for your favorite business at Smith Mountain Lake.

Voting will end Wednesday, Oct. 12, and winners will be announced in a later edition of Lake Life Magazine. To cast your vote, fill out the online form at [www.smithmountaineagle.com/site/forms/best\\_of\\_the\\_best](http://www.smithmountaineagle.com/site/forms/best_of_the_best) and type in your favorite businesses. The votes are broken down

into different categories such as businesses, restaurants, automotive, people, real estate and entertainment.

Business categories include customer service, boat sales, insurance company, jeweler, assisted living, golf course, landscaping, spa, marina and much more.

Restaurants include barbecue, breakfast, ice cream, Mexican, Italian, pizza and more.

See **VOTE**, Page 6

Lake Life's



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Go to [www.smithmountaineagle.com](http://www.smithmountaineagle.com) and vote for your favorites in and around Smith Mountain Lake!

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# Bald Knob Open Art Show winners announced

The Bald Knob Artists recently announced the winners of the Sept. 16 to 18 Bald Knob Open Art Show.

“Our first Bald Knob Open Art Show is in the books, and it was an auspicious beginning for this annual event,” said Secretary Bob Stout.

There were approximately 39 artists who submitted around 100 pieces of artwork.

“A huge thank you for all of those who volunteered prior to, during and after the show for their dedication and hard

work,” Stout said. “This show could not be put on without the dedication of our club members. Tracy Budd, our judge for this event, showed her love of all things dedicated to art and spoke from the heart at the reception.”

The following is a listing of the winners in each category:

**Best In Show:** Casey Weston, “Rise of the Phoenix.”

**Peoples Choice:**  
• First Place: Elizabeth McClure-Melhorn, “Out to Pasture.”

• Sharing Second Place:

Pete Schultheiss, “Stump with Cleft,” and Dorian Albano, “Lakes Edge.”

**Mixed Media:**  
• First Place: Suzanne Davis Ross, “Leone Listening.”

• Second Place: Donna Bowles, “The Shepard King.”

• Third Place: Nancy Erickson, “Emerging Coral Flower.”

• Honorable Mention: Rita Donahue, “On The Farm.”

**Oils:**  
• First Place: Lynda Young, “1973 Revisited.”  
• Second Place: Harriet

Madar, “The Harvest.”  
• Third Place: Carol Yopp, “Thin Ice. Save the Polar Bear.”

• Honorable Mention: Robyn Blair, “Amelia.”

**Three D:**  
• First Place: Dan Madar, “Celtic Platter.”

• Second Place: Nancy Erikson, “Porthole.”

• Third Place: Michelle Bradley, “Fall.”

• Honorable Mention: Dan Madar, “Basket Illusion.”

• Second Place: Ilona Bobbitt, “Connemara Ponies.”

• Third Place: Cheryl Miller Lackey, “Old Split Rail Fence.”

• Honorable Mention: Tom Nix, “Trees in December.”

**Other:**  
• First Place: Paul Stump, “Catawba Valley Morning.”

• Second Place: Catherine Houghton, “Ghost Dog.”

• Third Place: Elizabeth McClure-Melhorne, “Girl and Calf.”  
• Honorable Mention:

Fredy Lugora, “Joyful Friends.”

**Watercolor:**  
• First Place: Bob Stout, “Case Tractor #1.”

• Second Place: Suzanne Davis Ross, “Life Member.”

• Third Place: Rebecca Stormer, “Magnolia.”

• Honorable Mention: Bob Stout, “Serene-Tea.”

**Youth — Drawing:**  
• First Place: Ammelia Littreal, “The Legend.”

**Youth — Painting:**  
• First Place: Lily Dozier, “Vintage Nature.”  
**Youth — Photography**  
Clair Cook, “Sipping.”

## Sea Tow

Continued from Page 1

North Carolina. They came up and helped us, gave us a hand. We got that one up and got it hauled out for disposal.”

Sea Tow SML has raised numerous boats throughout Smith Mountain Lake this year, with the Lake Hickory Scuba team providing assistance on half of those jobs.

Sea Tow SML has done a number of dramatic jobs over the years, including one that involved a vessel that had gotten stuck to the edge of a dam and was on the verge of going down a waterfall.

“We have done this year eight of these such recoveries,” said co-owner Nancy Ellett. “Four of them, we had the Lake Hickory divers come. The other four, we did with our Sea Tow team here.”

“We’ve recovered boats anywhere from a jet ski to 45-foot boats,” she continued. “We’ve done cruisers, house boats, roundabouts and sailboats, although there’s a little bit of danger with sailboats. Because when you go to raise a sail-

boat with lift bags under it, you’ve got to make sure you’re doing them level, so that mast doesn’t fall over and hit somebody, because it could kill them. We’ve had a couple of boats that have sank that turned upside down. That’s a little more tricky.”

