



Award Winning Newspaper

"The Lake Newspaper" since 1985

SMITH MOUNTAIN EAGLE



SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE, VIRGINIA ■ WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

\$2.00

Gov. lifts school mask mandates

Optional in Bedford County

WILLIAM SEIDEL
Smith Mountain Eagle

Glenn Youngkin signed an executive order to make masks optional as of Monday.

The Bedford County School Board voted 4-3 in a special called meeting Thursday to implement the changes to their health and mitigation strategy, which started Monday rather than Feb. 1. This comes after new Virginia Gov.

Before the vote, District 5 representative Georgia Hairston made a motion to postpone the vote so they could ask all of the Bedford County

See **BEDFORD**, Page 6

Still required in Franklin County

WILLIAM SEIDEL
Smith Mountain Eagle

an executive order making masks optional, which went into effect Monday. A motion to keep the schools' current masking policies until the school board's next regular monthly meeting resulted in a 4-4 deadlock.

The Franklin County School Board held a special meeting Friday to review COVID-19 mitigation strategies after new Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed

Member-at-large Kevin

David, who is a physician, talked extensively about his frustration on how the whole COVID-19 pandemic has been handled the past two years at all levels, saying everything that has been

See **FRANKLIN**, Page 6

From homeless to idol

Contributed
Shown are
Christian
Q. and the
Groove band
members
(from left):
drummer
John Graham;
bass player
and singer
Amy Ellis;
lead guitarist
and backup
singer David
"Fishing Musi-
cian" Owens;
and band
manager, lead
guitarist and
lead vocal-
ist Christian
Quesenberry.



How Quesenberry turns his life around, receives American Idol callback

WILLIAM SEIDEL
Smith Mountain Eagle

If someone were to tell 25-year old Christian Quesenberry some years ago that his music talent was going to help him become a local household name around Smith Mountain Lake and receive a callback from American Idol, he might not have believed you, especially a year or two after he graduated from Staunton River High School in 2015.

"I'll be honest, after high school I kind of quit with music. I kind of stopped chasing it as much," he said.

The question that might come to a lot of people's mind when reading that quote is: Why did Quesenberry quit music for a short time and what inspired him to come back? His story will answer both of these questions.

Even when he was young, Quesenberry, who was born in Sacramento, California, and then



Contributed

See **IDOL**, Page 8

Christian Quesenberry

FCBOS hears volunteerism, militia topic

WILLIAM SEIDEL
Smith Mountain Eagle

During the Franklin County Board of Supervisors meeting Jan. 18, close to a dozen supporters of the Franklin County Militia voiced their support of a resolution affirming the right of citizens to volunteer. The county currently doesn't recognize the militia.

The board had a brief discussion about volunteerism near the end of the meeting before the public comment portion of the meeting. The militia was not mentioned by name, but Blue Ridge supervisor and vice-chairman Tim Tatum said he supports volunteerism and that he ap-

plauds everyone who uses their time to serve the community. He added that volunteering is a God-given right to help each other and the community as a whole.

"For that reason, I support this board passing a resolution supporting the rights of our citizens to volunteer to help our community, and that's where I stand," Tatum said as applause broke out.

Chairman and Boone District supervisor Ronnie Thompson also didn't mention the militia by name but said the county has a tremendous volunteer program through the sheriff's department, public safety, fire & rescue, etc.

See **MILITIA**, Page 9

Westlake tower construction can start soon

WILLIAM SEIDEL
Smith Mountain Eagle

After months of delay, the Westlake telecommunication tower is the closest it has been to construction after a special use permit was granted to Blue Ridge Towers by the Franklin County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

The Westlake tower will be the last of the eight new towers being built. The eight new towers and four existing tower structures that are being utilized are from a \$4.6 million broadband project. \$2.4 million came from a grant from the Virginia's Telecommunication Grant Initiative by the Virginia Depart-

ment of Housing and Community Development. The project must be completed by April 15 of this year.

The tower, which was originally 195-feet, will now be a 160-foot monopine structure that will have tree branches reach to the upper two-thirds of the pole. It will be located on Parkcrest Drive, less than half a mile from the Booker T. Washington National Monument, and will be just under 12-acres.

Other mitigation strategies that were discussed are a 100-foot wide buffer on the west side of where the tower will be located and tree planting.

See **TOWER**, Page 11

Small business spotlight

A Shade Brighter Art & Furniture Outlet

(Editor's Note: The following business was featured in the Best of the Best Edition of Lake Life, which is available on magazine stands in the Smith Mountain Lake area.)

A Shade Brighter Art & Furniture Outlet, a store that features home décor, furniture, art, women's and men's clothing, and gifts, has become a go-to popular choice for Smith Moun-

tain Lake residents to find their home necessities.

When asked what the most popular items in the store are, owner Michelle Aznavorian said it depends on the time of year. She said tourists will buy a lot of SML apparel.

During the holidays, they have ornaments and artwork relating

See **BUSINESS**, Page 9



J Bohn Bishop /Contributed

Pictured is Michelle Aznavorian, owner of Mayberry Furniture + A Shade Brighter, cutting the ribbon in June 2021 to welcome in their overflow space beside Edo Grill and Sushi.

Vol. 38, No. 4

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
©Womack Publishing Co., Inc. 2022



**OUR
BUSINESS**
IS TO
GROW YOUR Business

Call us to schedule
an advertising plan today!

