As the Page Turns

By Katharine Bloodworth

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We hope that all of our patrons had a wonderful Christmas! We look forward to 2024 and would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! January is named for the Roman god Janus, protector of gates and doorways. Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other into the future. January's birthstone is the garnet and the flower is the carnation. A few of January's observances are: Book Blitz Month, Financial Wellness Month, National Hot Tea Month, National Soup Month, New Years Day: 1, J.R.R. Tolkien Day: 3, National Save The Eagles Day: 10, Martin Luther King Day: 15, Library Selfie Day: 24, and National Puzzle Day: 29.

The weather outside might be frightful, but the library is so delightful, with lots of books to choose from — Let us read! Let us read! Let us read! Don't forget that we also carry a nice selection of magazines, movies, and audio books on CD.

The library would like to offer a HUGE thank you to everyone who participated in the many community outreach programs this Holiday Season, including Elves for the Elders, Wrapping for a Claws, Community Christmas Tree and the St. Anne's Food Bank. Without the generous support of our community these programs wouldn't be the huge success that they are. All donations given toward these programs effect local families, senior citizens and pets.

On Tuesday, December 19th, the library hosted Amazement Square for a fun- filled, gingerbread-themed Library Makers STEAM program based on the book "Gingerbread Friends" by Jan Brett. The kids explored math and measurements while making gingerbread playdough! The next Amazement Square Library Makers STEAM program will be on Tuesday, January 16, starting at 1 p.m., featuring the book "Little Snowflake." Everyone is welcome to attend with the understanding that this program is for preschool aged patrons 3-5 years of age.

It's a wrap! "Wrapping For a Claws" is over for the year, with the largest one day gift wrapping of over 50 packages, all with beautiful layered bows made by a library employee. The ladies of Miss American Star Achievement wrapped their hearts out last Tuesday to make sure every package was done in time for pickup. They would like to thank all who showed up to help support the local animal shelter by donating pet food, pet-related items and monetary donations to be used toward the purchase of much-needed supplies for the shelter in exchange for their wrapping services. Miss American Star Achievement have been wrapping for this cause (or claws, or Claus) for over five years, and the program has been around for almost a decade.

It was pajama time at the Wednesday, December 20th Preschool Story & Craft Time! The library hosted the Master Gardeners Association of Appomattox for this Christmas-themed event, featuring the book "How to Catch a Gingerbread Man" written by Adam Wallace and Andy Elkerton. The craft was using paint, pom poms, and crayons to create a Christmas tree scene, and passed out goody bags after the program. The library served chocolate Yoohoos and an assortment of snacks. The next Story & Craft Time will be on Wednesday, January 27th, starting at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend with the understanding that this program is for preschool-aged patrons.

The Jamerson Library hosted their Movie Night on Thursday, December 21st, featuring a small-hearted meanie in green who hates Christmas, and wants to make all the villagers in town to be as miserable as he is. The next Jamerson Movie Night will be on Thursday, January 18th, starting at 6 p.m.

We would like to remind everyone that the library has lost their ability to log into the J. Robert Jamerson Memorial Library's Facebook page. In the meantime, we will be using ACLA's (Appomattox County Library Association) Facebook page to get our photos and information out to the public. You can find ACLA's page here: https://www.facebook.com/ACLA123. We are working with Facebook to resolve this matter, but it might not be possible to maintain our original page. We may have to restart our Facebook presence, but we are keeping a positive attitude no matter the outcome. We will keep the public informed as we move forward while we work on this issue.

KATHARINE G. BLOODWORTH/CONTRIBUTED

Family fun at the Amazement Square's STEAM Library Makers program at the Jamerson Memorial Library.

In observance of the New Year holiday, the library will be closed on Monday, January 1st, 2024. We wish all our patrons a safe and happy New Year as we look forward to 2024! We will reopen for normal business hours on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024. The book drop located at the back of the building will remain open.

In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the library will be closed on Monday, January 15th, 2024. We will reopen for normal business hours on Tuesday, January 16th. The book drop located at the back of the building will remain open.

