

Buckingham Beacon

December 13, 2019–January 16, 2020

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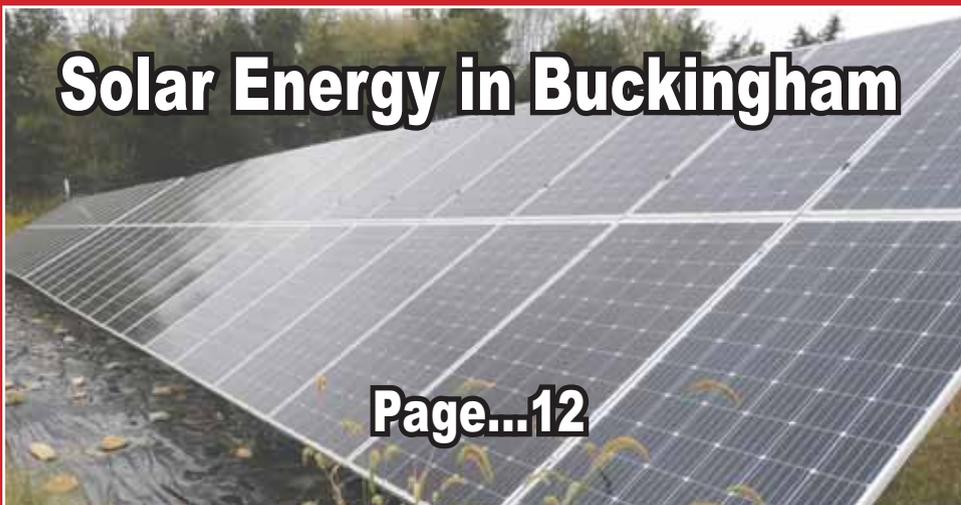
Beacon



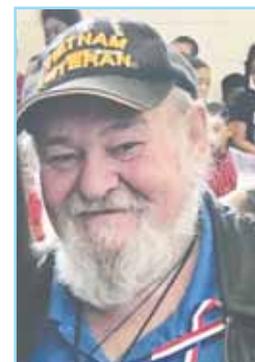
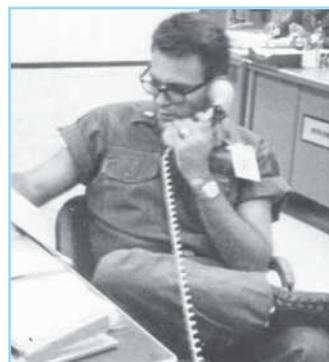
Curtis and Annie Gough SERCAP Helps Family Acquire New Home

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Solar Energy in Buckingham



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Honoring Our Veterans Vietnam...Page 7



The South East Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (SERDAP) helped the Gough family acquire this new home. Photo by Martha Louis.

Cover designed by Marilyn Ellinger

Buckingham Beacon

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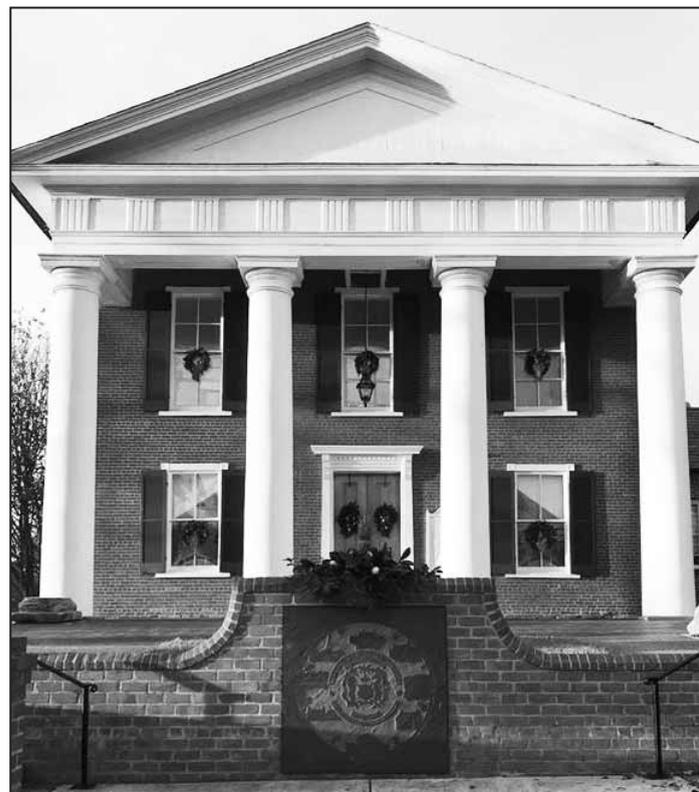
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Editor,

I am writing this in response to the article titled "BCMS FFA Competes at the State Fair of VA," published in the *Buckingham Beacon* on November 15, 2019. The article clearly shows how education as a whole has thankfully expanded to fit the interests of students. One of the questions I remember asking the most in both middle and high school is "how does this apply in real life?" My teachers either gave a very abstract example that wouldn't happen or they said: "it was on the test" as if that one phrase justified wasting everyone's time teaching something that would never even be needed. I'm not saying by any means that the teachers are to blame. Far from it, teachers can't choose what they have to teach any more than students choose what they have to learn. The problem lies within the structure of America's education system. Unfortunately, an issue so deeply ingrained can't be changed but so much. While I do wish that curriculum in schools would change to fit a student's interests like Finland's schools are beginning to do, it still great that even our education system is making an effort to teach students skills based on particular interests or career paths.

