

# OCC MAGAZINE

March 6–April 2, 2020 • One Copy FREE

ORANGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

*Green*

DOWNTOWN

## An Exciting Shopping Adventure in Downtown Orange

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# OC Magazine

A monthly publication

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**General:** OC Magazine is published monthly by Valley Publishing Corp. A total of 6,000 copies are circulated throughout Orange County. One copy is free, additional copies are \$1 each payable in advance to the publisher.

**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: OC Magazine Subscriptions Dept., P.O. Box 59, Palmyra, VA 22963.

**Submissions, tips, ideas, etc.:** OC Magazine encourages submissions and tips on items of interest to Orange County citizens. However we reserve the right to edit submissions as deemed necessary and cannot guarantee they will be published. OC Magazine 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. (Letters to the Editor, Community Calendar, etc.), E-mail valleyeditor1@gmail.com

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**Next Advertising deadline:** Wednesday,  
March 25, 2020

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**THE MOUSETRAP**  
by **AGATHA CHRISTIE**  
**MARCH 6-22**  
Directed by Clinton Johnston

**FOUR COUNTY PLAYERS**

## AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP to Open at Four County Players

### Press release

**A**s part of their 47th Season in Barboursville, Four County Players is proud to present *THE MOUSETRAP* by Agatha Christie, opening March 6th on the Mainstage.

The scene of this original "whodunit" is set when a group of people snowed in at a country house discover, to their horror, that there is a murderer in their midst. Who can it be? One by one, the suspicious characters reveal their sordid pasts until at the last, nerve-shredding moment, the identity and the motive are finally revealed. Agatha Christie's classic murder mystery has the distinction of being the World's Longest Running Play, and for good reason!

This production is directed by Clinton Johnston and stars Lisa Weigold as Mollie Ralston, Charif Soubra as Giles Ralston, John Kermgard as Sergeant Trotter, Greyson Taylor as Christopher

Wren, Linda Zuby as Mrs. Boyle, Emma Shirey as Miss Casewell, John Baker as Major Metcalf, and Tim Carlson as Mr. Paravicini.

Rounding out the production staff are Mandy Shuker as Production Stage Manager, Charlotte Drummond as Producer, Megan Hillary as Costume Designer, Steven Reid as Lighting Designer, James Harte as Scenic Designer, Carl Schwaner as Sound Designer, Sid Wood as Master Carpenter, Iney Byfield as Properties Designer and Set Dresser, Lisa Grant as Dialect Coach, Kerry Moran as Scenic Painter, Erin Wallace as Board Operator, Nick Hagy as Technical Director, and Gary Warwick White as Production Manager.

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S *THE MOUSETRAP* opens March 6th, 2020, and runs weekends on the Mainstage through March 22nd, 2020. Friday & Saturday night performances are at 8PM, and Sunday matinees are at 2:30PM. Adult

tickets are \$18; Senior citizen/Student tickets are \$16; Children (12 and under) are \$14; and all Friday tickets are \$10. Please contact the Box Office directly for group rates over 10.

Four County Players is Central Virginia's Longest-Running Community Theater, and prides itself on being a cultural destination for Charlottesville and the surrounding areas.

**For more information or to purchase tickets, please call the Box Office at 540-832-5355, visit our new website at [www.fourcp.org](http://www.fourcp.org), or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/fourcountypayers](http://www.facebook.com/fourcountypayers).**

**Contact:**

Edward Warwick White,  
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edwardwarwick@gmail.com  
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Barboursville, VA 22923

### The Cover



Grenel Downtown is located at  
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# Louisa County Restaurant Week Set to Begin March 6

## Press release

**R**estaurant week is coming back to the Louisa County area Friday, March 6th - Sunday, March 15th. Hosted by Louisa County Parks, Recreation and Tourism & Visit Louisa, this ten-day culinary experience will highlight the area's locally owned restaurants through promoting their signature dishes at affordable prices. This is a great opportunity for both community-locals and visitors to check-out the diverse selection of restaurants in Louisa County, and for local restaurants to showcase some of their best dishes.

Since Louisa County has great history as a caring community, we are excited that the 2020 restaurant week will continue to offer a charitable component. For every meal that is purchased between March 6th and 15th from a restaurant week location, \$1 will be donated to the Louisa County Resource Council.

For 28 years, the Resource Council has provided food assistance for those in our community who are at risk of hunger. The food pantry continues to see a growing hunger problem in our area. In fact, a 2019 study conducted by UVA's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service confirmed that Louisa County's food insecurity rate of 22.3% is "nearly twice the 11.8% national average."

Your participation in Restaurant Week will support local businesses and Louisa County Resource Council's work in our community to provide food to those who are most in need of help.

### Participating locations:

- Annie Mac's Kitchen
- Callie Opie's Orchard
- Coyote Hole Ciderworks
- Joe-Joe's Super Heroes & Pizza
- Obrigado Restaurant
- Prospect Hill Plantation Inn & Restaurant
- Smokin' Eddies BBQ



Louisa County Parks, Recreation & Tourism

- The Cove at Lake Anna
- Tim's at Lake Anna Restaurant & Crab house
- And More!