540-719-5100

SMITH MOUNTAIN EAGLE

Your call to be a light in this world

REV. DAVID TAYLOR
Trinity Episcopal Church
Rocky Mount

Popular entertainment has a way of both reflecting and reinforcing a society's values, as the public, quite literally, buy it because they value it.

By looking at popular entertainment, one can see how American society has changed dramatically with respect to manners and social discourse in a short period of time. The polite society reflected in television shows of the 1950s and early 1960s, think of "Leave it to Beaver," is

gone. Those old sitcoms have been replaced today by gaudy reality programs that showcase domestic and social interactions driven by narcissism, factionalism and selfishness.

One program reflective of the whole ugly reality show genre was the show "The Weakest Link." For a short time more than a decade ago, it was quite popular. The presumption that we'd all enjoy watching the host be so mean to the contestants was troubling. The first host, Anne Robinson, it seems, was made for the job. She got to say what the producers apparently

thought all of us would like to say if we were not so inhibited by good manners and common decency. For Anne Robinson, and others, pointing out that someone else is the weakest link, and why they are the weakest link, is telling the truth the way we'd all like to tell it.

I wonder if that's true. I suppose there is a part of all of us that does somehow feel superior, if we can point out the inferiority of others. Yet, for as much as that might be something of a natural inclination in me, or in you, I think that we are made for much bet-

ter, called to be something very much better.

The practice of mercy, as well as charity, and justice, and humility, is a sign of a true follower of Christ. Simply believing propositionally is not enough to make one truly a Christian. What you believe to be true is important, but not singular. Being a faithful member of Christ's church also involves some action. Action with motives aimed at obedience to God, and at treating our neighbors with the wondrous respect due their creation in the very image of Almighty God.

The church father, Justin

Martyr, in his First Apology said this, "When we are together, we remind one another of these things, and help all who suffer want as best we can, and keep together in harmony."

In a world where road rage, and air rage, and all kinds of other rage, have become commonplace. Where bad manners and "in your face" have become the attitudes of the "successful" people, Christians are meant to hold to a different standard. We are citizens of heaven and members of the household of God. We remember and celebrate the fact that you are to be not

the weakest link, but in fact a link to all that is good, and righteous, and holy.

We do not need more spoiled children in the world, demanding their own way and disrespecting one another. We need more women and men who look and act like they are adopted children of God. If you continue to listen to the voice of the Lord, you will have the strength to live as you ought, to live out your call to be a light in this world, to be goodness and love in the flesh to be holy and godlike, the strong link to God that we all need.

Militia

Continued from Page 1

There was a push back against the militia during the public comment portion of the meeting. Glenna Moore said that the unorganized militia's resolution is an attempt to "smoke-screen" their intentions to gain permission to train for intimidation as volunteerism.

Moore claimed that during a peaceful black lives matter rally, there were two militia members who made themselves stand out wearing military-type clothing and branding militaristic-type weapons in the presence of unarmed adults and children.

"As a citizen, I felt more secure with the protection of Franklin Sheriff's Office and the Town of Rocky Mount Police Department. At least

they are accountable. What would be the county's liability if my grandchildren had been harmed by a reckless militia that has the stamp of approval from the board of supervisors?" Moore asked.

Larry Moore also spoke out against the militia, saying the only mission of a militia is to overthrow the government. Larry Moore also questioned that if the group wants to help during local emergencies, why don't they volunteer for the rescue squads, fire departments or other local agencies.

Brian Wood, who is the chairman of the militia, said they have some militia members who are in those first responding agencies, but also said beforehand that volunteering in these departments does not exercise or protect Second Amendment rights.

Wood said that militia members serve in different

ways throughout the community and they have the right to volunteer for militia service and exercise that right. He also encouraged the board to vote in favor of the resolution and make a statement for their rights.

"It would be nice to know who among our elected public servants would affirm our right to volunteer to do so; the people also deserve to know who among their elected public servants stands in opposition to their Second Amendment rights in a well-regulated militia," Wood said.

He said voting in favor of the resolution does not mean the county is recognizing a militia or authorizing a militia, saying the county doesn't have those powers, but he noted that it affirms their rights to volunteer for service in a militia.

No decision was made at the meeting.

Miller

Continued from Page 2

succeed. He launched his second band – the one that lives on today – in March of 1938. The Glenn Miller Orchestra has been a "hit" ever since.

The legendary Glenn Miller was one of the most successful of all dance bandleaders back in the Swing Era of the 1930s and '40s. A matchless string of hit records, the constant impact of radio broadcasts and the drawing power at theatres, hotels and dance pavilion, built and sustained the momentum of popularity.

Glenn disbanded his musical organization in 1942 at the height of its popularity to volunteer for the Army. There, he organized and led the famous Glenn Miller Army Air

Force Band. It went to Europe to entertain servicemen performing numerous live and radio shows. On Dec. 15, 1944, Major Miller took off in a single engine plane from Europe to precede his band to France, disappearing over the English Channel, never to be seen again. The army declared him officially dead a year later.

With the release of the major motion movie The Glenn Miller Story featuring Jimmy Stewart and June Allyson in 1954, interest and popular demand led the Miller Estate to authorize the formation of the present Glenn Miller Orchestra. On June 6, 1956, and under the direction of drummer Ray McKinley who had become the unofficial leader of the Army Air Force Band after Glenn's disappearance, the re-

formed Glenn Miller Orchestra performed its first concert and has been on the road ever since. Other leaders have followed Ray including clarinetists Buddy DeFranco and Peanuts Hucko, trombonists Buddy Morrow, Jimmy Henderson, Larry O'Brien and Gary Tole, and tenor saxophonist Dick Gerhart. Since January 2012, vocalist Nick Hilscher leads the band.