Samantha Poole, Dillwyn



Downtown Dillwyn is all decorated for the Holidays.

Photo by
Martha Louis

SkillsUSA State Fair Students

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

Photo by Sue A. Miles

Buckingham County High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) students recently attended the Virginia State Fair where they competed against other students in various CTE related subjects under the national SkillsUSA program. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure our country has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student excel. From carpentry, welding to cosmetology, Buckingham students worked together as teams to demonstrate their skills and came home winners.



Cosmetology Skills USA

Buckingham Cosmetology students placed 5th in Total Look, 12th in Mannequin Combout, 10th and 11th place in Fantasy Nails. Pictured left to right are JaQwala Jones, Mirah Hutcherson, Eliza Ragland, Lakya Brown, Aubreanna Smith, Kennedy Barbour and Yianeza Wright. Felicia Harris is the Cosmetology instructor.



Habitat Awards

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

Piedmont Habitat for Humanity recently held a "Habitat After Hours" event to highlight its Become a Build Sponsor program which allows individuals and businesses to support the program through direct donations or pledges. The evening event also recognized the good works of local volunteers and supporters. Donna McKrae-Jones, chair of Buckingham Build and Board member of the Piedmont Habitat for Humanity (second from left), is shown with Renata Chambers (center), Buckingham's Volunteer of the Year, and Mary Etta Ross (right), Outstanding Individual of the Year. Chanita S. Ayers, who catered the event and has volunteered to provide refreshments for one of the workdays is shown on the left. Katherine Turner (rear), is scheduled for the next Buckingham Habitat home. During the 29 years that Piedmont Habitat has been providing services in this area, 43 homes have been built or repaired. Buckingham is currently completing its fifth home, with a sixth in the planning stages. The program is not possible without donors and volunteers who believe that everyone deserves a decent place to live. For more information on Piedmont Habitat contact **Sam Rabon** at 434-394-3001, ext. 200 or email him at sam@piedmonthabitat.org.



The Buckingham Triad meets second Thursday of every month at 1:30pm at the Buckingham VFW building off of Route 60. "Triad is based upon the partnership between the Office of the Attorney General, police chiefs, sheriffs, older Virginians, and senior service providers. Triad provides a forum to exchange information and forge community solutions that combat crime through education and prevention. " In a nutshell, "reducing crime against the elderly"

BUCKINGHAM FOOD PANTRY CALENDAR

BLUE RIDGE FOOD TRUCK

The truck will be at Crystal Cathedral on the following days:

Blue Ridge Food Truck will
For January: Fri. Jan 10th
Fri. Jan 24th
Weather permitting

(2nd and 4th Friday's)

MOURNER'S VALLERY - RT 20
1ST and 3rd Saturday of
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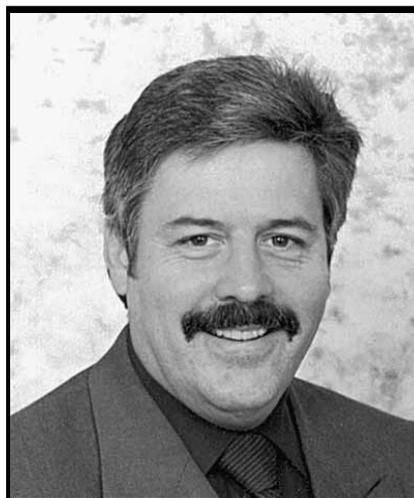
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Standing: Natasha Grimes, Cynthia Gough (daughters), Ellen Smith, LaFonia Thornton, Cherry Wilson (SERCAP), Tracey Kitt (daughter), Kenny Rodgers(SERCAP), Linda Paige (Dillwyn Mayor), and Joe Chambers(Supervisor) Seated: Annie and Curtis Gough, new home owners. Photo courtesy of Martha Louis

SERCAP Helps Family Acquire New Home

By Martha Louis
Correspondent

An open house was hosted by the South East Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. on December 2nd at the newly built home of Curtis and Annie Gough. Surrounded by their 3 daughters, they both seemed overwhelmed with gratitude and thanks for this bright new living space. They had been living with marginal indoor plumbing after their septic system failed and had other problems in their home. In stepped SERCAP to the rescue. SERCAP's mission is to improve the quality of life for low-income individuals by promoting affordable water and wastewater facilities, community development, environmental health, and economic self-sufficiency. They can either rehab a home or build a new complete home depending upon the condition of the original home. **In Buckingham alone, there are 4 projects going on right now and several in the pipeline waiting for approval. SERCAP partners with Virginia DHCH (Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development) for funding. SERCAP services 11 counties with a robust menu of service options shown below:**

- "Water Is Life" which is an indoor plumbing and rehabilitation program;
- "Community Development Block Grants;"
- Loans for well (1% interest) and septic systems (3-6% interest) over 10 years.;
- "Aging in Place" – providing access ramps, entry doors, hallways, showers, kitchen areas;
- Housing Counseling- HUD approved Local Counseling Agency (LHCA) providing services to individuals seeking to purchase a new home or keep the home they own.