For more information, visit:  
[www.VisitLouisa.com/RestaurantWeek](http://www.VisitLouisa.com/RestaurantWeek)



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1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Saturday, March 7**  
10:00 am - 7:00 pm

**Sunday, March 8**  
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

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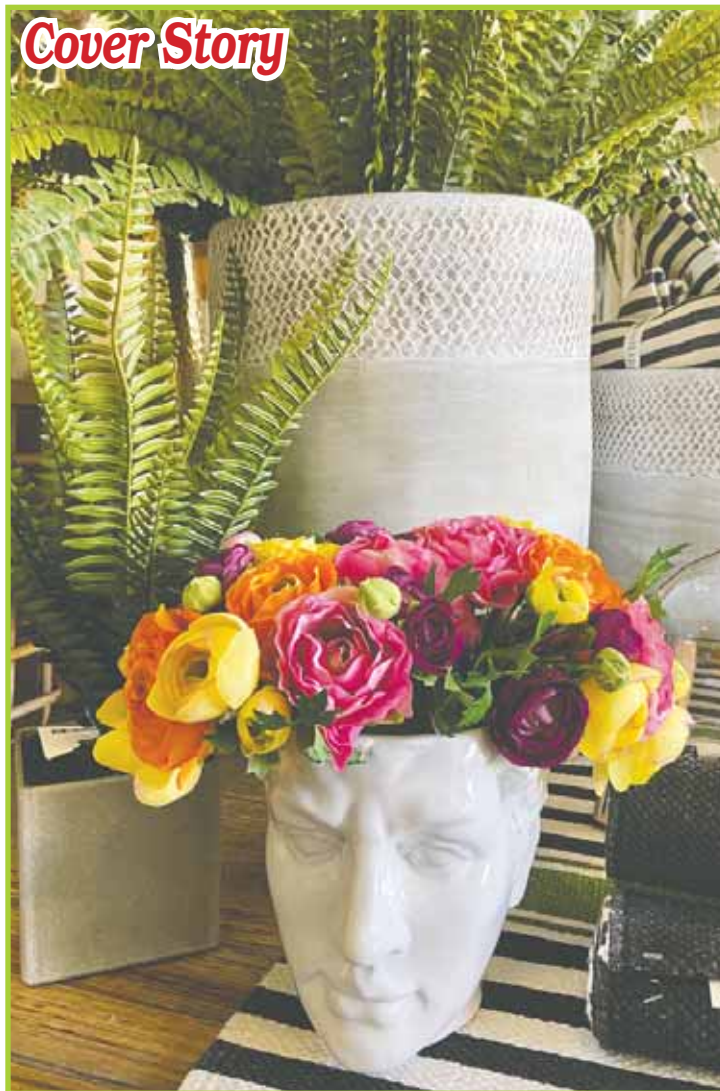


**Suzy Bogguss**  
**April 25, 7:30pm**  
**April 26, 2:00pm**  
**\$41 All Seats**

Suzy Bogguss is an American country music singer and songwriter. Six of her songs were top-ten hits, three of her albums achieved gold status, and one achieved platinum. Suzy took home "Top New Female Vocalist" from the Academy of Country Music Awards. Audiences will be sure to enjoy a performance from one of the most diverse females in the country music industry.

540-967-5200 [LouisaArts.org](http://LouisaArts.org)

**Cover Story**



We can't wait for spring. Photo by Huyler Dunn and Tabitha Wilson Photographers.

# Grelen Downtown: An Exciting Shopping Adventure in Orange

By Carol Barfield  
 Correspondent

**G**relen Downtown, located on 112 E. Main Street in Orange, has put on its Easter clothes and is ready for shoppers to spend an enjoyable hour or two perusing the eclectic and refreshing displays.

In January, owner Leslie Gregg made her annual trip to Atlanta to select the newest and best quality items for her shop. The variety of choices makes it a certainty you will walk out with the perfect gift for that new baby, your best friend's birthday or a special wedding gift that will be truly enjoyed.

Fun pillows with dramatic tapestries and amusing sayings rest upon a welcoming settee; wall hangings as vivid and fresh as the spring that is almost upon us adorn the walls and are balanced by garden displays with quirky individuality. Everything about Grelen Downtown invites the shopper in for further exploration. Candles of all sorts, bunnies and pots, napkins and greeting cards, lamps, coffee cups and jewelry are displayed in tasteful groupings.

Colorful animals crowd the walls: elephants and llamas, flamingos and giraffes—forget shopping for others, you're sure to find a few things to beautify and enjoy for your own home! The special collections for animal lovers and children are especially gratifying to look through...clothes, plush stuffed

## Annie Gould Gallery



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Zeke Galvin, Leslie Gregg with husband Dan Gregg.  
Photo courtesy of VNB Bank

toys, books, and one-of-a-kind finds are arranged in tasteful displays on tall glossy wood shelving units.

In another corner, a collection of towels brings smiles with their sayings, "Please excuse the mess, our standards have lowered with each child," and "You're ridiculous. And by that, I mean we'll always be friends." Leslie had the foresight to match the thoughtful selection of items in Grelen Downtown with the careful selection of workers to staff it. Mary Brook Miller, a student working on her master's degree at William and Mary, appreciates working here part-time and enjoys helping shoppers. Her warm welcome and helpful attitude adds another layer of enjoyment to the shopping experience. At the corner check-out, the shopper can put the finishing touches on the visit with a purchase of Virginia beer, cider or wine, or sweeten things up by indulging in a scoop or two of homemade ice cream made from sister business, The Market at Grelen, located in Somerset.

