

Buckingham

Beacon

March 13–April 9, 2020

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Cover designed by Marilyn Ellinger

A graduate of Savannah College of Art and Design, Bryant is now focusing on her own comic book. She is shown holding comic books (in hardback) by two of her favorite comic writers. Photo by Sue A. Miles

Buckingham Beacon

A monthly publication

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Display ad rates: For information including rates and deadlines call Judi Price at 434-207-0223.

Subscriptions: Copies will be mailed for the subscription price of \$40 per year. Please mail a check and a note with your name and address to: *Buckingham Beacon* Subscriptions Dept., P.O. Box 59, Palmyra, VA

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Submissions, tips, ideas, etc.: The *Buckingham Beacon* encourages submissions and tips on items of interest to Buckingham citizens. However we reserve the right to edit submissions as deemed necessary and cannot guarantee they will be published. The *Buckingham Beacon* will not be responsible for returning submitted materials, please include S.A.S.E. if you would like items returned. Please keep Calendar submissions to fifty words or less, Letters to the Editor to 300 words or less and feature stories to 500 words or less. Mail submissions to: *The Buckingham Beacon*, P.O. Box 59, Palmyra, VA 22963 to the attention of applicable section, (Letters to the Editor, Community Calendar, etc.), or Email valleyeditor1@gmail.com

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Rural Buckingham County Offers Tourism

By Martha Louis
Correspondent



The Historic Village at Lee Wayside has many events during the year.

Some people who have always lived in Buckingham County can't figure out why people would travel here to see our two museums and our Historic Village. The answer is that they are special, and they do attract tourists. Folks like to get off the interstates and travel the smaller roads to enjoy local history and that is what The Housewright Museum and the Historic Village offer – a glimpse into the past that you can actually touch and feel. The Adams Museum and its new addition, which opened Christmas 2019, house a world class exhibit of native American artifacts including pottery, weapons, masks and much more. HBI reported that over 2,000 visitors came through the Historic Village in 2019 during the 7 major events they hosted to folks stopping by on any given weekend from April through December. With a new hotel in the future, this will encourage tourists to stop off in our rural county and enjoy the beauty of the county. The can stay and have lunch, buy some gas, maybe even stay over at one of our B&Bs or the new hotel. Tourism is a huge industry and Buckingham County needs to jump on board. We have a lot to offer.

Come visit your museums and the Historic Village - all of which are admission free. Call (434)547-2296 for more information or visit www.leewaysidevillage.com or www.historicbuckingham.org. The Adams Museum and The Housewright Museum will open Wednesday, April 1, 2020 from 1:00-4:00 pm. Both are open Wednesday and Saturday from 1:00-4:00 pm April through December. The Historic Village at Lee Wayside will open Saturday, April 4, from 1:00-4:00 pm. Open Saturday and Sunday from 1:00-4:00 pm April through December.



The Adams Museum has many exhibits of artifacts and antique dolls and much more. Photos courtesy of Martha Louis

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Gardeners to Explore Microscopic Fungi That Help Plants Grow



The Heart of Virginia Master Gardeners Association (HOVMGA) invites you to their first Buckingham Garden Tips and Topics program for 2020, presented by the Central Piedmont Virginia Master Naturalists (CPVMN)! Join them on **Saturday, March 14th at 10 am** at the Extension office in Buckingham Courthouse (54 Administration Lane, Buckingham).

Harry Poulter from the CPVMN will be presenting on the fascinating topic of mycorrhizae. Mycorrhizae are soil fungi which connect to the roots of flowering plants, providing them with additional nutrients and water in exchange for sugars and other substances. At least 80% of all plant

species can benefit from this association. The talk will discuss the basic biology and history of mycorrhizal fungi, their importance to the global environment, and discuss how gardeners can learn more about growing more vigorous plants with the help of these amazing fungi.

As always, this event is free to the public and all are welcome! Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions from 9:30 until 11:30 am. They will have a hands on demonstration of soil blocking available before and after the presentation! If you would like to start some seeds, bring them along!

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Rochelle Clabough, Buckingham office at 434-969-4261, TTD (800) 828-1120 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

BUCKINGHAM FOOD PANTRY CALENDAR

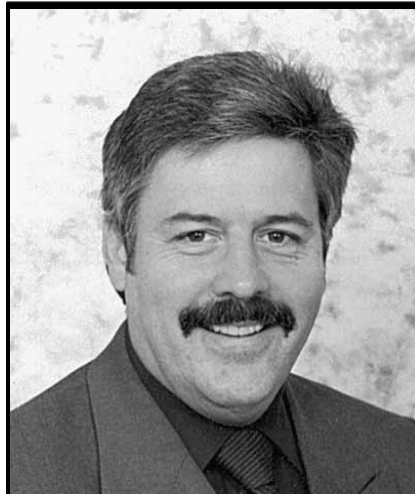
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Along with Batman movies and the Teen Titan television series, Bryant was also a big fan of Woman Woman. She has a great collection of various comic figures in her office. All photos by Sue A. Miles

Cover Story

Mariah Bryant's Comic Art

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

Comics have always been a part of growing up in most people's lives. If you're over the age of 35 you'd likely think about series such as Superman, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, The Avengers, Black Widow, Ant Man, and others. And, then for the older readers, memory lane will lead you to the drug store to scan the magazine rack for comics such as Popeye, Donald Duck, and Mickey Mouse.

Comics have changed over the years and so too has the verbiage when discussing what is now known in the publishing world as sequential art. In the end, comics are simply stories with visuals; all created by very talented and somewhat meticulous writers and illustrators.

Annie Mariah Bryant, from the New Canton area of Buckingham, is one of those individuals who is currently very ingrained in the comic world. Bryant has always been a lover of comics and has always drawn them. "I loved the story of the heroes," she said. "I started writing novels when I was nine and read DC Comics and Wonder Woman. I also enjoyed Batman movies, *Justice League* and *Teen Titans*."

Because of her love of comics and skill for drawing, Bryant applied to and was accepted into the Savannah College of Art and Design; a very prestigious and competitive art school in Georgia and only one of two schools in the country offering a sequential art major.