For more information, call (540)345-1184. www.sercap.org



Annie and Curtis Gough will have their new home just in time for the holidays.
Photo courtesy of Martha Louis

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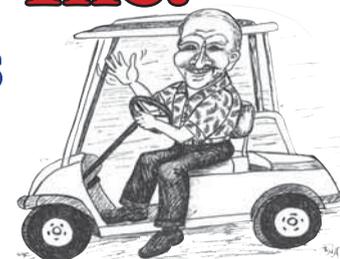


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Alton Hanes - Technician of the Year Recognition

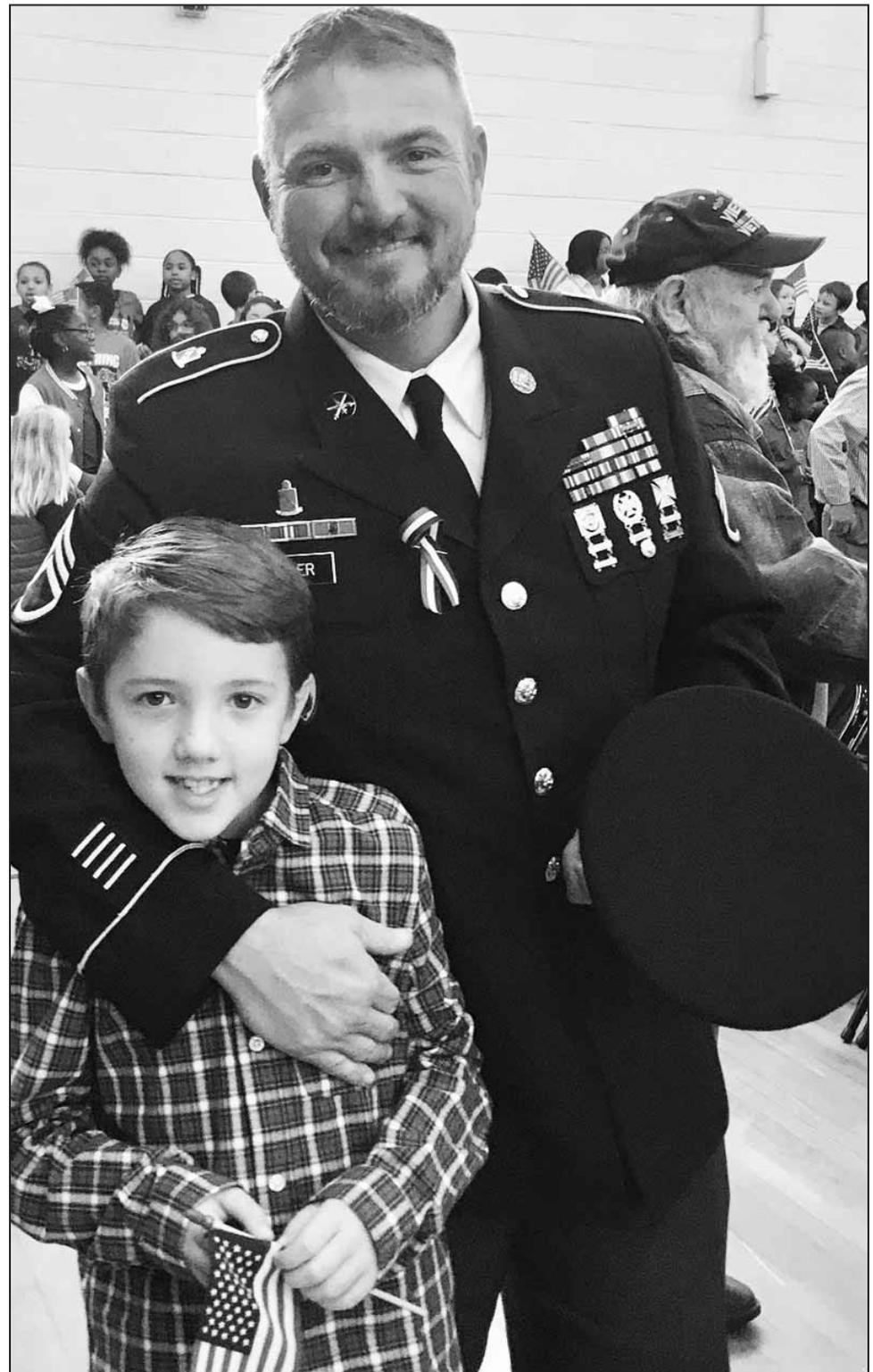
By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and especially Buckingham County has a shining star amongst their midst. Alton Hanes, who is the shop mentor at the Dillwyn Equipment Shop, was selected as VDOT's Technician of the Year for Virginia. That honor allowed him to complete with 15 nominees for the national 2019 AEMP (Association of Equipment Management Professionals) Technician of the Year. Although not picked as the national finalist, Hanes was one of two finalists who were recognized as exceptional examples of the technicians the industry needs. Alton Hanes is a shop mentor with 41 years of experience; 10 years at Kyanite and 31 at VDOT. His VDOT supervisor, Todd Thompson, names him as the primary influence for the shop having a reputation of looking out for one another. Other technicians in his shop regularly come to him for advice and instruction on various diagnostic problems. Hanes takes pleasure in helping neighbors and friends with repairs and gives back to his community by volunteering to teach vehicle maintenance classes at his church's community center. Hanes projects an image the industry can be proud of. In addition to being nominated for the Technician of the Year award he has also been nominated by his co-workers and won the VDOT commissioner's award for excellence/lifetime achievement award. Photo by Sue A. Miles