Today, the 18-member ensemble continues to play many of the original Miller arrangements both from the civilian band and the AAFB libraries. Additionally, it also plays some more modern selections arranged and performed in the Miller style and sound.

Just as it was in Glenn's day, the Glenn Miller Orchestra today is still the most sought after big band in the world.

Business

Continued from Page 1

to the lake. Aznavorian said they still have SML cloth-

ing, too.

She added that the furniture has a good selection with great prices.

"We have a ton of furniture in-stock, ready to go

home on the same day," Aznavorian said.

A Shade Brighter also has a tanning salon that features three different styles of tanning beds and booths.

Aznavorian said a membership is not required, but they will go over instructions on how to use the bed before a customer uses it. She said they also sell sun-

less tanning products for those who don't want to get into the tanning bed.

A Shade Brighter Art & Furniture Outlet is located at 1123 Celebration Ave,

Moneta, VA 24121. The store can be contacted at 540-297-6440 or on its Facebook page, "A Shade Brighter Art & Furniture Outlet."

LIL' STEVIE COMIC # 72 SWIPE →



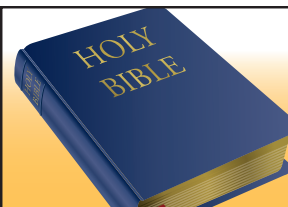
SWIPE →



SWIPE →



Bater?! 09/21 2019 THE END



Smith Mountain Lake Area CHURCH DIRECTORY

In person and online services available Sunday Mornings at 10:30 AM.

For more information check out our website at www.radfordbaptist.com



Radford Baptist Church
A Bible and Community Church
Celebrating the Lordship of Jesus Christ
1293 Radford Church Rd. - Moneta, VA 24121
540-297-5214 - www.radfordbaptist.com

MULTIPLYING BELIEVERS, LEADERS, AND CHURCHES

EastLake

COMMUNITY CHURCH

More than just a church

EASTLAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sundays | 9:00 am & 11:00 am
www.eastlake-church.com
1201 Timberwood Lane | Moneta, VA 24121



Bethlehem

United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship Services
8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Nursery care provided

Weekday **Preschool** for 2-5 year olds, September thru May

Located on Route 122, south of downtown Moneta, across from the SML/Moneta Library
Church Office 540-297-7957

bethlehemunitedmethodist.org

Resurrection Catholic Church

15353 Moneta Road
Moneta
540-297-5530
www.resurrectioncatholic.org
info@resurrectioncatholic.org

Mass Schedule
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 4:00 pm
Thursday 11:00 am

RECONCILIATION
Thursday 11:30-12:30

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



10802 Moneta Rd. Moneta, VA 24121
SABBATH SCHOOL
Saturday 9:30 a.m.

WORSHIP SERVICE
Saturday 11:00 a.m.

PRAYER MEETING
Call Ahead For Meeting Times
(540) 296-2225

Remember the Sabbath Day To Keep It Holy - Exodus Chapter 20, Verse 8



Love Like Jesus

HALESFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

2485 Lost Mountain Road, Wirtz, VA 24184
540-721-8640 (Office)

Sunday Worship at 8:30am & 11am
Wednesday Night - Children's Awana, Student, and Adult ministries starting at 6/6:30pm

Childcare available for all activities
See us online at www.halesford.com

Stanton Baptist Church



EVERYONE WELCOME!

15267 Smith Mountain Lake Parkway
Huddleston, VA 24104


540-297-6753
www.stantonbaptistchurch.net

Sunday School..... 9:30 AM
Worship..... 11:00 AM
Wednesday Evening Prayer & Bible Study.....6:30 PM

Buz Offenbacker, Pastor

This space is available!

List your church service times or special events here.



Call 540-719-5100

DAVIS EXPLODES FOR 42 POINTS AS OSPREYS SOAR BY TORNADOES, 72-60
Page 5



MONETA TEEN DIES IN THUR. WRECK
Page 3



REP. GOOD'S CAMPAIGN OFFICE HAS RIBBON CUTTING EVENT
Page 2

Award Winning Newspaper

"The Lake Newspaper" since 1985

SMITH MOUNTAIN EAGLE



SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE, VIRGINIA ■ WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022

SMITHMOUNTAINEAGLE.COM

\$2.00

Ex-police officer faces new felonies

WILLIAM SEIDEL
Smith Mountain Eagle

Former Rocky Mount police officer Thomas Robertson is facing upgraded charges related to the U.S. Capitol riot Jan. 6, according to court documents.

in count four that Robertson allegedly carried a large wooden stick into the Capitol, which prosecutors claimed is a "deadly and dangerous weapon." This upgraded the entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds charge to a felony.

Documents reveal that Robertson allegedly "committed and attempted to commit an act to obstruct, impede, handed down by the grand jury, count two is "Civil Disorder and Aiding and Abetting," a felony.



Robertson

See **FELONIES**, Page 9



Shown is a photo of some of the dogs rescued Jan. 25 from a Goodview residence.