"I loved my professors," said Bryant. "Many were professionals in the art world. We had to take classes in history, dramatic writing, and business, as well as art. Bryant called the sequential art majors a sea of introverts due to their need to stay focused on their individual stories and projects. "It was a lot of fun," she said. "I pretty much stayed stoked on my work the whole time at school."

Since graduating, Bryant's main focus is producing a structured novel that she has recently launched on Kickstarter, a funding platform for creative art, comics, design tech, and games projects. Using Kickstarter allows Bryant to put her project out to the public in hopes that people will pledge money to help make it happen.



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Bryant's office is laid out so that she can see the comic series while it's being created.

Bryant's current comic project is called Six-Petal Pyramid. Here is the lead to her story on Patreon.com: "A young woman finds a mummy in the attic of a deceased archaeologist's 'haunted' house. Even though she tries to slay him, ultimately, this is about their romance strained by outside forces. And nothing about what goes down is truly supernatural; it's surreal; it's history, and it's a ride. Updates every two weeks!"

In the age of technology, comics take on an online form with some eventually being published in what's called a 'physical prototype' or a comic book. Currently Bryant's *Six-Petal Pyramid* is being published on Line WebToon, an open platform where creators can publish their comics and connect with millions of readers around the world. The website helps artists build an audience and generate income.

"My story is structured like a novel," said Bryant. "It has a beginning, middle and end and will be in two arcs." An arc is an extended or continuing storyline in episodic storytelling where each episode follows a dramatic arc. Stories are usually broken down to six issues, each coming out every month. "The comic I'm producing now is a product of my middle school days. It was a sleep dream I had in middle school," said Bryant.

Bryant, who anticipates her project or 'book' lasting ten years, is currently in year one. "I could start other stories while I'm working on Six-Petal," she said. "I would love to work on a script and collaborate with another artist to do the art."

Along with an intriguing story line, Bryant's digital art scenes are detailed and intricate. "The most challenging is the drawing," she said. "I'm a perfectionist so I find myself working very hard to make it perfect. It can be stressful. But I have to draw. So, drawing is stressful and not drawing is stressful."

Bryant's Kickstarter launch closed in late December with 72 backers pledging enough money to allow her to get books, merchandise, and advertising materials for

See Comic Art Page 6

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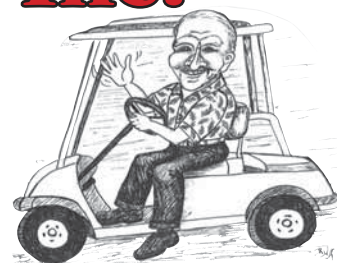


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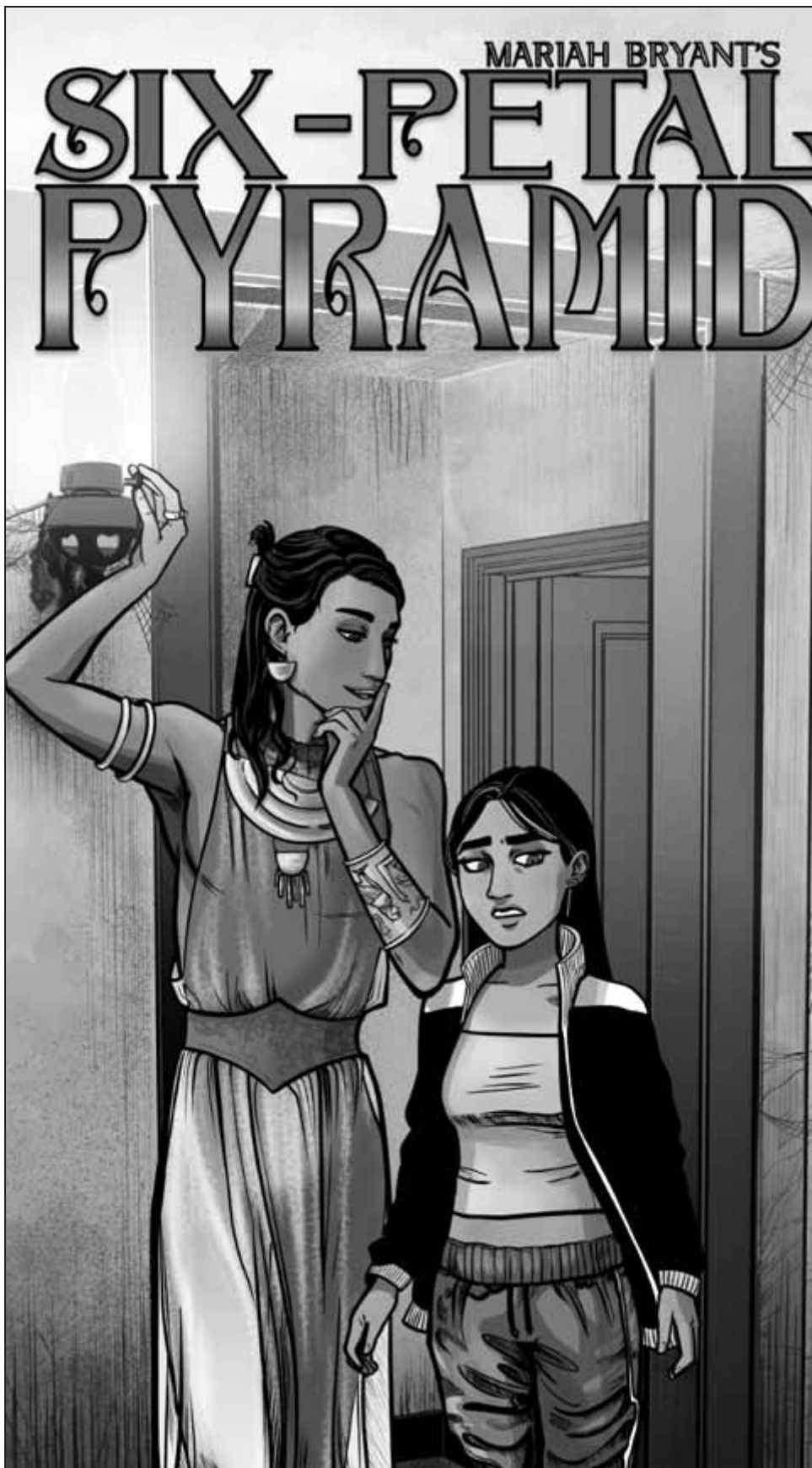
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Here is an example of one of the panels created by Bryant.

the series. "I've sent all but eight books to their respective owners," she said. "I'm now taking the leftover books and merchandise to GalaxyCon Richmond February 28th through March 1st to sell to comic lovers." Bryant will be at GalaxyCon with fellow comic artist Tammy Ung-Brown. "I will be available to sign books and merchandise and have plans to also sell the comics at local comic stores in Richmond and Charlottesville."