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Giving Honor Where Honor is Due

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent



On Veterans Day, the students and staff of the Carter G. Woodson Complex had the privilege of honoring those who have served our country. Over 90 veterans were recognized for their dedication and sacrifice. The celebration included breakfast, presentations, songs, and several displays of artwork throughout the complex. Noah Miller, a third grader at Buckingham Elementary School, stands proudly by his father, Chad Miller, one of the veterans who attended the annual celebration. Miller served 20 years in the US Army. George "Butch" Jamerson, who served in Vietnam, is shown in the rear. Submitted photo

HONORING OUR VETERANS : VIETNAM

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

To continue honoring Buckingham's Korean and Vietnam veterans who are living in the county we wish to add these three veterans who did not make our November deadline. Many thanks to all of our county's veterans for their service to our country.

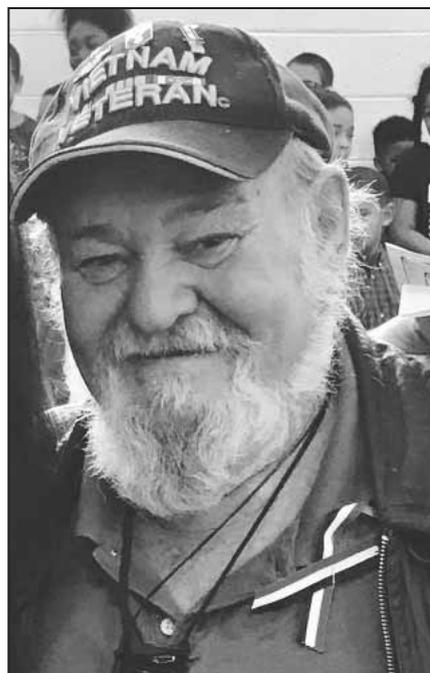


Anderson, H. Kim
Vietnam
Army/MACV Combat Operations Center
1968-1969



Hagenau Jr., Henry Paul
Vietnam
Navy/Press - Combat Camera
1959 - 1965

Jamerson, Jr., George R. "Butch"
Vietnam
Army/196th Infantry Brigade
1971-1972



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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



DON'T MISS IT !
Town of Dillwyn Christmas Parade
Sunday, December 15th 3:00pm - 6:00pm



Christmas Carol, Live Radio Play
Scottsville Center for Arts and Nature
Tickets: scottsvillechristmascarol.bpt.me
Date: **December 12th, 13th, and 14th**

Location: Victory Hall Theater
401 Valley St, Scottsville, Virginia

The Charles Dickens holiday classic comes to life as a live 1940s radio broadcast, complete with vintage commercials and the magic of live sound effects and musical underscoring. A handful of actors bring dozens of characters to the stage, as the familiar story unfolds: Three ghosts take Ebenezer Scrooge on a thrilling journey to teach him the true meaning of Christmas. A charming take on a family favorite that will leave no one saying "Bah Humbug!"

Presented by SCAN's 'Victory Hall Players'
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St. John's Lutheran Church will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Thursday, December 26th**. The drive will be held from **1:00 pm-6:00 pm**, at St. John's Lutheran Church at 1301 Milnwood Road, in Farmville.



Buckingham Chamber of Commerce Seeking Nominations

The Chamber wants to recognize members of our community who fit the following categories:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Business of the Year
- Youth Achievement Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award

The annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21st at the Dillwyn Fire Dept.

Please submit your nomination letter before December 28th, 2019. Letters can be faxed to (434)983-4891 or dropped off at Moss Motors. Questionnaires are available to help you compose your entry letter- also pick up at Moss Motors.



New Dance & Music Classes Beginning In January

•Adult Belly Dance Class - Tuesday & Thursday - 6-7 PM

•Creative Dance - Wednesday - 3:30-4 PM

Individual Music Lessons by appointment

All ages & ability levels

434-390-2671 or 434-969-2951



Shown from left to right are: Ada Washington, Catherine Gillette (Grassroots Mobilization Coordinator, NETWORK), Susanne J. Keller (a retired epidemiologist with Virginia Department of Health), Sister Simone, Ella Rose, and Chad Oba.

Sister Simone Visits Buckingham

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

Sister Simone Campbell, Executive Director of NETWORK Advocates for Catholic Social Justice and leader of Nuns on the Bus, met with a group of residents and community leaders, many representing the Friends of Buckingham organization, at Freda's in Dillwyn, for a roundtable discussion on issues regarding environment, health, and education in rural communities. Buckingham was one of eighteen meetings of NETWORK's national series of Rural Roundtables. For over 45 years, NETWORK has been working to "Mend the Gaps" in federal policy to advocate for the 100% in the nation. NETWORK's goal is to live out its continued support for the 100% by spending 2019 listening to and learning from the experiences of those who live in rural areas. NETWORK plans to share the report with elected officials, candidates, partner organizations, policy think tanks, the media, and its members and supporters once it's completed.