Grelen Downtown is part of three incorporated businesses including Grelen Nursery, opened in 1990 by Leslie's husband Dan, and The Market at Grelen, a

*See Grelen Downtown page 6*



Photo by Huyler Dunn and Tabitha Wilson Photographers.

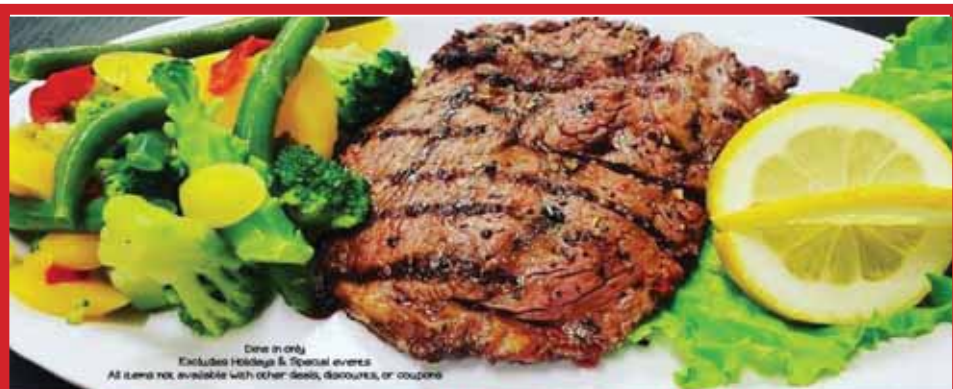
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Chef's Choice

**Tuesday**  
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**HINKLEDIRE TRIVIA 7-9 PM**

**Wednesday**  
**\$5 OFF\* BURGERS**  
(All beef, 1/2 pound hamburgers, cheeseburgers,  
& bacon cheeseburgers)  
\*price with purchase of beverage only

**Thursday**  
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**Friday & Saturday**  
Prime Rib Dinner\*  
served w/ salad & baked potato  
\*AFTER 4 PM

**Bloody Mary Bar**  
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**LIVE MUSIC 7-10 PM**

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Mary Brook Miller is a student employee at Grelen Downtown.  
Photo by Carol Barfield.