The free-to-read, online version of Bryant's comic is also doing well on WebToons.com and on the Line WEBTOON app, where it has 659 weekly subscribers and counting. "Readers can support me directly on Patreon, where I post exclusive content and Six-Petal Pyramid sneak peeks. Patrons on Patreon.com pay to read the comic, and also for how-to-draw tutorials, behind-the-scenes, and other art related to the story." For news and updates readers can go to her Instagram or Facebook pages (instagram.com/mariahbstory or facebook.com/mariahbstory).

Bryant already has a strong fan base for her comic work. "I get reviews such as 'I'm so addicted' and 'Reread it a second time today ahaha' and 'I am so hooked. Want more'," she said. And, like all comic writers, Bryant hopes to eventually have a hardback version. "Everything is telling me that self-publishing is the way to go," said Bryant. "I'm waiting on my readership numbers to dictate when I move to the next phase."

While working on Six-Petal, Bryant is always looking ahead at her options. "Ten years from now I would love to live in the Northern Virginia, D.C. area and work for a history museum," she said. "I took a lot of art, history and architecture classes, focusing on African and ancient Egyptian history. My number one goal is to continue with comics. Working in a museum is a pipedream."

Perhaps there is no better way to explain Bryant's passion but through her own words on her Kickstarter launch: *Howdy! I'm 24 years old and comics is what I see myself doing for the rest of eternity. I graduated from SCAD in 2018 with my BFA in Sequential Art. I don't think I have a choice but to create (I have a hard time doing anything else), and that's especially true for the Six-Petal Pyramid series. I'd love to expand my horizons eventually and like, take on a whole creative team on other stories?! I'd love to also spend some time writing stories that other artists can render, is what I mean. I also like it when my friends and colleagues give me keen suggestions and look at my work with a critical eye, so I more or less already have some 'editors' out there in the world, lol. I love all aspects of making comics and I'm thrilled to be a part of this universe. Thank you guys for allowing me to make my comics and for helping my dream come true!! I can't wait to hear from you guys. :)*

If you'd like to see Bryant's work and the Six-Petal Pyramid story go to patreon.com/mariahbstory, or her website mariahbstory.tumblr.com. You can also go to Kickstarter at <http://kck.st/384GwTg>.

How's Business?



Pictured from left are, Thomas Jordan Miles III, Margaret Stout, Radha Midkiff, and Chamber President Krishna Jo Melendez. Photo courtesy of Thomas Jordan Miles III.

During the Buckingham Chamber of Commerce's February 18 meeting, business owners Margaret Stout and Radha Midkiff updated Chamber members about their successes, struggles, business facts, growth and new approaches during our first installment of "How's Business?" for 2020. Midkiff, along with her husband, Dick, own Corner Coffee Junction in Dillwyn and Stout owns Dillwyn Dairy Freeze. "This seasoned business owner and a newcomer to the food and beverage business world offered great insights into their operations and their successes," said Chamber Vice President Thomas Jordan Miles III. "We're glad they're in our community and are part of the backbone of our county's economy."

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News from Buckingham Chamber of Commerce

By Sandra Moss
Contributor

Banquet Report

The 2020 Awards Banquet was held on January 21st at the VFW. The location proved to be a viable substitute for the Dillwyn Fire Department, as they are going through a kitchen renovation. 60+ members and guests enjoyed an excellent meal prepared by our member/caterers, Piggins' Out – Arlene & Elton Layden.

Faye Shumaker offered our blessing for the meal and asked for a moment of silence to honor the passing of our Board member, Wanda Albrecht and last year's Lifetime Achievement honoree, Pete Agee.

The highlight of the evening were the introductions! Volunteer of the Year, Donna McRae-Jones, was recognized for the many & varied hats she wears while serving our community. Next Trevor Agee received the Youth Achievement Award. This outstanding young man is surely following in the footsteps of his grandfather. Betty Shapero presented the Business of the Year Award to Windy Hill Pet Care, LLC – Kristin & Jon Ober, owners seemed surprised & pleased. And lastly, the Lifetime Achievement Award went to Bill & Judy Kemp for their outstanding work with Habitat for Humanity!

What a great beginning for our 2020 Chamber Year!

Look for pictures of the winners and their nominations in the upcoming Buckingham Guidebook.

Chamber Charlie's Review

The Chamber Board would like to express its appreciation to all the fine folks who helped make the Chamber award banquet so enjoyable. Many thanks to the VFW for providing the venue, to Piggins' Out for the delicious and well organized catering, and to Buckingham Greenery for furnishing the lovely plants.

You're Invited !

Feel free to join Chamber members and local students for the work details at the Civic Signs on Rt 15 & Rt 60. **On April 9th & 10th** work will begin at the intersection of Wingo Rd & Rt 15 at 11:45am. The work detail will end at 1:15 pm. Work details at the other Civic Sign locations will be announced at a later date.



Super Bake Sale

The date is Saturday, April 11th Please consider baking a cake, pie or rolls for this – you say you don't bake? Surely you have a friend or family member who can help out? We need lots of great items to sell on the Saturday before Easter. All proceeds go toward the annual Downtown Dillwyn Halloween event!

How's Business

Our February meeting had 2 of our business members share with us. Radha Metro-Midkiff of Corner Coffee Junction and Angela Moore of Heritage Hall offered insight on their operations & what makes them tick!



It's Dues Time!

Please consider continuing your membership in Buckingham's premiere business organization! Our dues remain at \$35 annually. You may mail a check to BCC, P O Box 951, Dillwyn – Sorry, credit cards not accepted.

What's Coming Up !