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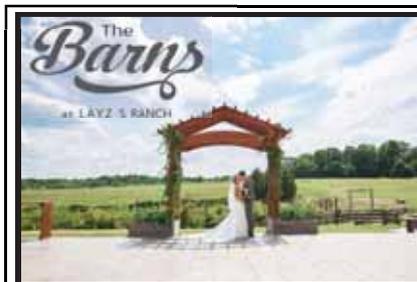
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Members of the Patel family: L—R. Nic Patel and AJ Patel.
Photo by Martha Louis

Toy Drive Successful!

By Martha Louis
Correspondent

The Patel family, who own Rt 60 Convenience, are helping to give back to the welcoming Buckingham community. They, along with U-Haul and the good folks of Buckingham, filled up a U-Haul trailer with new toys. On Dec. 9th the toys will be taken to social services to insure that many children have a special Christmas. Rt 60 Convenience is a member of the Buckingham Chamber of Commerce, which helped them promote the toy drive.



The Housewright Museum displays a Child's Christmas tree.
Photo by Martha Louis

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Fluvanna County Arts Council

Presents the 2019-2020 Season
at Carysbrook Performing Arts Center

Empowered Players Present:



Sunday, December 15, 3:00PM

Join Anna, Elsa, Olaf, and the whole Arendelle crew this fall with the Young Empowered Players Production of Frozen Jr! Featuring show-stopping favorites and tunes straight from the movie, Frozen Jr. is sure to be a production you won't want to miss.

Admission \$5 Door (No Advance Sales)

Next Performance:

Gospel In The Afternoon

Saturday, January 11 at 2:00pm



They say that music is good for the soul. Prepare to be uplifted with the gospel songs provided by these exceptional performers. **Chris Lewis** with his many musical talents is a native of Fluvanna County; **Charlsie Stratton** is from Charlottesville and has performed not only with her home church, Zion Union Baptist Church but also with the Oratorio Society of Virginia and **Zella Whindleton-Peterson**, from Richmond is looking forward to recording her first gospel CD. "When there's music in your soul, there's soul in your music!"

Unless otherwise specified, Admission is: \$12 Advance, \$15 Day of Performance, \$10 Student/Military/Veterans, Family Package \$5/person (2 Adults max, + 3 or more children) • To purchase online: <http://www.Carysbrook.org>
Please note: No reserved seating.

Carysbrook Performing Arts Center • 8880 James Madison Highway (Hwy 15) • Fork Union, VA 23055

Family Matters



Welcome to The Lodge at Old Trail

The Lodge at Old Trail is a senior living community located in Old Trail Village in Crozet just west of Charlottesville. At The Lodge we're a family. Residents, family members, friends and staff are all a part of it. If you'd like your parents living close by, then it's time they moved into The Lodge. Everything they need is right here. Give us a call today because at The Lodge at Old Trail your family matters.

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The Buckingham Library Schedule:

Weekly -
 Tue - 10:30 - Toddler Storytime
 Wed noon- computer classes
 Fri - noon - family movie

****Fri Dec 13** - Gingerbread House Contest - special guest judges will help us award prizes -5:30-6:30 pm

****Sat. Dec 14**- Marble Run - STEM challenge 3 pm

****Thu Dec 19 - 2 pm** - Author Signing - Mental Health Help for the family - workshop and book signing

****Closed Tue/Wed 24/25 and 31/1**

Computer Class Schedule - four laptops available or you can bring your own device

December 4 – Computer Basics
11 – Intro to Word
18 – Intro to PowerPoint

January 8 – Library Downloads
15- Phone and Tablet Features
22 – Intro to Word
29 – Word Brochures/ Templates

Movie List -Friday at noon:
Dec.13- Mr. Popper's Penguins
20 – Polar Express
27 – Home Alone

Jan. 3 – Sid the science Kid
10- All about John Deere
17- Mighty Machines
24 – Sign Language
31 – Learn Spanish



Shown with Melissa Warner (right) at the regional conference are Monica Carbarcas (previous Shenandoah Regional Director) and Jessica Thompson (current Shenandoah Regional Director). Photo submitted

Shenandoah Regional Director-Elect for VAASL!

By Sue A. Miles
 Correspondent

Buckingham Middle School librarian, Melissa Warner Hanes, was recently elected as the Director-Elect for the Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL) Shenandoah region. The two-year position allows Hanes to organize the Librarian of the Year award for this region as well as organize and run the spring regional conference. Hanes will also represent and participate in board meetings where decisions regarding library policy and procedures are reviewed for the state.