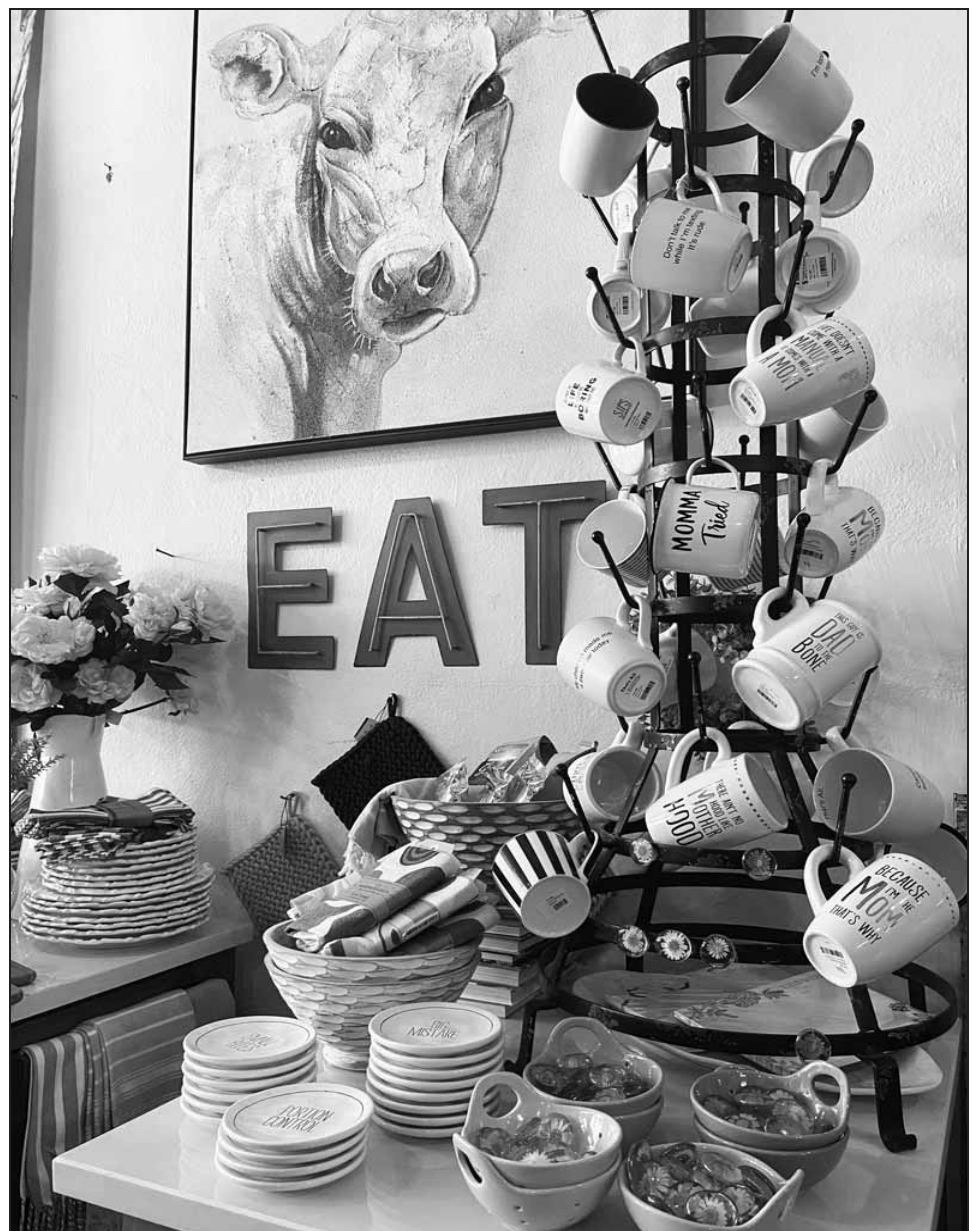
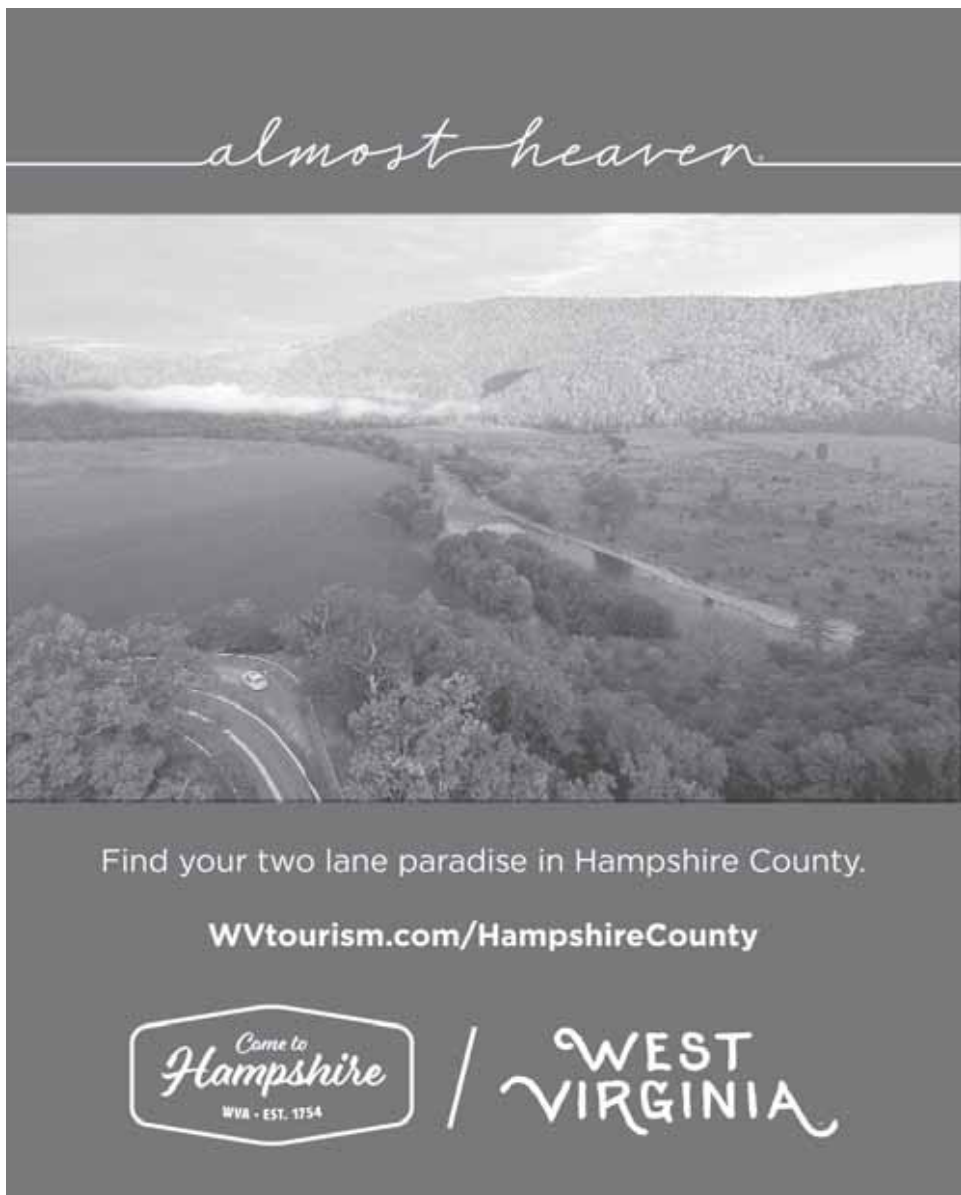
European-style garden shop that opened in 2013 and is now in its 8th season of operation.

Leslie's husband, Dan Gregg, who worked in the banking industry, had long loved plants and trees. He had a surprise for Leslie early in their relationship, "Dan bought 50 acres of land and planted 5 before we were engaged, and I thought he had gone completely crazy— it seemed like a field of sticks to me! But now I am very proud of what he's created."

In 1990, Dan left banking and moved to Orange County to start Grelen Nursery on a corner of his parents' cattle farm. 1997 was a year of greater expansion when Dan brought in Zeke Galvin as partner to manage the landscaping side of the business. In 2003, the two purchased a 200-acre farm in Somerset, Virginia and expanded for the next five years, acquiring two more properties.