If you have any questions or concerns about this article or other library-related topics, please feel free to call us during normal business hours at 434-352-5340.

The library receives a steady supply of new and donated items, and would like to highlight the following titles:

DVDs
- Charmed: The Second Season
- James Bond – Goldfinger
- USS Indianapolis
- James Bond – From Russia With Love
- First Man
- Step Up
- Rocky
- The Lucky One
- Holiday Romance Collection

Hunt Smart -- Fish Hard

By Leon Mettler

Squirrel Hunting with a .32 Caliber Black Powder Muzzleloader

Back some years ago my wife and I decided to move to this place off of Route 727. The landowner told me all about the deer and turkeys that roam around the house. We took a ride over to the house and checked the house out along for signs of deer and turkeys. We liked the house and knew this was going to be a great place to hunt. I couldn't wait to move in.

On our first trip to the house with our belongings, we come around the corner and on the left hand side of the woods my eyes got big as half dollars! Not one — two or three turkeys less than 10 feet away there was a flock of turkeys of 10-plus. I knew right there this was my new honey hole to hunt. On the last trip with our belongings, I had to pull over and check out the pullover spot where I saw many, many footprints in the mud around the little puddle.

I killed a couple of deer and one turkey with the bow and shotgun. What I was waiting for was muzzleloader season to come in. I had already walked around the property line and I had plenty of places to shoot from. It was time to get some stands made in a hurry. The landowner didn't mind if I built some. I had three stands up and I was hoping I would be hunting out of them soon.

I have never seen so many squirrels in one place as I had seen here. Muzzleloader season was coming in and soon deer season was coming in. The first two weeks of deer season I hunted with a muzzleloader. If I didn't kill a deer in the first two weeks, I was going to switch over to the shotgun. For whatever the reason was, I wanted to try and hunt all year with the muzzleloader.

Deer season had come and gone, and now it was time to bring out my .32 caliber black powder rifle. When I lived in Pennsylvania, I bought a .32 black powder rifle so I could hunt squirrels with it. It was easier said than done. I made my own speed loaders out of plastic tubing. The tubing that I used in my fish tank was just the right size. I made a bunch of them up. The reason being, when I squirrel hunted in Pennsylvania I had more misses than kills. With that in my mind, I made a bunch of them up. I was ready now.

I told my wife I was going squirrel hunting. I wanted to hunt by the tree stand just up the hill in the back yard. It was a warm January day, weather temps in the 60s. When I got to the tree to sit down, I kicked all the leaves around the tree so I could move around and not make much noise. I'm set now but before I could put the muzzleloader across my lap two squirrels come out of the nest and start yelling like squirrels yell. I ease up the rifle, I back up to the tree, and I put the crosshairs right where it needed to be on the squirrel. I pulled back the hammer, held my breath, and squeezed the trigger. Ka-Boom! Smoke was everywhere. When the smoke cleared the two squirrels were heading to the nest.

Now I know I got to wait a long time before the squirrels come back out of the nests. I grabbed a reloader and started to reload when I noticed the squirrels were out of the nests and roaming around the tree limbs. I got the muzzleloader reloaded, and this time when I put the crosshairs on it I remembered I got to aim a little lower. Here goes nothing, Ka-Boom! Just as I see the smoke, I hear the squirrel hit the ground. The other squirrel is still there all balled up on the tree limb. It took me almost 30 minutes to reload as this squirrel keeps his eyes on me. I was afraid to move. Now I hear and see more squirrels behind me. I got to get the muzzleloader reloaded. I said the heck with it, I just reloaded and to my surprise some of the squirrels stayed right there.

I had taken 10 shots and carried home three squirrels. I had a blast. I got the squirrels, cleaned up and took their tails and pulled them inside out and loaded salt on the skin. By the end of the week I pulled them inside out and hung them on the well building. When I would come home from work and see those tails swinging in the air, they were my trophies. I love hunting with a muzzleloader whether it's a .50 caliber, a .45 caliber, a .36 caliber or the real challenge, a .32 caliber.

Until next week-H.S.F.H.-L.M.