Webber living without fear during his final days

Cancer diagnosis terminal

WILLIAM SEIDEL
Smith Mountain Eagle



EastLake Community Church member Ken Webber hugs Janel Keaton at a ceremony held for Webber on Jan. 24 at the Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy gym. Both have cancer.

EastLake Community Church is one of the largest and most recognizable churches in the Smith Mountain Lake area. Of the congregation, one of the more recognizable faces is 83-year old Ken Webber, who has been attending EastLake since it was founded in 2006.

At church events, one might see Webber smiling and holding two of his Nikon D750 cameras. The same goes for Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy (SMLCA) and Parkway Christian Academy, where Webber is a frequent at athletic events taking live shots during the games.

However, Webber has slowed down recently and hasn't been as present since around September of last year. After a biopsy, Webber was diagnosed in September with pancreatic cancer, which is in stage four, an advanced stage. Webber said it showed a large tumor on his pancreas, and a spot has developed on both of Webber's lungs. He said he didn't feel any symptoms but just lost a good amount of weight, even then he didn't suspect anything was wrong.

See **CANCER**, Page 14

26 dogs rescued; Goodview resident charged

A Goodview resident was arrested and charged with animal neglect after dozens of dogs were found malnourished, according to the Bedford County Sheriff's Office last week.

On Jan. 25, The Bedford County Sheriff's received a tip from Crime Stoppers and the Bedford Humane Society in reference to possible animal hoarding and cruelty occurring at a residence on the 1500 block of Eagle View Drive in the Goodview area of Bedford County.

Animal Control deputies arrived at the residence to find approximately 26 dogs in and around the residence in poor living conditions and malnourished. Deputies then secured and served a search warrant for the property to recover the animals and get them treated.

With the help of the nonprofit organization "Friends of Bedford County Animal Shelter" and Dr.

Ryan at Riverside Veterinarian Clinic assisting in this investigation, deputies were able to transport all of the animals away from the scene to receive treatment and be housed.

The suspect in this case, Thomas Duggins, 71, of Goodview, was arrested on scene and at this time charged with 10 counts of animal neglect. This is an ongoing investigation, and additional charges may be sought at the completion.

"This large-scale rescue could not have been possible without the assistance of Dr. Ryan at the Riverside Veterinary Clinic and the Friends of Bedford County Animal Shelter," the sheriff's office stated.

"This is just the beginning

See **DOGS**, Page 9

Small business spotlight

VitaZen known for vitamins, yoga

(Editor's Note: The following business was featured in the Best of the Best Edition of Lake Life, which is available on magazine stands in the Smith Mountain Lake area.)

VitaZen, which is in its 18th year of business, brings a wide variety of

supplements to the Smith Mountain Lake Community. They range from beauty products, vitamins, pet food, CBD, wellness products and natural alternatives.

The business also has a yoga studio, The Centre at VitaZen, which is one of its

main attractions. The company recently was selected as the best vitamin store and best yoga studio as featured in Lake Life's Best of the Best Edition, in which readers voted on their favorite businesses.

See **VITAZEN**, Page 9



Contributed
Pictured are Glenda Wynne and Brett Keister, who own VitaZen.

Vol. 38, No. 5
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
©Womack Publishing Co., Inc. 2022



OUR BUSINESS IS TO GROW YOUR Business

Call **Tommie Jo** to schedule an advertising plan today!
434-441-1877
SMITH MOUNTAIN EAGLE

Dogs

Continued from Page 1

for these rescued animals, and they will require additional care and treatment, so if anyone in the public would like to help, Friends of Bedford County Animal Shelter are a nonprofit and accept donations, which would be put to good use helping these animals.”

Felonies

Continued from Page 1

and interfere with law enforcement officers lawfully engaged in the lawful performance of his/her official duties incident to and during the commission of a civil disorder which in any way and degree obstructed, delayed, and adversely affected commerce and the movement of any article and commodity in commerce and the conduct and performance of any federally protected function and did aid and abet others known and unknown to do the same.”

and official functions, engage in disorderly and disruptive conduct in and within such proximity to, a restricted building and grounds, that is, any posted, cordoned-off, and otherwise restricted area within the United States Capitol and its grounds, where the Vice President was temporarily visiting, when and so that such conduct did in fact impede and disrupt and orderly conduct of Government business and official functions.”

Roads

Continued from Page 6

FRANKLIN COUNTY
(NEW 12-3-21) • ROUTE 613 CLOSURE FOR CULVERT REPLACEMENT — Effective Jan. 3 at 8 a.m., a section of Route 602 (Ferrum Mountain Road) will be closed for a box culvert installation. The structure is located 0.40 miles from Route 752 (Sawmill Road) and 0.40 miles from Route 640 (Six Mile Post Road). The road is scheduled to be completed on Feb. 4 at 5 p.m.

ect is completed.
(UPDATED 1-28-21) • ROUTE 834 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS — Construction is underway on Route 834 (Brooks Mill Road) from Route 670 (Burnt Chimney Road) to Route 616 (Scruggs Road) for safety improvements to include widening shoulders, adding rumble strips and guardrail as well as removing trees and brush to improve sight distance. Flagging operations will be in place from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Work will be scheduled to avoid impacting morning or afternoon traffic at nearby Dudley Elementary School. The estimated completion date is May 2022.

VitaZen

Continued from Page 1

VitaZen has more than 5,000 unique items in stock, and owner Brett Keister, who co-owns the business with his wife, Glenda Wynne, said the main slogan they use for VitaZen is “supplements for a healthy body, mind and soul.”