Grelen Nursery, open year-round by appointment, sits on a gorgeous 600-acre site and is one of the largest retail tree nurseries in Virginia, specializing in trees, shrub and plants. Through Grelen Tree Care, services to maintain the health of their nursery products are offered. The dream of sharing this beautiful area with everyone continued building, and their brainchild came to fruition as a destination garden market, The Market at Grelen. With a renovated farmhouse, added gardens and terrace, plus a local pick-your-own fruits attraction, the idea had grown impressively, and Leslie ultimately changed careers to oversee the operation. As an undergraduate of the University of Michigan in retail, a University of Virginia Darden School of Business graduate and nine-year owner of two children's stores in Charlottesville and Richmond, Leslie was powerfully placed to move the project forward.

In April 2013, Leslie began overseeing the buying, marketing and operations of the new business. As the business took off, so did the opportunities. A large vegetable garden was added, a full-time chef was hired, and farm-to-table fare entered the menu. Local Virginia beer, cider and wine became a popular offering to customers. Lovely items in the shop echo the offerings at Grelen Downtown, enhancing the experience. The beauty of the property also attracted couples planning their weddings. A 45-square foot clear tent housed four weddings in 2014. The problem of finding lodging for wedding guests caused the Greggs to lose bookings, so Dan and Leslie masterminded the purchase of Spotswood Lodge and Boxwood Villa, then took on the task of renovating them into beautiful lodgings. This project was right down their alley since they had already lovingly restored their own vintage 1809 home in Charlottesville.



An assortment of mugs on a tree with saucers and plates.  
Photo by Huyler Dunn and Tabitha Wilson Photographers.

Events at Grelen became very popular, and in 2019, there were 63 weddings managed by a full-time venue manager. An exciting trail system was opened in 2016 and grew to five miles in a few years. Soon, with the help of Piedmont Environmental Council, they connected it to Montpelier, historic home of James Madison, extending the trail system to over eleven miles between the two properties. The hiking opportunities continue to draw people both locally and from all over the state. Happy dog owners can bring their leashed companions. A deer fence around the entire property keeps out hungry animals...well, almost. Two years ago, an enterprising high-jumper ate their entire blueberry crop! Leslie ruefully explains, "The key to being an entrepreneur is flexibility." Hikers can enjoy the extensive trail system, the café and nursery, and then pick their own fruit to take home. To make full use of the bountiful orchards, ice cream made from their fresh blackberries, blueberries, peaches and apples is served on the premises and is also sent to their Grelen Downtown store.

Leslie's biggest challenge is juggling the different divisions within The Market at Grelen. A team of dedicated employees is essential, and she enjoys helping her young employees develop as professionals, teaching them by example to meld their logical business side with the creative sides of their personalities. There is a lot of personal satisfaction for the Greggs as they oversee their "offspring." Leslie says, "I just love that people come out, put down their phones and enjoy the beauty of the trails and outdoors. Spaces to wind down in nature are becoming few and far between. Sharing this property is an important part of what we do. This business was created from our heart and soul. It was for passion as well as for profit. As we have told our three children—Ali, (19), Hank (21) and Carter (23)—who all gained experience working here, — from dreams and passion comes spectacular results!"

Leslie and Dan will be celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary in a few years...perhaps they will renew their vows at one of the most beautiful spots in Orange County—The Market at Grelen.

Check out the website: [themarketatgrelen.com](http://themarketatgrelen.com) for more information on Grelen Downtown and The Market at Grelen, Virginia Living's 2019 "Best of Virginia" Winner. (The Market at Grelen reopens for the season March 4.)

Also check out [eventsatgrelen.com](http://eventsatgrelen.com) for event and wedding information.



The Market at Grelen located at 15091 Yager Road in Somerset reopens for the season on March 4th. Photo by April Bennett Photography



Grelen Downtown is located 112 E. Main Street in Orange. Photo by April Bennett Photography

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**March 14**

**from 11:00am-12:30pm**

**Ages 5+. \$8 price includes all supplies and snacks**

**540-967-5200 LouisaArts.org**



**The Orange Chamber Annual Awards Banquet**  
**March 19, 2020**  
**5:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

The Annual Awards Banquet is the premier business event where we highlight the community's most accomplished companies and leaders, and celebrate the chambers past year accomplishments.

Location: Madison at the Mill • 323 N. Madison Road, Orange  
**Phone 540-672-5216 • exec@orangevachamber.com**  
 Fees/Admission: \$50.00 a person • Table Sponsorship available

**Firefighter II**  
**Wednesday, March 18, 2020**

Must be 16 years of age by the start of class. Must have Firefighter I and Hazmat



Operation. Must purchase the Jones & Bartlett 3rd Edition prior to start of class. Live Burn will be held on Saturday,

May 2, 2020. Must Pre-Register with Captain, **Mark Sikora at msikora@orangecountyva.gov**  
**March 18, 2020 - April 29, 2020**  
**Time: 6:00 PM - 10:30 PM**

Time Details: Wednesdays: 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM, Sundays: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Live Burn: TBA  
 Location: County of Orange Fire & EMS - RS23  
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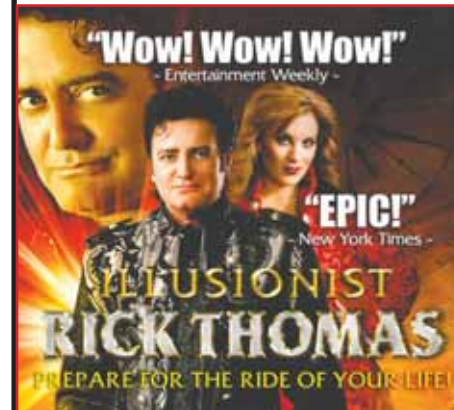
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**The 5th Annual St. Patrick 5k Mud Run & 1 Mile Fun Run**

**Sat, Mar 21, 12:00 AM – 11:59 PM**  
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The 5th Annual St. Patrick VA 5K Mud Run is set for Saturday, March 21, 2020.

