Church Directory

PRESBYTERIAN

Beale Memorial Presbyterian

• Sunday School starts at 10a.m.
• Preaching service is every second and fourth Sunday at 11:15a.m.

The church welcomes all who wish to attend.

Located on Church Street in Pamplin

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	×		+		17
−		×		×	
	×		−		19
×		+		+	
	×		−		19
20		19		15	

1 2 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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Letters to the Editor

My name is Sarah Hamlett Blackwell, and I am the Mayor of the Town of Pamplin, located in the Appomattox River District of Appomattox County.

I have the utmost respect for Bill Hogan, Jerry Boyce and Kenneth Wolfskill. This particular board of supervisors election has placed me in a precarious and unusual position as I have known all of the candidates for many years.

It is my opinion that all three are amazing, upstanding Christians who have a great love for this county and whose decision to run for supervisor is rooted in that love and desire to see Appomattox County prosper and succeed.

As the Mayor of Pamplin, my primary concern is the ongoing revitalization and economic redevelopment of Pamplin.

Bill Hogan has been a phenomenal advocate for The Town of Pamplin in his two terms on the Appomattox Country Board of Supervisors. I feel it would be a disservice to not fully support and endorse his re-election.

In recent years, Pamplin has worked hard for revitalization. There is no doubt in my mind that the level of redevelopment and revitalization in Pamplin would not have occurred without Mr. Hogan's advocacy and support at the county level. This advocacy has allowed Appomattox County and The Town of Pamplin to partner in several areas, most recently with The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Prince Edward County to finally bring the High Bridge Trail State Park all the way in to the Town of Pamplin.

Mr. Hogan is a lifelong resident of Pamplin and has been a volunteer with the Pamplin Volunteer Fire Department for 28 years. He has a long track record of serving the Pamplin community. In addition to being on the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors and Pamplin Volunteer Fire Department, he currently serves as the Deputy Chief for the Farmville Police Department and was recently recognized as a Certified Law Enforcement Command Executive by the Virginia Association of Chief's of Police.

It is my belief that Mr Hogan's track record in the community speaks volumes, and I fully support and endorse his re-election to the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors.

— Sarah Hamlett Blackwell, Mayor of Pamplin

Letters to the Editor

Why are "Parental Rights" so important in our school system? Besides parents making sure that they are aware of the good, bad, and indifferent activities of their children, including grades, behavior, or whether they were the aggressor or victim in an assault, it is the parent's right to be notified and kept abreast of these details so that they can make decisions for their child based on their morals and standard of conduct teachings within their family entity. Parents also have a right to protect their child's privacy and to keep them safe.

I recently became aware that The VA Department of Health and the VA Department of Education are preparing to roll out surveys, the Virginia Youth Surveys, to the middle and high schools in Virginia for kids to fill out and return anonymously, (yet easily identifiable if pursued), concerning a wide variety of personal, private information. The information obtained by these surveys is given to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and VA Foundation for Healthy Youth for review and examination to add to their databank.

Do you want your child to answer questions to a government agency regarding their possible illegal or personal activities, or even yours? Can these questions be geared towards possible overreach concerning your Constitutional Rights, such as "do you have a gun in your house?" How about "Are you a transgender? Do you or your partner wear a condom? Have you had sex with males, females, or both?" The answers to most of these questions, unfortunately, is "yes," they are geared towards exactly those kinds of questions!

My thoughts are, what if a child responds that "yes" they have performed an illegal act, or contemplated committing a crime, taking drugs, or even suicide? As mandated reporters, are the schools required to report these answers to the police and social services? And if they don't report them, and something happens to the child, that they were made aware of in this survey, is the school system responsible? Are they now liable? Is the government infringing on our family's privacy through a survey of our children?

I invite you to check out the 2023 Virginia Youth Surveys for high school and middle school students and prepare to be shocked at what they are asking your child to answer! Go to www.vdh.virginia.gov/virginia-youth-survey and review the questions, think about the answers that your child may give and what the government can do with those answers.

Keep "Parental Rights" on the forefront of your child's educational career! It is so important that we get these rights reinstated for the health and wellbeing of our children. Contact your local school when you are notified of these surveys and "opt out" so that your child will not have to answer these questions or be exposed to some of these immoral questions.

— Tom Adams, Appomattox

ACHS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pairing them when they break, troubleshooting technological issues, and taking photos and videos with the drones. The unmanned aircraft course is a new addition to the curriculum offered by the Career and Technical department at the Virginia Department of Education.

Hamby proudly stated, "Appomattox County is one of the first schools to offer this course to students."

The Unmanned Aircraft class is just one way students get to learn about drones. Students can also join a newly-formed drone club at ACHS. This spring, the drone team will participate in the Sea, Air, and Land challenge, a competition that simulates missions encountered by the military, first responders, and national security agencies. Students will be tasked with building a drone for the air challenge.