Count four alleges that both Robertson and Jacob Fracker, who is the other former Rocky Mount police officer facing charges related to the Capitol riot, “knowingly and with intent to impede and disrupt the orderly conduct of Government business

The counts were filed Jan. 19.
Before the upgraded charges, Robertson was charged with Obstruction of an Official Proceeding; Aiding and Abetting; Entering and Remaining in a Restricted Building; Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a Restricted Building; and Violent Entry and Disorderly Conduct in a Capitol Building or Grounds.

(UPDATED 1-28-21) • ROUTE 122 at ROUTE 636 ROUNDABOUT — This project is currently underway to construct a roundabout. The roundabout opened to traffic on Sunday, Sept. 26. The project begins from 0.161 mile south of Route 636 to 0.090 mile south of Route 636. There will be periodic flagging between 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and possibly after 6 p.m. The scheduled completion date is May 2022.

(UPDATED 1-14-21) • ROUTE 775 CLOSURE — Route 775 (Iron Ridge Road) is closed to traffic as an emergency closure due to washout. The road will remain closed until further notice.
(UPDATED 12-17-21) • UTILITY WORK ON ROUTE 460 - MMI will be installing fiber optic along Route 122 from the Bedford County line to Wirtz Road. This work will be ongoing. Motorists should expect shoulders and/or lane closures for travel in both directions.

Make Your House a Home

Place Your Ad Today
Call 540-719-5100
To Get Started!

INSURANCE

Let Us Custom Fit

PHIL HAGER INSURANCE AGENCY

Your Insurance Policies
Call **540.721.8822**

13840 Booker T. Washington Hwy
Moneta, VA 24121

Contact Us For Future Advertising In

"Make Your House A Home"

SMITH MOUNTAIN EAGLE

1650 Scruggs Road
Wirtz, VA 24184

P: (540) 719-5100
F: (540) 719-5200

E: ads@smithmountaineagle.com

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE'S REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE

January 2022
Real Estate SHOWCASE
Smith Mountain Lake Area
Serving Bedford, Franklin and Pittsylvania Counties

Premier Waterfront Average, Large Boat Dock
Truly a one-of-a-kind property!

For more information, see Angie McGhee, Long & Foster Real Estate, on page 5

WE NEED MORE HOUSES TO SELL!
Angie McGhee
Long & Foster Real Estate

For more information on advertising in the Real Estate Showcase magazine, contact us today!

540-719-5100 (office) • 540-719-5200 (fax)
office@smithmountaineagle.com or editor@smithmountaineagle.com

REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE MAGAZINE: Supporting SML Realtors For Over 25 Years

Smith Mountain Lake Area
Serving Bedford, Franklin and Pittsylvania Counties

PHYLIS & CASEY JOHNSON
Associate Broker, GRI

YOUR 24/7 REALTORS • COMBINED 40 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
BestLakeBuys.com Phyllis: 540-537-5312
Casey: 540-537-0299
Email: phyllis@bestlakebuys.com

Glenda McDaniel
The Smith Mountain Lake Specialist
540-797-2247
TheLakeSpecialist.com
glendamcd@aol.com

See all featured properties & more:
www.GlendaMcDaniel.com

Glenda McDaniel, Top Lake Agent for Long & Foster
Steven McDaniel, Realtor

ERIC & TOM FANSLER
Luxury Collection Specialists,
ABR, GRI, E-Pro Certified
540.721.8659 • 800.858.4653
www.teamfansler.com
numb1hokie@aol.com • efans@aol.com

ML REALTY
BUY • BUILD
RENT • SELL
www.ML-Realty.com
540-297-3679

Lake Retreat Properties, Inc.

Jeanette Childress
Broker
CELL: 540-309-6002
broker@lakeretreat.com

Wil Childress
Assoc. Broker
CELL: 540-312-7002
sales@lakeretreat.com

www.lakeretreat.com

REG ANDERSON
ABR, GRI
RegAnderson@Realtor.com
(540) 580-6960

LONG & FOSTER
HALES FORD BRIDGE
16869 MONETA ROAD
MONETA, VA 24121

VirginiaPropertiesandHomes.com

Vicki MILLEHAN
Luxury Collection Specialist
540.520.2401
Vicki@VickisLakeHomes.com
VickisLakeHomes.com

Debbie SHELTON
GRI, CRS, ABR
540.797.3177
Debbie@DebbieShelton.com
DebbieShelton.com

Live Like LAKE REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS
An Independently owned and operated franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC

FOUR SEASONS PEST CONTROL
540-721-3470

F&S BUILDING INNOVATIONS
Build Smart. Build Right.
FROM CONCEPT TO COMPLETION

2944 ORANGE AVENUE NE
ROANOKE, VA 24012
540-985-9160

FSFOURSEASONS.COM

Angie McGhee
Franklin County Home Team
Broker Associate, REALTOR®, GRI, ABR, e-Pro, SFR
Licensed in Virginia
Office: 540-483-HOME - Cell: 540.537.5918
Search the MLS:
www.AngieMcGhee.com
350 Old Franklin Turnpike
Rocky Mount, VA 24151
The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.