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Miss Marmie

By Martha E. Davis

Miss Marmie was wishing every day
 She wanted a baby granddaughter to come her way
 Her heart would end up fading inside
 Because her baby granddaughter was not by her side

As time went on and the baby girl come near
 Miss Marmie's heart started to disappear
 The parents now met the little girl they were raising
 While six feet down, Miss Marmie was praising

Now the girl listens to a song
 That remind her Miss Marmie will never be gone
 Every day the girl misses Marmie so
 But I know her love is with me, wherever I go

(Martha Davis passed away 16 years ago before Martha "Elly" Davis was born. Martha already had 3 grandsons who called her Marmie but always wanted a granddaughter. Now Martha Elayne Davis, who is in 9th grade at BCHS, is not only her namesake but wrote this lovely poem about the grandmother she never got to meet.)



**On The Move
With Joanne Yeck**

Slate River Ramblings

Joanne Yeck has been fascinated with Buckingham County for over twenty years and shares her collection of Buckingham facts and photos on her blog, "Slate River Ramblings" (slateriverramblings.com).

BA Jefferson Family Cemetery

I am often asked where Randolph Jefferson is buried. The answer is, we don't know. While it is probable that both he and his wife, Anne "Nancy" (Lewis) Jefferson, were buried on his plantation, Snowden, in Buckingham County, no markers have been found. When Randolph Jefferson died at Snowden on August 7, 1815, his second wife, Mitchie B. (Pryor) Jefferson, soon left their home, returning to her family's Buckingham County farm. Within months, the house at Snowden burned to the ground and the plantation fell into a protracted legal dispute between the children of Jefferson's first marriage and his widow. His grown sons maintained the property but, perhaps, among all the discord they never ordered a permanent gravestone for their father.

Conversely, several descendants of Randolph Jefferson are buried across the James River at Mount Walla in a beautifully maintained family cemetery. Sitting high above Scottsville, the view of the Horseshoe Bend is spectacular.

In 1836, Randolph Jefferson's son, Peter Field Jefferson, purchased Mount Walla. Over eighty acres came with the house, providing an orchard, room for a substantial kitchen garden, and plenty of timber for Jefferson and his family. He lived there the remainder of his life, dying in 1861. His widow, Jane Woodson (Lewis) Jefferson, stayed on until her death in 1864. The property was then inherited by their grandson, Peter V. Foland, and Jefferson descendants retained the house until 1951.

The cemetery, within sight of the dwelling house, is surrounded by a decorative iron fence and contains numerous Jefferson family graves. While it is presumed that Peter Field and his wife, Jane, are buried there, to my knowledge, their graves are unidentified.



Photo by Joanne Yeck.

Their son, Peter Field Jefferson, Jr., and his wife, Elizabeth, are remembered with the marker pictured above, probably placed there in the 20th century. They lived just outside of Scottsville, at Bleak Hill, at Albemarle Mills (a.k.a. Jefferson Mills). Elizabeth A. (Wood) Jefferson died in 1876 and Peter Field Jefferson, Jr. followed in 1881.

Randolph Jefferson's great-grandson, Peter V. Foland (1845–1915), and his wife, Bettie (1845–1921), spent their married life at Mount Walla and are buried in the cemetery. According to the 1900 Federal Population Census, they had eight children together, some of whom rest alongside their parents.

Three sons—James Gates Foland (d. 1926), George W. Foland (d. 1962), and Clark Valentine Foland (d. 1967)—all died in West Virginia.

Mary Ellen Foland (1873–1891) is buried at Mount Walla. Three more daughters—Frances (1867–1943), Harriet (1869–1955), and Elizabeth (1884–1946)—are also buried in the family cemetery. Frances' husband, Calvin Hollis Dunkum (1866–1951), and Harriet's husband, William Thomas Moulton (1861–1930), are

there as well.

In addition to the Jeffersons found in the cemetery at Mount Walla, there are several members of the Davis family, including:

Chas. Barney Davis, 10 May 1834–8 January 1894

Mary Ann Davis, 13 February 1841–25 July 1914

Emily A. Davis, 23 September 1869–21 July 1949

Chas. Arthur Davis, 1885–1916

Mary Ethel Davis, 1888–1900

Roger M. Davis, 1908–1919

Charles Barney and Mary Ann Davis were husband and wife. C. B. Davis was at one time a postmaster at Woodridge outside of Scottsville. Their daughter, Emily A. Davis, was a school teacher. According to Mary Ann's death record, her father was James "Straiten" and her mother was Harriet Woods. I believe that her parents were James and Harriet Stratton, making Mary Ann Peter V. Foland's sister-in-law.



Photo by Joanne Yeck.

Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Type of bag
- 5 Like some cheddar
- 10 Ho-hum
- 14 Throw, as dice
- 15 Coke's bear
- 16 Unsophisticated sort
- 17 Not being used
- 18 Wind instrument
- 20 Trucker in a union
- 22 Linen closet items
- 23 Kind of boom
- 24 Scouting group
- 26 Remote location?
- 29 Consumer
- 33 Part of TKO
- 37 Indonesian island
- 38 "Without further ..."