Sat, April 18th: Primitive Technology Day at the Historic Village

www.buckinghamchamberofcommerce.com

THIRD THURSDAY

at The Lodge at Old Trail

Doors open at 5:15 pm.
Program begins at 5:30 pm.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

MARCH 19

2020 Virginia Festival of the Book

Natural Wonders: Fish & Fowl

We're extremely excited to once again be a part of the Virginia Festival of the Book. Please join us for their presentation **Natural Wonders: Fish & Fowl**, featuring co-authors Paul Bugas and Val Kells (and illustrator), who will be discussing their book **Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Virginia**, and author Kenn Kaufman will also be presenting his book, **A Season on the Wind: Inside the World of Spring Migration**. They will share stories about their backgrounds, the writing of their books and what they went through to write them. Whether you're a bird or fish enthusiast or just a person who enjoys great books this will be another Third Thursday at The Lodge at Old Trail that you won't want to miss!

Make your reservation early.
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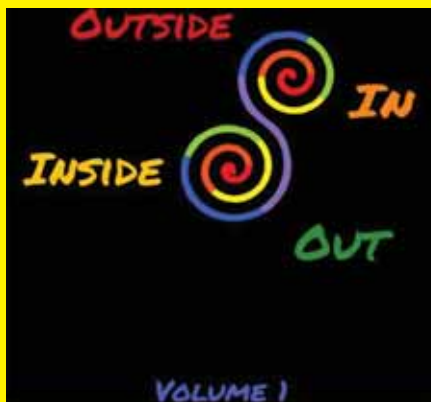
SUMMER CAMPS

- **Junior Hoof Picker Camp**
June 1-5
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- **Horsemanship I Camp**
June 8-12
June 22-26
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
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Launch Party and Book Signing



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3 - 5 PM

at Buckingham Community Art Center

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Free Gym Use Day, Yoga and Other Fitness Classes

Beulah M. Wiley Fitness Center is operated by Central Virginia Health Services (CVHS). The fitness center is full of exercise equipment including free weights, treadmills, stationary bicycles, a stair master and more. Several classes are offered at the fitness center this month. Classes include yoga (Mondays & Wednesdays at 6 PM), Weight Watchers (Tuesdays at 4:30 PM), kickboxing (Tuesdays at 6:00 PM), Tai Chi (Thursdays at 9:30 AM), Rebounderz (every other Thursday at 6:30 PM) and a Diabetes Prevention program (every other Thursday at 12 PM). Do any of these classes interest you?

Come check us out at 25892 N. James Madison Hwy., New Canton, VA. Wednesday is our FREE GYM USE DAY. We're open M - Th from 6 AM to 8 PM, Fri 6 AM - 6 PM, Sat 8 AM - 1 PM and Sun 12 PM to 4 PM. Call CVHS' Fitness Administrator, Debbie Tyson, at 434-581-3271 Ext. 10601 for information regarding classes and memberships. Also, like us on Facebook to stay update on classes and events.



TREE CITY USA

Farmville Arbor Day Free Seedling Giveaway

Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 9 AM - 12 PM
Farmville Community Marketplace
213 North St, Farmville, Virginia

The Town of Farmville will be giving away free tree seedlings in celebration of Arbor Day! Please join us on Saturday, March 28, 2020, from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon (or until the seedlings are gone) at the Farmville Community Marketplace on North Street. We will have 500 Redbud, 250 White Oak and 250 Common Apple seedlings. Remember, it's first come, first served!



Central Va Gold Prospectors Meetings:

Meeting on March 21 10:00 am at VFW Hall

Maysville Baptist Church: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of nursery volunteers for ALL services, especially Sunday evenings. If you would be willing to serve in this important area, please contact our Nursery Coordinator, Lydia Medlin at Lydia.medlin@gmail.com. 13327 W James Anderson Hwy, Buckingham

Buckingham Preschool Registration

Help give your child a jumpstart to success
in Kindergarten!

*Applicants must reside in Buckingham County
and be four years old by September 30, 2020*

Registration Location: Buckingham Preschool
Dates: Friday, March 13, 2020 ~ 9:00-2:00 & 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Friday, March 20, 2020 ~ 9:00-2:00

Bring the following to registration:

- **CHILD** - we need child present for registration as there will be a brief screening during registration
- Birth certificate
- Two (2) proofs of residency (ex: utility bill, driver's license, etc.)
-with matching addresses -must be physical address (No P.O. Boxes)
- Legal guardianship paperwork (if applicable)
- Proof of income (W2 or IRS form 1040)
- Physical Examination Report -Must be dated within 12 months of the first day of school
- Immunization Records -Immunizations must be up-to-date
-Same immunization requirements as for Kindergarten

Live Music!

"Point Judith"

Mayfest

Sat. May 9, 2020

10:00 am - 2:00 pm
at The Historic Village at Lee Wayside
No Admission Charge
Buckingham County Day
84 Lee Wayside Rd. (2 miles west of Sprouses Corner) under Historic Village.

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Don't Miss "Primitive Technology Day"

- **"Primitive Technology Day"** April 18, 2020 11:00-4:00 at Historic Village, tomahawks, atlata demo, flintlock rifle demo, flint knapping, trapping demo, longhunter camp, blacksmithing, long bow shooting, and MORE!

For information call 547-2296 • www.leewaysidevillage.com
Historic Buckingham Inc is a 501 (C) 3 organization



New Amish Market Now Open

By Martha Louis
Correspondent

Buckingham has a new Amish Market - *Spring Hollow Farm Market* opened on March 5th in the old Bates Market on Rt 15 S. Delicious Amish bakery items, fresh produce, and bulk items available. They are open Mon- Thurs 7:30-5:00 and Fri 7:30-7:00. Saturday 8:00-4:00.



Buckingham Drama Club presents *Legally Blonde, Jr*

Contributed by Susan Auten



The Buckingham County High School Drama Club is proud to present "*Legally Blonde, Jr: The Musical*." Get your pink on and join us for this all singing, all dancing, feel-good musical comedy that is so much fun it shouldn't be legal! Performances will be held April 3 at 7pm and April 4 at 3pm and 7pm in the high school auditorium. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and children. Tickets will be sold at the door before each performance.

"*Legally Blonde Jr*," follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, snobbery, and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. When Elle's college

boyfriend, Warner, dumps her for someone more serious and heads to Harvard, Elle takes matters into her own hands, charming her way into law school. Befriending classmate, Emmett, and spunky hairdresser, Paulette, along the way, Elle finds that books and looks aren't mutually exclusive. As Elle begins outsmarting her peers, she realizes that law may be her natural calling after all.