Barbara Johnston
Principal Broker/Owner
CELL: 540-493-5047
OFFICE: 540-576-9981

EMAIL: southlake@live.com
WEB: www.south-lake.com

11771 Old Franklin Turnpike, Suite A
Union Hall, VA 24176 • 800-719-LAKE (5253)

NORM MATTSON
Associate Broker
REALTOR®, GRI, ABR
16451 B.T. Washington Hwy, Moneta, VA 24121
O: (800) 233-9004, (540) 721-3555 ext. 217
C: (540) 797-1991 • E: NEMattson@aol.com
www.remoxsmithmountainlake.com

Smith Home Inspections
Call or visit us online to schedule your inspection!

www.smithinspectsit.com
CALL NOW 540-525-5165

Looking for an experienced agent with integrity serving buyers and sellers needs?

STEVEN WISOTZKEY
CSP
Cell: 717-319-2453
www.smlhouses.com
Email: swisotzkey55@gmail.com
Licensed Realtor in Virginia
25 YEARS OF FULL TIME EXPERIENCE
REMAX HALL OF FAME RECIPIENT

MAKING CLIENTS FOR LIFE ONE HOME AT A TIME

PENNY HODGES
LICENSED IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
CRS SFR
38 YEARS EXPERIENCE
540-493-9800
REMAX LAKEFRONT REALTY

PENNY@PENNYHODGES.COM • WWW.PENNYHODGES.COM

MAYBERRY FURNITURE
Antique Mall
A Shade Brighter / Art & Furniture Outlet
1123 Celebration Avenue, Moneta, 540-297-6440
Mayberry Furniture & Antique Mall
1170 Celebration Avenue, Moneta, 540-297-7770

Rhonda Blankenship
276-252-5609
Long & Foster at the Lake
www.rhondablankenship.com

SMITH MOUNTAIN EAGLE

Visit us online!
www.smithmountaineagle.com

Blackwater Resurfacing
540.352.8244
540.352.7466
www.blackwaterresurfacing.com



Award Winning Newspaper

"The Lake Newspaper" since 1985

SMITH MOUNTAIN EAGLE



SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE, VIRGINIA ■ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

SMITHMOUNTAINEAGLE.COM

\$2.00



William Seidel/Smith Mountain Eagle

Pictured from left are Staunton River High School wrestling team freshman Josh Kelly, freshman Peyton Hatcher, freshman Noah Nining, head coach Scott Fike, freshman Colin Martin, freshman Brady Barns and freshman Macon Ayers.

Freshmen class has eyes set on multiple state titles for SRHS

WILLIAM SEIDEL
Smith Mountain Eagle

In the Staunton River High School gymnasium, there are two team portraits on one of the walls: the 1996 Track & Field outdoor team that won the state championship and the 2016 football team that finished runner up for the state championship. They

are the only two teams recognized by the school for winning and playing in a state championship game/meet.

However, there is a growing belief to those at Staunton River that there will be three new team portraits hanging on the gym walls within the next three years.

The main reason for

that? A group of six freshmen wrestlers, who all placed within the top four for their weight bracket of the VHSL state wrestling tournament. These six freshmen are Colin Martin (36-2), Noah Nining (38-3), Brady Barns (35-7), Peyton Hatcher (24-11), Macon Ayers (37-9) and Josh Kelly (25-7).

"I remember being little

and looking up there and seeing that we've only had one state title, and it was back in the '90s, before we were even born. We've always dreamed of bringing a state title here at Staunton River, individually and as a team," Ayers said.

These freshmen aren't just looking to bring a team

See **STATE**, Page 14

Perfect season spoiled for SRHS girls basketball

WILLIAM SEIDEL
Smith Mountain Eagle

The undefeated season that many believed the Staunton River High School girls basketball team could achieve came to an end in the Region 3D tournament championship at Carroll County High School on Feb. 26. The Lady Eagles are now 25-1 on the season.

After an emotional fourth quarter comeback against Magna Vista, the Lady Eagles had two days to regroup as they took on the number one seed Lady Cavaliers, who proved to



William Seidel/Smith Mountain Eagle

Shown is the Staunton River High School girls basketball team walking back to their bench after shaking hands with Carroll County.

See **GIRLS**, Page 11

Small business spotlight

The Farmhouse will reopen

WILLIAM SEIDEL
Smith Mountain Eagle

The Farmhouse, originally known as Farmhouse Catering, will make a comeback and open its doors May 1. It will be in the building where Pier

122 was located at 60 First Watch Drive, Moneta.

The return of The Farmhouse was met with excitement from the community when it was announced on social media. Nora Barker, who owns The Farmhouse, said even in the midst of

the pandemic, they were still very busy catering and making meals to go.

"We never shut down a day during the whole pandemic. We stayed super busy through all of that," Barker said.

However, their former

location experienced an electrical fire, in which the flames never spread. Barker said the majority of the damage was from the smoke, and they ultimately decided to close.

See **REOPEN**, Page 11

Michael Brown not guilty

By reason of insanity

WILLIAM SEIDEL
Smith Mountain Eagle

Ex-Marine Michael Alexander Brown has been found not guilty by reason of insanity in connection to the murder of Rodney Wilfred Brown, described as Michael Brown's stepfather.

Michael Brown also was found not guilty on other charges that included use of a firearm in commission of a felony (two counts), armed breaking and entering of an occupied house, firearm larceny, and stealing Rodney Brown's credit card.

Michael Brown did plead no contest to a felony

charge of breaking and entering with intent to commit larceny. He was found guilty and sentenced to 10-years, but judge Stacey Moreau suspended all of it. He will now spend time in a mental hospital and gave up his right to own a firearm.