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14					15				16					
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57	58	59					60	61	62					
63							64					65		
66							67					68		
69							70					71		

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- 39 Boastful person
- 42 Hightailed it
- 43 Small stream
- 45 Day of _____
- 47 Armchair companion
- 50 Pitchfork part
- 51 Lightweight wood
- 53 Gentle push
- 57 Seward's state
- 60 College age
- 63 Cold season
- 65 Smallest pup
- 66 Hathaway of Hollywood
- 67 Tablelands
- 68 Something to build on
- 69 Vintage designation

- 70 Appears
- 71 Salacious look
- 12 Genesis brother
- 13 His partner
- 19 State of mind
- 21 Biscuitlike pastry
- 25 Surviving organism of old
- 27 Pudding fruit
- 28 Squirrel's cache
- 30 Rani's wrap
- 31 Enthusiasm
- 32 Saturn feature
- 33 Edible root
- 34 Anagram for "tide"
- 35 Stable youngster
- 36 Absorbed, as a loss
- 40 Enjoy Aspen
- 41 Heavy metric weight
- 44 Maine entree
- 46 On the fence
- 48 Put together
- 49 Burglar deterrents
- 52 Licoricelike flavor
- 54 Tennis tie
- 55 Horror or sci-fi, e.g.
- 56 Sign above a door
- 57 Not at home
- 58 Pickup shtick
- 59 Oscar winner Paquin
- 61 Mosque leader
- 62 Bitter end?
- 64 Pipe fitting

Crossword Answers page 15



Sam and Lilavati Eberle's home was part of the Solar Tour at Yogaville. "We made the decision to install solar panels because it made both financial and ecological sense," said Sam. All photos by Sue Miles



Abeta is shown explaining how the electrical inverters convert the power from the roof array to power that can be transmitted to the electric utility, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative, so that the utility can then turn the meter back per the amount of electricity that they send to CVEC via net metering.

Solar Energy in Buckingham

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent



Sustainable energy, also known as clean energy, is the practice of using energy in a way that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In general, renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric energy are widely considered to be sustainable. As this discussion becomes more mainstream, solar powered homes and

businesses are appearing all over the country, the Commonwealth, and in Buckingham County.

And, as the discussion about climate change escalates, many people are becoming more conscious about how their actions affect the environment and future generations, while also looking at ways to leave a smaller carbon footprint on our planet. One of the most obvious ways may be to harness the sun's energy to create electricity; both for personal homes or businesses. Utilizing the power of the sun seems like an obvious way to make that happen. With the ever-changing technology it



The field of solar panels graces an area next to the LOTUS Temple. Panels test up to 160 mps (called photovoltaic (PV) systems, consist of weather-protected panels, basen-tened side by side on a racking system. The PV produce direct current which flows to an inverter. The inverter changes DC voltage to alternating current (AC) for the household electric circuit.

appears that doing so is becoming easier and more cost efficient.

To share their personal experience of the benefits of using solar energy, the Yogaville community recently participated in the National Solar Tour, the largest grassroots solar event in the United States. In its 23rd year, the tour, which features hundreds of solar open houses, was attended by tens of thousands of homeowners and businesses throughout the country.

The event at Yogaville, only one of six in the state, was particularly interesting due to the fact that the spiritual community went solar in 2018; installing the energy saving system at their LOTUS temple and their central main multi-purpose building, Sivananda Hall. Attended by a variety of people, both local and as far away as West Virginia, the Buckingham solar tour provided up-to-date information on why going solar seems to be the smart thing to do.

Yogaville began developing its solar plan by working with GreenFaith, an inter-faith coalition for the environment that works with houses of worship, religious schools, and people of all faiths to help them become better environmental stewards. On January 23, 2018, the first phase of this program began with the activation of rooftop solar array that provides for half of the energy necessary to power Sivananda Hall. This array powers the community kitchen, dining room, gift shop and large meeting hall.

As Jeeva Abeta, Yogaville's Environmental Solutions coordinator, said when asked why Yogaville decided to invest in solar, "It's cheaper to save energy than to make energy."

The tour of Yogaville started with a slide presentation showing the wattage used at both of the buildings, the cost of electricity before the solar panel installation project, and information on how many years it would take, after the initial investment, to start seeing a savings. Based upon that information, going solar is certainly something to consider. The information provided also showed that utilizing renewable energy allows individuals to not only reduce utility costs, but to also support energy independence, and reduce carbon emissions, all while increasing the value of your home.

The best way to understand the value of solar power is the numbers. The electric bill for Sivananda Hall's was costing the community \$22,000 year. A total of 130 solar panels were installed on the roof of the building in 2018. Now the electric bill is half of that. The LOTUS Temple has 300 panels in a small field next to the shrine. The electric bill was \$7,360 per year and is now 100% solar. That's a total savings of \$18,360.00 in a year in utility bills.

Abeta cannot say enough about the value of going solar. "The science on this is very clear. It's a clean and safe energy. It's hard to believe that we can move so quickly to having the sun literally powering our world. The infrastructure is cheaper to install and the system holds its value. Its sustainable. Once it's in place you're using nature itself. And, the equipment is not toxic."

To encourage the use of solar power, the federal government is also providing incentives by offering a tax credit for 30% of the costs, including installation, of a home solar array. That credit drops to 26% in 2020, to 21% in 2021, and expires the next year, unless it is renewed. This tax credit can be taken over a five-year period if your tax liability is not big enough to take it all at once. There is also financing available through the Clean Energy Credit Union.