"*Legally Blonde JR*," features a large and energetic cast of over 20 students and is a fun romp for people of all ages. The designation JR. at the end of the title indicates that though the movie was rated PG-13 this version of the play is "G" rated and is appropriate for all ages. The lead, Elle, is played by senior, Emma Auten. Emmett Forrest is played by senior, Cole Bohanon and Warner is played by senior, Tajhmir Gough. Others in the cast include Erin Webber as Paulette, Jade Cyr as Vivienne Kensington, Alex Ragland as Professor Callahan, and Justice Steger as Brooke Windham.



Launch Party and Book Signing of the book

OUTSIDE IN, INSIDE OUT Vol. 1

by **Dr. Sakina G. Sawtelle, MScD; PsyThD.**

Saturday, March 21, 2020 3 - 5 PM at

Buckingham Community Art Center

Light refreshments, entertainment and readings from the book.

I look forward to seeing those of you who are able to come, and

to those of you who are not able to come I have given a link below

where you may order my book. <https://jendayiastafford.com/dr-sakina-g-sawtelle/>



Easter Egg Hunt

Bethlem Baptist Church will host its Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 11th at 10AM • 3008 Troublesome Creek Rd, Dillwyn, (434) 983-2493



Easter Egg Hunt

Antioch Union will have its Easter Egg hunt on April 11 at 10 am with story time, crafts, a hot dog lunch and a hunt with over 3000 eggs. 2810 Greenway Rd, Wingina, VA (434) 969-7777

Fluvanna County Arts Council



*Presents the 2019-2020 Season
at Carysbrook Performing Arts Center*



Moon Over Buffalo

April 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26

Friday & Saturday at 7:30

Sunday at 3:00pm

It's the summer of 1953, and former Broadway stars Charlotte and George Hay have taken their run-down touring company to Buffalo when they receive word that they might just have one last shot at stardom: Frank Capra is coming to town to see their matinee. Will their performance convince Capra to cast them in his movie remake of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*? Or will the plethora of pratfalls, slamming doors, and backstage shenanigans ruin their chance of success? This fast-paced, hilarious, screwball comedy is a valentine to the stage and the larger-than-life personalities that inhabit the world of the theatre.



Next Performance:

The Fluvanna Community Singers



Admission: Free

Spring Concert

Saturday, May 2nd at 7:30 pm • Sunday, May 3rd at 3:00 pm

The Community Singers' Spring Concert always has a few surprises, plus lots of fun and laughter!! Under the skillful directorship of Scott David, the concert is guaranteed to be a highly entertaining musical performance which will have you tapping your feet and humming along.

A Financial Donation to the Fluvanna Food Pantry is Appreciated

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**



New Library Looking Good

Progress on The New Buckingham County Public Library seems to be going well and at record speed with its construction. This is an exciting addition to our county of which we can all be proud.

Escape to a vintage vacation surrounded by picturesque woodlands and healing waters. Experience almost heaven at Capon Springs and Farms.

WVtourism.com/CaponSprings

The Buckingham Library Schedule:

1140 Main St, Dillwyn
(434) 983-3848

Weekly - Tue 10:30 toddler story time
Wed 11 am - computer class
Fri. noon - family movie time
Sat 2-4 pm Irish film series (until May 2)

Come and join in during Spring Break a scavenger hunt, or participate in one of these special programs.

Mon March 23 - 1-3 pm - Puzzles and Popcorn
Tue. March 24 - 1-3 pm Lego Master Builders

Calling kids ages 9-13 who love reading! Pick up a copy of the book "A boy called bat" before the book club for you to keep. We will discuss the book and have a snack. **Fri. Mar. 27 4-5 pm.**

Fri. April 3 5:30-6:30 - Test your family's knowledge of Marvel Movie Trivia - Late Night Library (library only for the family activity)

CVEC Receives \$28 Million for Rural Broadband

Press release

Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (CVEC) and Firefly Fiber BroadbandSM received \$28,000,000 in funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Reconnect Program. The announcement was made Friday morning by USDA Virginia State Director, Beth Green, to a group of 200 guests comprised of county officials, local and elected officials, directors, supervisors, business partners, and CVEC members and employees. CVEC and Firefly President and CEO Gary Wood remarked, "We have great partners and the folks who have spoken today at the local, state and federal level have contributed to make this announcement and grant possible. We need the partners and appreciate all they have done to help the members of CVEC."

CVEC and Firefly applied for the 50% grant/50% loan and will use the funds to build fiber to 11 of its 30 substations. The Curdsville substation in Buckingham will be the first stop for building fiber using grants funds, followed by Cartersville, Stonewall and Kidd's Store. Dr. Brian Bates, CVEC Director, shared, "CVEC is here to help... Eighty-three years ago, a group of local leaders got together to address a problem. The big utilities were not interested in expending the resources to put electricity in our communities. Folks banded together to form CVEC and they solved that problem. Access to high speed internet is the great economic and educational and quality of life imperative in the 21st century. The leadership of CVEC recognized this, and just like they did 83 years ago, pulled together and stepped up to the plate to provide permanent and high-speed solution for all of our members."

CVEC has committed to a \$120 million plan to install over 4,500 miles of fiber-optic cable in the 14 counties it serves, providing broadband internet to all of its 37,000 members. The fiber network will use laser beams and glass fibers to move data at speeds of up to one gigabit per second, delivering world-class communications to members served in their electric territory.

The fiber-optic network will be installed on and adjacent to existing overhead and underground electric distribution lines, utilizing the existing infrastructure. The joint grant application and award is based on CVEC installing and owning the fiber-optic cable, and its wholly owned subsidiary Firefly Fiber BroadbandSM using the fiber to offer retail internet and phone services. Firefly subscribers will be able to purchase high-speed internet of 100 megabits per second at \$49.99 per month or 1 gigabit per second for \$79.99 per month. **More information on pricing and internet packages can be found at www.fireflyva.com.**

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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).



Big Quarry, Arvonias. Courtesy Robert Jeffrey.