The recovery project filmed for Deep Water Salvage took place in early May, shortly after the owner of the sunken cabin cruiser reached out to Sea Tow Smith Mountain Lake for assistance.

The Elletts got in touch with the folks at Lake Hickory Scuba, who agreed to come up to Smith Mountain Lake for the recovery. A single camera operator with a drone filmed the recovery for Deep Water Salvage. Due to the fact that there was just one camera operator, the television production did not get in the way of the vessel retrieval efforts.

“It was one guy with a camera,” Rick Ellett said of the video production.

“He also had a drone. He did a couple of video interviews,” Nancy Ellett added.

The divers from Lake Hickory Scuba dove un-

derneath the sunken vessel and positioned airbags in various strategic places around the footprint of the cabin cruiser. When the bags were filled with air, they slowly raised the sunken vessel out of the mud and back up to the water surface.

It’s a painstaking process, as the air levels in the bags must be distributed evenly in order to avoid the sunken boat flipping over back onto the lakebed.

“You’ve got to get lift bags under it. We had four lift bags on that boat, as I recall. Two 4,000 lift bags and two 2,000 pound bags,” Rick Ellett said. “They (Lake Hickory Scuba) use all of our equipment, except for their dive gear.”

“That was the job of the divers,” added Nancy Ellett. “They have been able to go down there, place the lift bags, put straps around them to be able to hold them to the boat, and once they get that done, the lift bags are inflated. All of the equipment is ours — the lift bags, the straps, the compressors, pumps, manifolds. Everything we need to use is ours. The divers just came to strictly go down and attach everything for us. You’ve got to watch it and inflate it evenly, so you don’t turn the boat. Recoveries can be dangerous, because you

have divers underneath the boat. If something goes wrong, they could still be under that boat.”

“The reason we like the Lake Hickory Scuba divers is because they are very professional,” Nancy Ellett added. “They work well with our captains. They have the proper equipment. They have underwater headsets, where they can communicate with one of their team members who stays on the dock. So if something goes wrong, there’s communication immediately.”

Although the Deep Water Salvage project mostly went according to plan, a strap on one of the lift bags broke during the rising of the vessel. The broken strap brought a little drama to the production of the television show.

“One of the lift straps broke,” Nancy Ellett indicated. “And when that happens, it starts going back down. Then you have to start all over and rig it with different straps and start raising it again. The Deep Water Salvage crew, they loved that. Because they like to do shows when things go wrong.”

Once the vessel was raised up to the water surface, a combination of three pumps — two two-inch pumps and a three-inch pump — began

pumping water out of the vessel. After the water was removed from the vessel, it was towed to an adjacent location down the lake for final disposal.

“Once we raise them up with those lift bags, then we’ve got to put pumps on them. We start pumping them out,” Nancy Ellett said. “You’ve got to pump all the water out of it. Then you’ve got to tow it somewhere.”

The Elletts explained that it’s important for anyone desiring to have a vessel raised up from the lake to have a plan in place for what will happen to the vessel once it is raised.

“Is it going to be destroyed, or is it going to be refurbished? You’ve got to have a plan with what you’re going to do with it once you get it up,” she said.

Nancy Ellett also recommended that boaters have marine insurance to cover the potential costs of having to raise a sunken vessel. And for those who don’t live at the lake year-round, it’s always a good idea to have a friend or relative keep an eye on your boat, especially if it’s still sitting in the water.

“They should have a good marine insurance policy to cover such costs, because they are very expensive,” she explained.

“Particularly if there is any kind of an oil spill. When we recover a boat like that, we always have absorbent pads that we put all around the engine compartment. Because as you start raising it, those oils sometimes start coming up.”

“People who particularly live out of town and aren’t here to look at their boats every day, they need to have somebody paying attention. Because once they start going down, they’re gone,” she continued.

Seeing their work chronicled on The Weather Channel was exciting for the Elletts and Sea Tow Smith Mountain Lake staff, and they’ve experienced some very interesting things over the years in their efforts to raise vessels that are no longer seaworthy. But their primary focus remains on assisting local boaters along the lake with everything from starting up an inoperable motor to bringing gas if a vessel runs out.

As their name suggests, Sea Tow also offers tows for vessels that cannot be restarted right away.

“Our main function is assistance out on the lake: tows, jump starts, fuel drops and assistance to boaters to enhance their boating experience. We’re like peace of mind on the water,” Rick Ellett said.

## Vote

Continued from Page 1

There also is an automotive category that includes auto service, tire sales, auto body shop, car dealership, motorcycle/ATV shop, and towing/recovery service.

Single individuals will have a spot on the category, where you can vote for your favorite attorney, dentist, doctor, eye doctor office, chiropractor and hear-

ing aid specialist.

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