The 5K Mud Run will start at 9am with the 1 Mile Fun Run following at 10am.



Packet/T-shirt pickup will begin at 8am. Coffee, tea, hot cocoa, and delicious breakfast treats will be available for sale at Miller Farms Market. Join in the fun and wear your best St. Patrick's Day themed race gear!

We'll have a bounce house, photo booth, DJ, raffles and silent auction for all to enjoy!

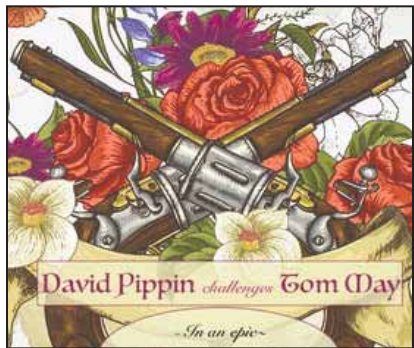
All proceeds from the day will benefit St. Patrick School in Fredericksburg, VA. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 for our new playground fund. **Phone: (540) 850-5009**

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**1:00 - 3:00 pm**

The Pavilion on Lakeland Farm, Orange,  
 Email: dmgc.pr.comm@gmail.com  
 Website: www.dmgcva.org  
 Our Club Facebook page: @DolleyMadisonGardenClub  
**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**



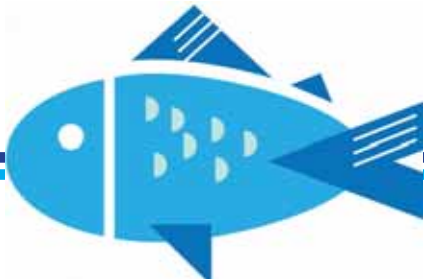
Advance Tickets \$50

Tickets at the door \$55 • www.eventbrite.com

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**is closed for the season and will re-open March 4, 2020**

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**PRESENTS**



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**Directed by Clinton Johnston**

**Produced by Charlotte Drummond**

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Broadway in New York. Photo by Alex Simpson

Column

# A Broadway Rendition That Is Magical

By Carol Barfield  
Correspondent

Usually I ask for socks and a book for my birthday. I realize this does not make me the most imaginative or romantic person on the planet, however this year I felt the yearning for something different; “something’s coming, I don’t know what it is, but it is gonna’ be great—could be, who knows?”

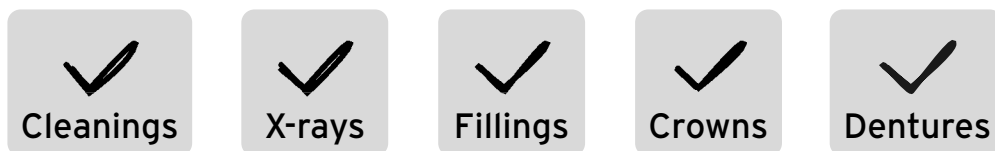
Perhaps it was the disappointing winter that set me up to yearn for something more. You have to admit, the Virginia winter of 2020 has been THE most blah and forgettable in memory. The only “excitement” has been how many viruses have been creeping up on us! That feeling of weather boredom had me looking for opportunities to shake things up. As a child growing up in Michigan, snow was such a GOOD thing → → it meant excitement, and no school, and ice skating and doing donuts in the parking lot in dad’s car (it’s okay, he taught me how!). At the least, it was a full day or two to binge read books and drink hot chocolate! So, the lack of any snow whatsoever is always a frank disappointment to me.

For some inscrutable reason, I had recently subscribed to The New Yorker Magazine, and happened to be reading the one in six issues I usually manage to get to, when I discovered that a Broadway remake of West Side Story was about to debut in New York! The movie with Natalie Wood, Richard Beymer and Rita Moreno was an all-time childhood favorite of mine back in the ‘60s. I was not alone in that opinion, as it went on to win 10 Academy Awards. Another famous composer wrote the lyrics—Stephen Sondheim—you know, the guy who won eight Tony Awards, two Grammys, a Pulitzer Prize and an Oscar? I still know every lyric to every song he