In early 1913, *Richmond's Times-Dispatch* ran a lengthy article concerning the slate industry in Buckingham County. Heavily illustrated, the article was given impressive space in the "Industrial Section" of the Sunday edition. Written by Frank S. Woodson, the article began:

— Of course, I knew, and I have known for a long time, that the hills of some part of Buckingham County were choked up with a very fine slate, and I knew that a great deal of it was dug out of the hills and shipped to various parts of the country to be used for roofing, but until I came here to see for myself I had no idea of the wealth represented in slate, that is hidden away in the hills aforesaid. I suppose the knowledge of this source of Virginia wealth is as limited with 90% of *The Times-Dispatch* readers as it was with me, hence I can conceive of no better service two columns of space can do than to allow me to tell all about Buckingham slate.

Woodson went on to explain the modest expanse of the deposit—about two thirds of a mile in width and ten miles in length, running from near the James River southward into the county. The depth, however, was impressive—"The slate is found in paying quantities 50 feet under the surface, and no man knows how deep it goes."

Arvonias was at the center of the richest and most extensive deposits. Some believed that the quarries were almost inexhaustible, observing that slate had been mined and used locally for considerably more than a century. When Woodson's article was published, quarries had operated for about fifty years. By 1913, sons of the original quarrymen had inherited thriving operations. Woodson continued:

I had heard that the Buckingham slate is superior for all purposes, especially for roofing, to any that is mined or quarried anywhere else in the world. I had an idea that perhaps that was merely an off-handed Virginia boast, for in my ignorance on the subject I supposed that slate was simply slate and that all slate was alike. An investigation convinces me that I was wrong, and that the claim for the superiority of Buckingham slate is well-founded.

Geologists, the journalist noted, categorize slate by grade. Some is worthless for roofing, while some will last virtually forever exposed to the elements. Many slates are merely slag and, when exposed to air and weather, change and discoloration making "an unsightly roof." There were many products on the market guaranteed to last for about ten to fifteen years. The only slate that is absolutely unfading is the blue-black metallic slate which fills Buckingham County's quarries.

Woodson also described two local mills with slate roofs:

There are two old mills near here [Arvonias], one known as the Virginia Mills and the other as the Trenton Mill. They were covered with Buckingham slate taken from a quarry within a stone's throw of where I now sit. It is known that Virginia Mill[s] was built and roofed with this slate one hundred and twenty-five years ago, and it is known that the Trenton Mill is a hundred years old. The roofing was crudely done, but it was well done, and to-day it is as perfect as it was the day it was put on the buildings, and no man who has ever operated the Mills has ever been known to complain of leaking roofs.

By 1913, slate from Buckingham was used far beyond the county. Woodson related the Richmond Theatre on Broad Street had been topped with Buckingham slate. Several years before 1913, the old theater was pulled down and the contractor, who found the roof in perfect condition, saved the slate and used it to roof smaller houses in the northern part of the city. Woodson also noted that the City Gas House in

Norfolk, Virginia was covered with Buckingham-quarried slate. More than sixty years old, even leaking gases had not compromised it. When the building had to be rebuilt to better contain noxious fumes, the roof was carefully removed, found to be in perfect condition, and the new building was reroofed with the same material. After another twenty years, the gas house was rebuilt again, the roof removed, and used for a third time. Now that's staying power!

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Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Gave the slip
- 5 Pants style
- 10 Battery contents
- 14 Gawk at
- 15 Woody or Gracie
- 16 Bygone bird
- 17 Change of heart?
- 19 Burr-Hamilton event
- 20 Floral leaf
- 21 Like a stop sign
- 23 Hindu social class
- 25 One of ten in FDR's coin
- 26 Ghostly figure
- 29 Take the bait
- 31 Compass dir.
- 34 Angelic feature
- 35 Fairy tale's second word
- 37 Travolta walk
- 39 Switch on
- 41 Fastest feline
- 43 Part of LCD, in math
- 44 Liniment target
- 46 "Get a ___ on!"
- 47 Miss the mark
- 48 Plaster base
- 50 Snoop Dogg, e.g.
- 52 Still-life fruit
- 54 Companionless
- 56 Winter pelter
- 59 Desktop icon
- 63 Like some coffees or teas
- 64 Impossible to fill
- 66 Fancy trim

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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56	57					58				59		60	61	62
63					64				65					
66					67						68			
69					70						71			

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- 67 Squirrel away
- 68 Salty drop
- 69 Seating section
- 70 Metric heavy weight
- 71 Drop-off spot
- 9 Still in one piece
- 10 Extra charge
- 11 Kitchen surface
- 12 Creative spark
- 13 Chatty Cathy, e.g.
- 18 Trellis piece
- 22 Migratory birds
- 24 Put a lid on
- 26 Humpback, e.g.
- 27 Marathon entrant
- 28 Paneled art in a church
- 30 Progress slowly
- 32 Slick
- 33 It'll knock you out
- 36 Kind of moss
- 38 Geographical zone
- 40 Mythical strong-man
- 42 Male protagonist
- 45 French song
- 49 Matisse, for one
- 51 Start to freeze?
- 53 Respected one
- 55 Live's partner
- 56 To the ___ (fully)
- 57 Exotic berry
- 58 Not taken in by
- 60 Out for the night
- 61 Coal refuse
- 62 "Take one!"
- 65 Golf ball support



Nestled in the historic Buckingham Court House village, Nancy's Unique Gifts is housed in the historic Spencer home. The large wrap-around porch adds to the shop's charm.
All photos by Sue A. Miles

25th Anniversary

Maxey's shop is a gift to the eye

By Sue A. Miles
Correspondent

When it came to a career path, Nancy Adams Maxey had to pave her own way to where she is now; owner of Nancy's Unique Gifts. Celebrating her 25th year as proprietor of her gift shop, Maxey's business is well-known throughout Central Virginia for offering a variety of unique gifts and other merchandise.

"What I wanted to do was to be a fashion illustrator for newspapers and other publications," said Maxey. "When I was in high school they didn't know to send me to an art school or a fashion school." Because her career goal was not a traditional path, Maxey basically was on her own for post-secondary decisions. "I found out about a fashion school in Washington, D.C., called Gibson Fashion School, right in the middle of the city," said Maxey. She headed out to the big city in 1969 and much to her dismay, it happened to be right when the civil rights riots were occurring. "I was in a dorm," said Maxey. "Everything was shut down and you couldn't

get out of the city."