Team captain Nicholas Will said, "I'm excited to see what type of drone we will build."

The drone team will also take part in a virtual competition where they will devise the most effective path for emergency management in a potential nuclear situation. Hamby has even invited the First Responders Club to participate in the competition.

Damonye, Noah and Nicholas all expressed their enjoyment of the class and their aspirations to utilize drone technology in their future careers.

Senior Tevin Kelso summed it up, saying, "Who wouldn't want to fly drones in school? It's a lot of fun to be able to fly."

So, the next time you're around, look toward the sky; you might just spot a drone being operated by the future drone pilots of the world.

VIGIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

violence program also deploys court advocates that work with victim-witness programs, educates people on different ways to deal with anger, teaches teenagers how to develop healthy relationships, and distributes posters and materials to spread awareness about victim assistance options.

"The biggest thing I that I would want people to remember tonight is that one in four women and one in seven men experience domestic violence," McIvor said. "And we say that — we say men and women — but what it really affects are families. It affects children because it's more likely that a child who's living in domestic violence will grow up and then they will be a perpetrator or they may experience violence from their partner."

Rothgeb, the keynote speaker, works as an investigator with the Appomattox County Sheriff's Office, and drew praise from Appomattox Victim-Witness Program Coordinator Libby Ashby for his work in domestic situations.

"I have worked with police officers for about 18 to 19 years at Liberty University and the sheriff's offices in Appomattox and Nelson, and Justin is the most genuine officer that I've ever run into. So, I'm really thankful that this county has him and his commitment to these types of victims," Ashby said.

Rothgeb, a lifelong resident of Appomattox County, grew up in a home tarnished by domestic violence, child abuse and drug usage. Although being raised in such an environment may create a cycle of abuse among children who grow up to become abusers or fall into abusive relationships, Rothgeb is living proof that victims are able to purposefully buck that trend and avoided the pitfalls that could easily destroy their future.

"I'm a bit of an outlier, in that drug use was prevalent in my home, domestic violence was prevalent in my home (but) I've never tried any kind of narcotic, and I use the bad things that I saw to drive me to be different," he said. "It was always a motivating factor to be a good husband and to be a good father —those were things that I didn't have in my house."

"I remember telling a guidance counselor, I think it was Mr. James, on my Career Day in eighth grade, what I wanted to be when I got older," he added. "And I said 'Look man, I don't know, but I want to be a good dad and I wanna be a good husband.'"

Rothgeb explained that the majority of homicides committed in Appomattox County are domestic-related, and that domestic disturbance emergency calls are often the most dangerous for victims and law enforcement. While those cases are often frustrating, he stated, they are also some of the most rewarding when some type of positive outcome is achieved. Remaining patient with the victims, he said, is an important part of domestic violence investigations, because oftentimes they aren't ready or are afraid to fully cooperate with a case.

"You give somebody an opportunity because you love them, and unfortunately the abuser takes advantage of that and the cycle continues," he said.

Investigators must deal with various types of crime, and Rothgeb acknowledges that sometimes people do bad things for what they perceive to be good reasons. However, Rothgeb has never come across a good reason for domestic violence and child abuse.

"I worked narcotics for about two years, and I can tell you that in the end of our cases we would talk to people during a search warrant or an interview or something like that, and sometimes — not very often but sometimes — I would talk to, by statute, a drug dealer and they would explain to me why they dealt drugs, and it would at least resonate in my brain as to like 'I don't agree with what you did but you did something bad for a good reason.' I don't ever think I've talked to somebody that's abused their kid or beat up on their wife or displaced the trust that somebody has for them — they've never been able to get me to get behind their rationale why you would beat up your wife, or why you would abuse your son, or why you would do anything like that," he said.

Rothgeb believes that those who "hurt the weak and take advantage of their loved ones" need to held accountable for their actions by law.

"In the end of the day, when you abuse that power and that trust, I don't think there's many more things that you can do that are worse than that," he said.

Having suffered the effects of domestic violence and abuse in his youth, Rothgeb is able to empathize with children in those situations and is inspired to work hard for victims.

"When you are in a house with domestic violence, from a kid's standpoint, it takes away a lot of your innocence; it takes away a lot of the things that you're not supposed to see, for hopefully ever, but certainly not at eight, nine, 10 years old," he said. "You're not supposed to see your mom get hit by your dad. You're not supposed to see your mom in the hospital or whatever."

Rothgeb wants to assure victims that a good team of public officials is working for them in Appomattox County.

Domestic violence victims may contact a variety of assistance options, including emergency 911, the Appomattox County Sheriff's Office at 434-352-2666, the Appomattox Victim-Witness Program at 434-352-7791, the Appomattox Department of Social Services at 434-352-7125, YWCA Central Virginia at 434-847-7751, and the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233.

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