Near the end of the bench trial, the judge said that Michael Brown was not aware of his actions



M. Brown

See **BROWN**, Page 8

BCSC hears from Dist. 7 candidates

WILLIAM SEIDEL
Smith Mountain Eagle

The Bedford County School Board held a public hearing Monday that gave the finalists for the interim District 7 spot to a chance to make their case for the seat, which was originally held by Martin Leamy, who resigned last month. The public hearing was held at Liberty High School.

The three finalists for the interim appointee position are Christopher Daniels, Raymond Smith and Cherie Whitehurst.

Daniels went first and spoke to the board via Zoom due to him being on a business trip. Daniels organized his six minutes

into three sections: Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness, a phrase from the United States Declaration of Independence.

For life, Daniels said he has been fortunate to raise his two twin boys in Bedford County the past four years and added his family attended schools such as Jefferson Forest High School.

Daniels explained he is a product of 12 schools and how he has been a private business owner for 23 years. Daniels told the board he wants to serve and be a voice for the parents, students, guardians and teachers.

See **BCSB**, Page 10

Inflation is affecting the newspaper

We are all alarmed at the rate of inflation and price increases faced by our readers and businesses in our community. It has caused a huge strain on local businesses and everyone at the kitchen table who must decide how to pay more for what we need.

Unfortunately like most businesses, and a little later than most, we at Womack Publishing, which publishes the Smith Mountain Eagle, are having to implement a \$0.50 increase on single copy prices of the

newspaper to \$2.50 per issue as of March 9, 2022. We are also raising our annual subscription rates just \$10 per year to \$66 for in-county residents (\$84 out of county) due to the rising cost of raw materials, especially newsprint and fuel.

We will be offering a two-week special on our new subscription rates, so please see our advertisement in today's edition.

We would like to thank all of our readers and advertisers for their continued support.



**OUR
BUSINESS**
IS TO
GROW YOUR Business

Call us to schedule
an advertising plan today!
540-719-5100

Report

Continued from Page 3

BCOFR (Stewartsville) (motor vehicle accident), Diamond Hill Road. Reported overturned vehicle with power line down.

Bedford County: Company 19 Shady Grove, Company 13 Stewartsville, Company 9 Montvale, Company 1 Bedford, Medic 14-13 BCOFR (Stewartsville), Medic 14-6 BCOFR (Goode), Training 1, FM1 and Fire Marshals Office (residential structure fire), Simmons Mill Road. Smoke reported in the residence with electrical smell by homeowner. Medic 14-13 on scene; nothing showing; investigating.

Feb. 21

Franklin County: Company 4 Glade Hill, Squad 4 Glade Hill Rescue and Med. 1-4 FCPS (vehicle fire), 2500 block of Route 40 Old Franklin Turnpike area of Ledbetter Road. Law enforcement on scene requested assistance for a single vehicle on fire over an embankment; they knocked down the fire with extinguishers.

Bedford County: Company 19 Shady Grove, Company 9 Montvale, Company 13 Stewartsville, Company 1 Bedford, Company 12 Hardy, Company 9 Montvale, Company 8 Moneta, Medic 14-13 BCOFR Stewartsville and Bedford County Wildland Division (large brush fire), Sandy Ford Road, per BCSO. Command requested manpower and brush trucks for long-term incident. Over 10 acres burnt. Fire watched by VDOF. Command post at 4400 block of Sandy Ford Road. Units working: B19, B13, B92,

B8, B82, B91, B1, Tanker 13, Tanker 12, Tanker 91, Tanker 1, Tanker 8, M14-13, Tractor 15 and 1502

Feb. 20

Franklin County: Company 10 Scruggs, Company 11 SML Fire Boats, Company 9 Burnt Chimney (added), Company 8 Moneta (Bedford County added) and Med. 15 FCPS (added) (brush fire), Woodbridge Circle. Chief 10 on scene advising 3/4 of an acre of woods involved moving fast toward several boats in a storage area. Chief 10 requested Company 9 added to respond; several exposures potentially threatened. Also requested tanker from Company 8 Moneta Bedford County mutual aid, reporting fire was still out of control. Units operated: Burnt Chimney with Brush 9, Tanker 9 and Chief 9; Scruggs with Mini Pumper 10, Tanker 10, Command 10 and Attack 10; FCPS with Med 15; SML Fireboats with FB11-5, FB 11-4, Capt. 11 and Chief 11; 1184; and Moneta Fire Dept. with Brush 8, Brush 82, Tanker 8 and Chief 8. At 7 p.m., units were picking up equipment and returning to stations.

Feb. 19

Bedford County: Company 8 Moneta (rubbish fire), Hunters Knoll Lane.

Franklin County: Company 9 Burnt Chimney, Squad 9 Red Valley Rescue and Med. 1-4 FCPS (added) (motor vehicle accident), Route 122 Booker T. Washington Highway and Angle Plantation Road. Two vehicles; unknown injuries; one lane blocked.

Franklin County: Company 10 Scruggs (service call), 100 block of Montgomery Farm Avenue for a tree down blocking the

roadway.

Bedford County: Company 13 Stewartsville, Special Operations Command, Medic 14-13 BCOFR (Stewartsville) and Medic 19-3 Shady Grove (motor vehicle accident into house), 10000 Stewartsville Road.

Franklin County: Company 9 Burnt Chimney (service call), Bonbrook Mill Road area of Taylors Road for a reported tree down blocking the roadway. Tree was removed and roadway was back open.