The tension in the capital city made it difficult for Maxey to complete classes. "I came home and then went to Virginia Art Institute in Charlottesville and majored in advertising."

Always seeking the opportunity to study and work in fashion illustration, Maxey then took a different direction. "My mother had a good friend who recommended a fashion school in Atlanta, the Fashion Institute of America," she said. "I went there and graduated with an Associates of Arts degree."

After obtaining her degree, Maxey returned to Buckingham County, where her first job was in the advertising department of Baldwin's Department Store in Farmville. This was during the time of downtown retail stores being the go to places for shoppers to purchase clothing and other home merchandise.

"I worked there for two years and loved it," said Maxey. "I did their window displays and their printing, along with some illustrations." Maxey described the department's system. "They had wooden blocks for letters. You inked the blocks and you used rollers and created their signs. I also handled their radio ads and did their fashion shows." Maxey also worked with Longwood College (now University) and local women's' clubs fundraising events.

Very much a local Buckingham girl (her parents were Herbert and Susie Spencer Adams), throughout the time she was attending art schools outside of the state, Maxey dated and eventually married her husband, Herbert Maxey, who also attended Buckingham Central (now County) High School with her.

Married in 1970, Nancy and her husband moved to Richmond so that he could attend law school. "I started working at Miller and Rhodes and was one of only two women in the Visual Advertising Department," she said. "We had our own carpenter for whatever props we needed, along with a sign printer and a secretary."

This was during the era when Miller and Rhoads was a destination point for almost all shoppers in Virginia, especially during holidays. "Christmas was really big for the store," said Maxey. "The tea room was also a drawing point. My aunt Emilee Spencer would take me there when I was a child. I never imagined I'd be working there."

"People would come in and see our department working and say, 'how can I get your job?'. It was fun. We did all the window displays, advertising, and signage," she said.

After three years in Richmond, Maxey and her husband returned to Buckingham where he started a law practice. "I free-lanced for Miller and Rhoads when I returned," said Maxey "I would make props for them. I made fabric dolls by hand, including a Sherlock Holmes doll, with all the clothing. They sent the fabric and hat."

Maxey then took a professional break to raise her two children: Tina and Tripp. Never idle, she also worked in her husband's law office, became very involved with her church and also made costumes for Christmas pageants and ballet recitals. She



Maxey started her business 25 years ago featuring hand-made quilts created by her mother and also the Pennsylvania Amish. Although her shop now offers a wider variety of merchandise, Maxey continues to offer beautiful and colorful quilts for her customers.



The stately display case holds a variety of jewelry and gift items for customers.

was also creating paintings using pastel, chalk, and acrylic.

"I had a lot of art work and Mama was always quilting," said Maxey. Also inspired by the then very active Buckingham County Arts Center, Maxey decided to open up a gift shop in a house that she and her husband had purchased, formally owned by John and Katherine Spencer. "I started out selling my art, my mother's quilts and also David Heath prints." As the business grew, she then added other local artisans' work. "I began selling other quilts as well as Buckingham slate products by Wayne Apperson; trivets, clocks, signs, bookends, whatever people wanted."

Maxey also sold hand-made Amish quilts from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. "I would tell the quiltmakers what I needed, and they would mail them. Some quilts would retail for more than \$1,000. I would often have more than 50 quilts on sale at one time in the shop, displayed on my great grandmother's bed," she said. "Chinese quilts, Indian quilts, antique quilts, handmade patch quilts. I carried every variety and price range. I can't even get them now. It seems they've stopped making them."

Maxey also started offering select jewelry products. "Brighton jewelry is the main name brand I carry," she said. She also sells local jewelry and has sold some museum pieces." The shop's jewelry display is extensive and enticing with a large variety of rings, bracelets, necklaces, and earrings --all uniquely laid out in a stately antique display case.

Maxey is also well known in Central Virginia for being a Vera Bradley distributor. "A sales rep was here and recommended that I carry Vera Bradley products. They are quality products and I feel this was a good decision."

Always willing to diversify, Maxey started carrying women's clothing about twelve years ago. "I wanted to move away from quilts as they were getting harder to obtain. I also saw that the interest in them was going down." Maxey now carries Tribal and True Blue clothing options.

Walking through Maxey's shop is a gift to the eye and if you're looking for

a present for almost any occasion, you've definitely come to the right place. Plus, part of the charm of shopping at her shop is seeing all the products displayed in the beautiful, historic Spencer home.

The kitchen area is laid out with all-occasion flags, fine linens and placemats, colorful aprons, festive bowls, plus local honey, peanuts, sauces and pepper jellies. As you enter what used to be the bathroom you are offered foaming soaps and Michele Design Works products. The children's area has soft baby blankets, classic wooden toys, and books. "My goal has always been to sell quality things that last," said Maxey.

There is a local authors' section which offers a variety of historic and non-fiction books on Buckingham County. To add to the wide variety of merchandise, Maxey also sells Cat's Meow plaques of local churches and other historic buildings in the county.

And, then there's the Christmas room. Located at the top of a winding oak staircase, this seasonal room is open all year, complete with a stunning Christmas tree, laden with ornaments and unique gifts. Along with a wide variety of Christmas products, Byers Choice Carolers are on display, ever ready to sing a carol, if needed. The beauty of the room certainly gets you in the holiday spirit, no matter what season it is.

Although this is a gift shop for the public you might actually consider that this shop is also Maxey's gift to the people in Central Virginia. When considering that supporting local businesses is something that is good for our county, this shop is the perfect answer to that. With an incredible array of items, shoppers don't have to drive long distances to buy a gift for someone or even for themselves. It's right there, in the middle of the county, at Nancy's Unique Gifts. Happy 25th to Nancy's Unique Gifts and thanks for being here.

Nancy's gift shop is located at 13126 W James Anderson Hwy, Buckingham, VA 23921. She's open Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Maxey is also the proprietor of the Maysville Manor, a bed and breakfast and event center next to the historic Courthouse.

The Manor, circa 1815, was primarily used as a hotel. Although restored with modern conveniences, it still has its historic Federal period charm. The main house has six bedrooms and two kitchens. The cottage has a kitchen, two bedrooms and a living room area.

The Manor is open every day of the year. Website is www.maysvillemanor.com.