Farmers are also given the opportunity to take advantage of government incentives for conserving energy. The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provides

grants and loans to farmers and businesses for energy efficiency improvements and the purchase of wind, solar and other renewable energy systems. And, in 2013 the Virginia General Assembly initiated a program that encourages public schools to change over to solar. In the past two years, the number of Virginia schools with solar has nearly tripled.

After the Yogaville community pays off the initial investment they expect at least 40 years of solar; basically being off 'the grid' except for the flat rate for power hookup. "There will also be times that the system will produce excess power," said Abeta. "When that happens it will flow out of the building through the utility company's electric meter. The power company will then credit the outflowing electricity against electricity purchased from the grid at height. This is called 'net-metering.'"

A number of residents of Yogaville have chosen to go solar in their private homes. Hari (Larry) Barker, a long time resident of the Yogaville community is a strong advocate of solar energy. "I have long been concerned about the issue of climate change, and what the experts tell us it means for our and our children's future," said Barker. "But the issue came home to me even more when I learned about the Atlantic Coast pipeline being proposed to be installed so close to me and my neighbors. I started looking into the prospects for getting some solar panels, and happily found that they seemed to me a "win-win" proposition. My electric bill used to average about \$120 a month; now I just pay \$32 a month to stay hooked to CVEC."

Barker also noted that he will be insulated from future increases in the costs of



Jeeva Abeta, Yogaville's Environmental Solutions Director, began the Solar Tour with an informative powerpoint showing the benefits of using solar energy. Photo by Sue Miles

fossil fuel and is pleased that the panels are guaranteed to produce at least 80% of their original efficiency for 25 years. "I installed enough panels that overall produce 100% of my electric needs. I've had them for over two years now and am very happy with the results." He is also a fan of the net metering program.

The community of Yogaville is not the only group of Buckingham residents who are finding solar energy valuable. Slowly homeowners are beginning to understand the financial value of sustainable energy. Barker shared that when obtaining bids for home solar, companies will want to see one year of past electric bills. "Up to this year, you could not install more solar capacity than you use," he said. "From what I read, however, that will be increased to 125% next year, in recognition that some people might want to be able to cover any later additions to their house, or perhaps an electric vehicle in the future."

And, it's not just private citizens who are acknowledging the value of harnessing the sun. According to a 2016 news release from Dominion Power, 66,000 solar panels were installed at Dominion Energy's Buckingham solar facility, on High Rock Road, off of highway 60 — a nearly 200-acre project that has an estimated value of more than \$35 million.

While the energy from the 20-megawatt facility will be used by Amazon's cloud computing business, Amazon Web Services, those who live in the area of the High Rock Road facility will also benefit.

Perhaps Larry Barker's comment is the best way to sum up the question of going solar: "My motivation for getting the panels was that after due consideration, they just seemed to me like a winner, pretty much all around...for our air, our water, our health, our future, and for our personal and public economics."

Possibly the classic Beatles song, 'Here Comes the Sun,' has an even more relevant meaning in 2019. Sounds like going solar is the right step to save money and maybe even the environment.

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Kyle Bryan as a child.

FFA National Awards

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

Ever heard of “two peas in a pod”? Well, that concept certainly applies to this dynamic father and daughter duo, both recently honored at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN. Kyle Bryan’s family have been farmers for many years and he clearly passed that passion on to his only child, Amanda. Based upon each individual’s achievements in the FFA program, both father and daughter were recently recognized at the organization’s national convention. Kyle received the Honorary American FFA (Farmer Degree); only one of three in the state. Amanda, who is a senior at Virginia Tech, with a dual major in Agriculture Science and Agriculture Business, received her American FFA Degree. The family runs a 283 acre farm, called The Pines, raising hay and beef cattle. Amanda, who plans to earn a law degree in Agriculture Law, has been involved in FFA ever since she was a child and served as president of her high school’s FFA Chapter. Kyle, who is currently the principal of the Career and Technical Center at Buckingham County High School, also taught agriculture for 25 years. To bring it all back to a full circle, take a look at the birthday pictures that both father and daughter celebrated, each at the age of one. Two peas in a pod, indeed. They are FFA twins in looks and actions.



Amanda Bryan as a child.



Amanda and her father Kyle.

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Answers to the Crossword Puzzle from page 11

G	R	A	B	S	H	A	R	P	B	L	A	H	
R	O	L	L	P	O	L	A	R	R	U	B	E	
I	D	L	E	A	N	E	M	O	M	E	T	E	R
T	E	A	M	S	T	E	R	T	O	W	E	L	S
S	O	N	I	C	T	R	O	O	P				
	S	O	F	A	E	N	D	U	S	E	R		
T	E	C	H	N	I	C	A	L	B	A	L	I	
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R	I	L	L	R	E	C	K	O	N	I	N	G	
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A	L	A	S	K	A	N	I	N	E	T	E	E	N
W	I	N	T	E	R	T	I	M	E	R	U	N	T
A	N	N	E	M	E	S	A	S	A	C	R	E	
Y	E	A	R	S	E	E	M	S	L	E	E	R	

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William Fluker, holds bachelor of science degrees in biology from the University of Kentucky and from the physician assistant program at James Madison University.