Gary's Corner

By Gary Evans

Job Interview

I am in my fifth and final year of architecture school at the University of Southern Mississippi. The road has been hard and difficult at times but the light at the end of the tunnel is in sight.

College is an adventure full of people, sorority girls, beer and constant food with the meal plan. I have gained 15 pounds in the past three years; I have not been active. The classes and the parties are stressing. I have finally met a girl I really like, which has brought about a calming effect and love.

Our final year is full of level 400 and 500 classes, studying building foundations, the strength of materials and every conceivable math class, in addition to a presentation class. This class is to teach us how to present our ideas and proposed building designs to potential clients. I think it was possibly the best class we had to take; it allowed us to gain the confidence to stand before people and speak.

The last semester I took an advanced class worth six credits; it met Monday, Wednesday and Friday for three hours. The objective was to design a medical office building with drawings and a scale model. Many late hours with only 12 weeks to complete — this rewrote the book on stress.

The class only had six students, and we had to present our projects to the class as though they were the client. We were to ask a lot of questions and we had to be able to answer as though it was a real interview.

Graduation is about us, the excitement and family. Our day has come. It's over. No one can take this away from me; I have succeeded and I have my diploma.

Up until college I only had odd summer jobs and working on the family farm and our tree business. Now the real world and to find my oyster and the pearl. My thoughts, as they often did, were to think of what kind of path I could take my education. I spoke with the college placement office and a state employment office; they both made some suggestions.

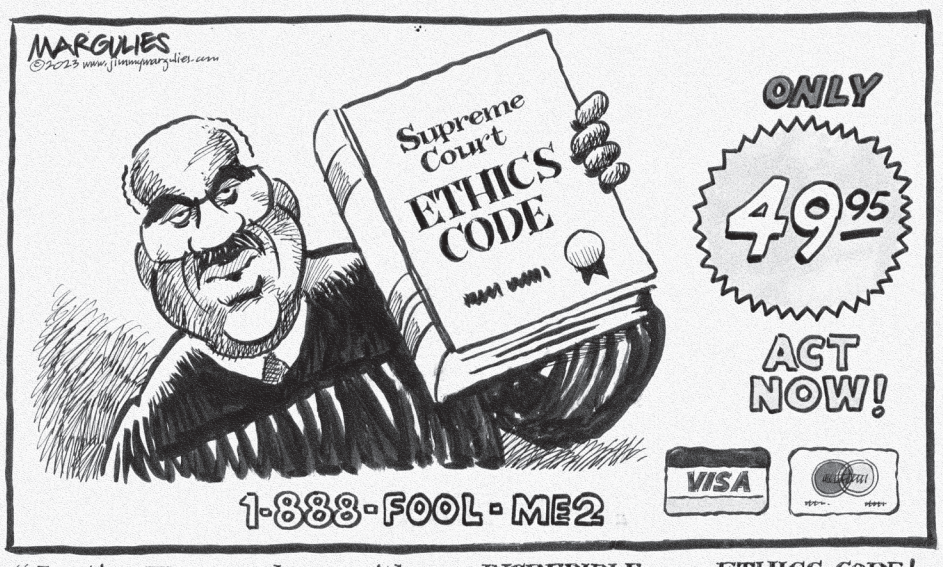
My first interview was with an engineering firm working on the Alaskan pipeline. I made an appointment and dressed in my best suit for my first interview. I was greeted and asked to sit in a waiting room with several other candidates, all as nervous as I was. Time moved slowly, only increasing my heart rate and sweating under the weight of my suit and the heat of the summer.

I was asked back to meet the personal director. I gave him a firm handshake and looked him straight in his eyes and introduced myself. We sat down, him behind his desk in the seat of power, and explained what the company was about — its structure, projects, policies, and what positions they were interviewing to fill. The project was the Alaska pipeline; you were expected to live there for six months with one month off and repeat.

Now he turned the questions to me. He had my weak resume with only college, no real work experience. He said I handled the interview very well but without any experience he had nothing to offer. I thanked him and left.

On the way home I just asked myself over and over, "How do I get experience without a chance?" Tomorrow we will try again.

Never stop trying!



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