Maxey offers an eclectic array of items for shoppers including baby items, which are shown here, displayed on a door leading into the children's merchandise room.

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FLUVANNA HABITAT for HUMANITY GOLF TOURNAMENT: to be held on Saturday, April 25, 2020, at Lake Monticello Golf Course. Currently we are looking for sponsorships. Join us as a Corporate Sponsor Team, or

EVENTS

Individual player for a day of friendly competition, delicious food, and great prizes. Sponsorship registration deadline is March 25, 2020. Questions about tournament and/or sponsorship opportunities, call Fluvanna Habitat office at 434 589-3752 or email: fluvannahabitat@live.com

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FOR SALE

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RENTALS

KENTS STORE ARC COMMUNITY CENTER: Affordable facility available to rent for receptions, anniversaries, baby or bridal showers, birthday parties or any event where you need some extra space for a group gathering. Table & chairs included in rental fee. If interested in more information, please email Barbara: bab1122@sbcglobal.net

MONTICELLO PROPERTIES: 3661 Lake Monticello Road, Palmyra, VA 22963. For current Housing Rentals: Call Genevieve (434) 589-7653 office or email: monticellopropertiesmgt@gmail.com. Equal Housing Opportunity. Licensed Agent in Virginia

RENTALS

WILMINGTON CLUBHOUSE: Looking for a venue to host your party or event? Wilmington Clubhouse is available for rent at 1083 Wilmington Road, Palmyra VA 22963. For more information email: WilmingtonClub@gmail.com or phone (434) 373-0985, or text.

SERVICES

FULL SERVICE SELF STORAGE: Fluvanna Self Storage on Lake Monticello Rd., (Rte 618, Burns Plaza) offers 2 convenient locations with both Climate Controlled and Regular month-to-month rentals (24/7 availability), also locks, moving supplies, U-Haul Trucks, and ON-SITE manager. Call (434) 589-2222, email: manager@storeFSS.com, or visit: storeFSS.com, today!

PAINTING, INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR: Also tin roofs, fences, decks stained, gutter cleaning and power washing. 40 years experience. Call (434) 962-6484 or (434) 296-3146.

SPECIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION VETERANS & DEPENDENTS: Do you know your Veterans Benefits? We do! Virginia Department of Veterans Services, <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov> or (434) 295-2782. Need Help? Call 1(800) 827-1000, M-F from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. for Veterans Affairs Benefits and Services.

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(Experience Required)

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WANTED

OUR GROWING 5-PAPER MEDIA COMPANY IS SEEKING AN ADVERTISING SALES ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE for the Scottsville Monthly and Buckingham Beacon.

The ideal candidate:

- must be good with people, hard-working and customer-service oriented.
- should be able to multi-task and organize work flow, build rapport with local businesses and help the team meet weekly sales goal numbers.
- needs to be comfortable with telephone and written sales efforts as well as with face-to-face presentations.

Part Time Account Executive

You will be talking with potential advertising customers in Scottsville and Buckingham and beyond, planning ad campaigns and establishing budgets, helping design basic layouts and cross-selling into all of our publications.

This is a part-time position with very high commissions, and is perfect for anyone wanting to earn extra income in a 10-12 hour per week sales capacity.

If this fits your skill set, please forward your resume to:
Judi Price, Advertising Director
Judi.valleypublishing@gmail.com



SPECIAL SERVICES

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WANTED

OLD COINS: I BUY OLD COINS.
(434) 466-7968

Answers to the Crossword Puzzle
from page 11

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

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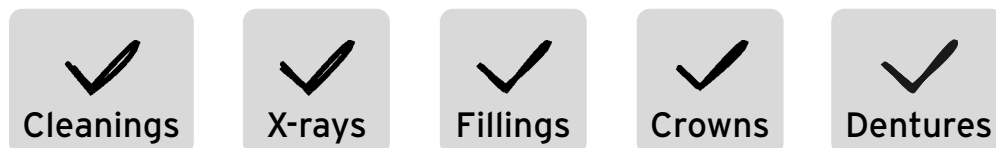
434-207-0223

or email:

judi.valleypublishing@gmail.com

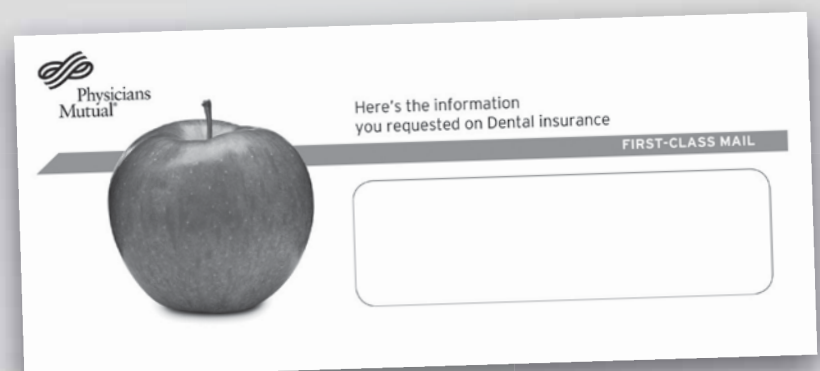
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Centra Southside Pediatrics offers endocrinology services



C E N T R A
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Luis Siliezar, MD, pediatric endocrinologist, completed medical school at the University of El Salvador and residency training in pediatrics in Nassau University Medical Center, after which he served a fellowship in pediatric endocrinology. Dr. Siliezar performed his pediatric endocrinology training at NYU Winthrop Hospital.

Centra Southside Pediatrics is open Monday – Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.

*To schedule
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434.315.5377

OUR PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGIST



Luis Siliezar, MD

SERVICES/PROCEDURES

- Disorders of carbohydrate metabolism, such as diabetes mellitus, impaired glucose tolerance, and hypoglycemia
- Growth and puberty problems, including short stature, precocious, or delayed puberty
- Underactive or overactive thyroid gland
- Pituitary deficiencies or excessive function
- Adrenal disorders such as premature adrenarche, congenital defects of steroidogenesis, or excess (Cushing syndrome, low-renin hypertension)
- Congenital or acquired gonadal dysfunction
- Obesity
- Disorders of calcium metabolism, including vitamin D deficiency, low or high calcium level