Bedford County: Company 13 Stewartsville, Company 19 Shady Grove, Company 8 Moneta, Company 1 Bedford, Squad 13 Stewartsville, Medic 14-13 BCOFR (Stewartsville), County 10 BCOFR Lt, Fire Marshals Office and FM1 (residential structure fire),

Crestborn Drive. Medic 14-13 on scene; nothing showing; investigating. Units enroute: E13, R13, L1, R8, T19, M14-13, M14-8 and M19-2.

Franklin County: Company 9 Burnt Chimney, Squad 9 Red Valley Rescue and Med. 1-7 FCPS (motor vehicle accident), Route 116 Jubal Early Highway, 4200 block area of Teaberry Loop. Single vehicle vs. deer.

Feb. 17

Franklin County: Company 9 Burnt Chimney and Med. 1-2 FCPS (brush fire), 2900 block of Burnt Chimney Road.

Feb. 16

Bedford County: Company 8 Moneta (large brush fire/hay on fire), Dozer Lane.

Feb. 15

Franklin County: Company 15 FCPS Westlake and Company 10 Scruggs (brush fire), Route 122 Booker T. Washington Highway area of Lake Watch Drive and First Watch Drive.

Franklin County: Company 4 Glade Hill (line down), Sontag Road and Beulah Road.

Feb. 14

Franklin County: Company 9 Burnt Chimney, Company 15 FCPS Westlake, Company 7 Boones Mill, Station 6 Mt. Pleasant (Roanoke Co.), Squad 9 Red Valley Rescue, Med. 1-7 FCPS and FM-2 FCPS (structure fire), 500 block of Landmark Road. Units on scene advised fully involved garage fire; several vehicles inside garage with exposures nearby.

Bedford County: Company 7 Huddleston, Company 11 SML Fireboats ERD (standby), Squad 7 Huddleston, Squad 8 Moneta, Medic 14-8 BCOFR (Moneta) and Special Operations Command (motor vehicle accident; vehicle into the lake), Leesville Lake. Rescue 7 on the scene; one vehicle into the water. Looked unoccupied with no one in the water. SOC personal got into ice suits. SML Fireboats Dive canceled; handled by land units. No people found. Turned over to Conservation and State Police. Units that responded: Rescue 1 Bedford (SOC), Utility 5 Forest (SOC), Attack 7 Huddleston, Rescue 7 Huddleston, Deputy Chief 11 SML Fireboats/Dive, Medic 7-4 Huddleston, Medic 14-8 BCOFR (Moneta) and County 10 BCOFR Lt.

Sign up for the

SME
SMITH MOUNTAIN
EAGLE



**BREAKING
NEWS**

Delivered Daily
Right To Your
Electronic Device
FREE!

Visit us online to subscribe to
our Free daily newsletter!

www.SmithMountainEagle.com

Brown

Continued from Page 1

due to mental health issues. He was diagnosed with dissociative amnesia. His defense attorney, Deborah Caldwell-Bono, believes the judge made the right decision.

She later said that after looking at everything she saw and heard, she thought that the ruling would be in Michael Brown's favor. She said he is someone who needs help, not to be locked up.

"He's grateful for the opportunity to go there and get the help that he needs so that hopefully he can return to society rather soon and continue to be a good, productive citizen," she said.

During the motion hearing, two psychologists reportedly testified as witnesses of Michael Brown's mental health and believed that he met state requirements for a defense of insanity.

Michael Brown had allegedly experienced blackouts, depression and signs of dissociative disorder, as well as trauma for physical abuse at the hands of Rodney Brown.

The prosecutors argued that Michael Brown was aware of his intentions with the amount of weapons that was found in his RV as well as writings he wrote about the murder and his past of lying during his time in the Marines.

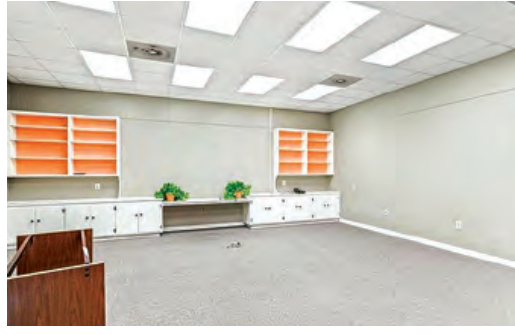
Commonwealth Attorney A.J. Dudley, who has been practicing law for 22 years, said this particular case is unique.

"Opposing counsel has said the same thing. Her honor said the same thing to us. This is an extremely unique case, unique facts, unique circumstances," Dudley said.

When asked if he felt justice was served, Dudley said, "That's the way the system is designed to work."

"As I alluded to before, we feel that we presented the court with a full amount of evidence. There's nothing that we wanted to present to the court that we did not, and in that regard, we respect the process and the judge's ruling," he said.

Looking for a
Smart Business Move?
We have the perfect space, in the perfect place.



Available for **sale** or **lease**, large warehouse with office spaces! This property sits right off of the main street in Troy, NC. Perfectly centralized and convenient to main roads for importing and exporting. The warehouse offers a drop off section with three loading docks, office spaces in the front and a basement with additional space for offices and/or storage. The unique layout offers a lot of potential for tailoring the property to your specific use. Looking to expand your operations? Check out this warehouse!

139 Bruton Street • Troy, NC
For more information, contact Richard Ingram
434-334-1229