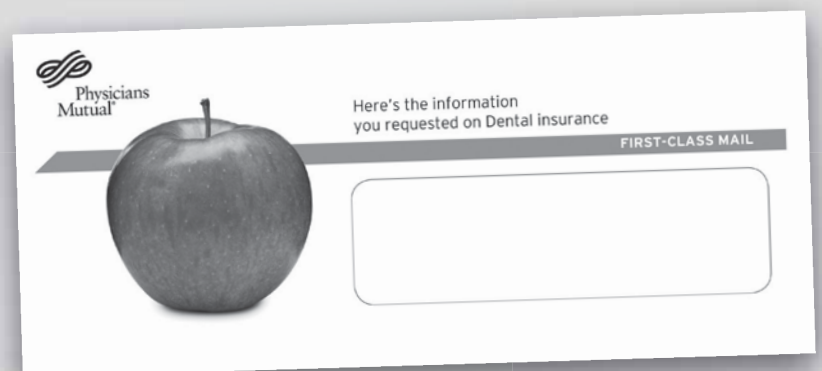
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wrote for West Side Story. I presented my non-book, non-sock request to my husband stating, "Let's go to New York and see this!" After he had looked around the room to see if there was a candid camera team somewhere, he began to get that glimmer of interest that usually grows fast and furious into a flurry of planning, and we got our New York trip and Broadway play scheduled—Happy Birthday to me! Now, instead of longing for snow, I began to worry about the possibility that weather might affect our travel to the Big Apple and render our tickets an embarrassing waste!

The new rendition of the West Side Story musical is complete magic. Although the songs remain exactly as they were, the play is also absolutely fresh and new. The back wall of the stage is an enormous screen upon which is projected live video close-ups of the cast as they perform their magic. At first, seeing the figures on the stage juxtaposed with these enormous video figures is jarring and distracting. But then, a subtle shift occurs, and the feeling of watching a universal truth as well as an individual example of theater begins to steal over you. The cast is America of today. The Jets and the Sharks are no longer Puerto Ricans versus whites, but immigrants versus homeboys, and the dances are today's edgy energy-infused styles. The cops' nasty treatment of the gang members is filmed by witnesses on cell phones. But the alienation, the 'scraped against the pavement until you're bleeding' emotion is still the same. The sweet voice of strong Maria is paired with the romantic silkiness of Tony's in a heart-melting way. Riff is an angry youth played by an African American. There are women in the gangs...equal opportunity has arrived for them in their disenfranchisement. It is powerful, and the camera work allows the audience to see the action up close...the old man's store, Maria's bedroom...while also rendering emotions in inescapable detail as they explode on the back-wall screen.

One hour and 45 minutes of non-stop magic, and we all surged back onto the streets of New York, left to ponder that beyond Broadway and 42nd Street may lie more stories than we can possibly imagine.

It wasn't far to drive to New York...a nice time to catch up with each other and to watch life go by in a measured way. There were no snow showers to impede our journey; there was no airport stress or racing around—we played it cool, real cool. Do yourself a favor and break out of the rut. The rave reviews have started. Hit Broadway and see West Side Story...IF you can get a ticket!

"Go man go!"

cess - Skyline Tent Company, Autumn Olive Farms, Town of Gordonsville, Expressions Face Painting and Fun, carpe donut, MS Events, as well as a great selection of bands! **We will be selling advance tickets online at this address: <http://bit.ly/2tI9t7V>**

### Historical Garden Week in Orange Saturday, April 18, 2020

With a nod to conservation and preserving the rural flavor of the land, this driving tour takes visitors from the countryside to Main Street. From rolling hills and pastures, it is a short drive to Historic Gordonsville, where The Exchange Hotel serves as Tour Headquarters.

Advance Tickets: \$35 pp

Hours: 10 am – 5 pm

Email: [dmgc.pr.comm@gmail.com](mailto:dmgc.pr.comm@gmail.com)

Website: [www.dmgcvirginia.org](http://www.dmgcvirginia.org)

Our Club Facebook page: @DolleyMadisonGardenClub



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\$10 Per Person  
Donation to Register (PayPal or Credit Card Only)

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Wilderness Battlefield (FoWB) is pleased to announce its 3rd annual Untold Stories experience in Old Town Fredericksburg on Friday, March 20. Co-sponsored by the John J Wright Educational and Cultural Center, Fredericksburg United Methodist and St. George's Episcopal Churches, Spotsylvania Civil War Civilian and the National Park Service, the event will celebrate Women's History Month and the Centennial of Women's Right to Vote. Travel back in time, from 1864 to 1967, to witness three stories of women's struggles to attain love, liberty and equality.

The tours (approximately one hour in length) will originate at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, 308 Hanover Street (check in at Kobler Hall – enter off Charlotte Street), continue to St. George's Episcopal Church, and end with the third vignette at Fredericksburg's Historic Courthouse. A reception with light refreshments will follow the last vignette at the Fredericksburg Area Museum (FAM). Museum exhibits will be open for viewing by Untold Stories guests, and volunteers from the host organizations will be on hand to greet and visit with the guests. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

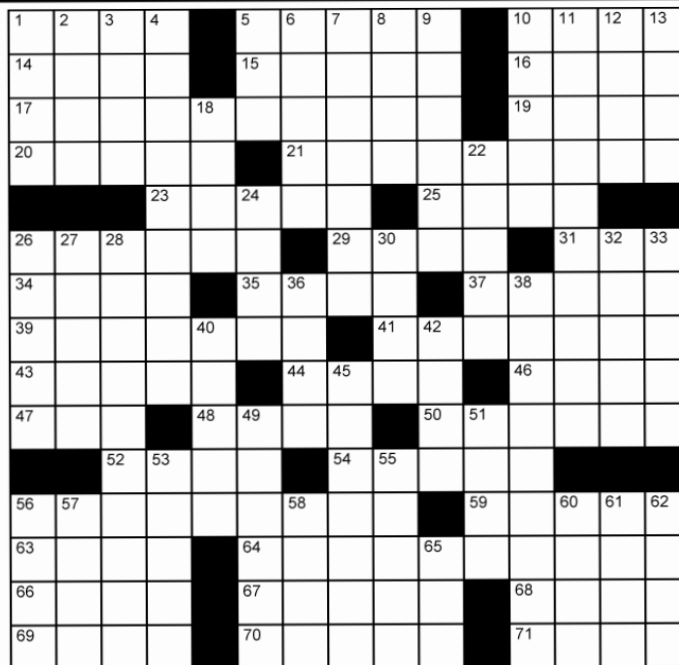
For more information, contact Kim Harmon at (217) 299-1102 or Yvette Blake (540) 809-9960

### 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 pelt
- 59 Desktop icon
- 63 Like some coffees or teas
- 64 Impossible to fill
- 66 Fancy trim



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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 strongman
- 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

#### DOWN

- 1 Quite a few
- 2 Folklore monster
- 3 Insult response
- 4 Persistent
- 5 Spending limit
- 6 Divvy up
- 7 Sugar pill, say
- 8 Monopoly payment

Crossword Answers page 15



Four-year-old Graeme Cutright is proud of his work.



Toddlers Paxton Vasold and Ariel Hamilton play in the nursery under the watchful eyes of Sarah Boxley.

# Schooling at Home, While Still Learning Together

By Pat Wilson  
Correspondent

A class of ten children, ages three to six, read a book about hibernating bears, talk about where the animals live and what they eat, complete a worksheet and play a “sleeping teddy bear” game. Meanwhile, in an upstairs classroom, middle school students complete a project involving sound reduction materials. Nearby, fourth and fifth graders study aspects of physics. Down the hall, high schoolers balance chemical equations, then convert grams to moles. A second class of teenagers discusses plant propagation. Moms supervise toddlers in the nursery. A typical second period Thursday!

From pre-schoolers through 12th grade, 50 youth from two dozen families attend Louisa Christian Co-Op to enhance educational goals and share in social activities. These students are all homeschooled but gather each Thursday at Little River Baptist

Church to explore specific subjects under the leadership of parents whose backgrounds provide expertise in chosen fields. Begun 17 years ago, the co-op is still going strong today.

“We have a wide range of families. Although most are from Louisa County, others come from Madison, Culpeper and Orange, as well as the Richmond and Charlottesville areas,” said Carrie Woolfolk, one of the co-op’s directors. “We think a group like this is the perfect bridge between exclusively homeschooling and exclusively public or private schooling. I began involvement 11 years ago, when my oldest child was only four, and I’ve never left!”

Families have various purposes for participating in an academic co-op as an addition to their homeschool plan. Some families appreciate the opportunity to provide a structured school day with moms being directly involved, while others enjoy their children having accountability in their studies to other teachers. Many parents are thankful for the instruction provided by parents more proficient in specific areas, and everyone enjoys the fellowship and like-mindedness that a group setting provides. Currently, LCC offers classes for the first three rotations that focus on literature/writing, science and history. The high school courses are all credited, and notably rigorous, surpassing and exceeding all state standards of learning. Semester-long electives are provided in the fourth rotation, including options such as Spanish, PE, survival skills, art, theater and music.

“The co-op allows my daughters to explore a subject in depth that I am not as qualified to teach, such as Spanish, or one in which I don’t share her passion,” said Katherine Tinkey, elementary physical science/chemistry teacher who has participated in the group for six years.

The co-op learning does not end on Thursday afternoon. Many teachers will continue to interact with their students throughout the week, through basic email or texting, and especially through the online program Canvas, where grades are posted, assignments are linked and messaging is enabled. Answering questions about on-going projects or weekly homework assignments keeps the instructor aware of any difficulties a student might be having as well as the progress being made.

Periodically, field trips, such as ones to historic sites, science museums or the nation’s capital, are planned for other days of the week. Joining together for com-

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at 10:00am**

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directly from  
the script.**

**The Bold, the Young and the Murdered**

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Last semester's computer science class improve typing skills while working on individual projects.



Carrie Woolfolk and her high school chemistry students explore chemical reactions.

munity volunteering is encouraged as well.

The moms also have some free time during which most gather at tables in the recreation area. Conversations often focus on the benefits and challenges of homeschooling. Families have selected the homeschooled option for various reasons.

"We are a like-minded group in so many ways," said Kim Ferrell. "We can bounce ideas off one another and find inspiration. Not everyone homeschools alike, but we all have similar goals."

One mother commented that she homeschooled her daughters through elementary school but then supported their choice to attend public high school because of an interest in theater. Several parents supplement their homeschooling with the Virginia Department of Education's Virtual Virginia online classes. Another mother commented that her child's Richmond area high school offers several on-site core classes to accommodate homeschoolers. And, yet another mom has children that have participated in the vocational training options through the Spotsylvania public schools, which is inclusive to homeschoolers. The

women voiced support for the expansion of those options throughout the state. They also appreciate that community colleges are highly supportive of homeschooled students. Several are disappointed that the Virginia High School League does not permit the youth to participate in sanctioned sports.

**See Learning page 15**

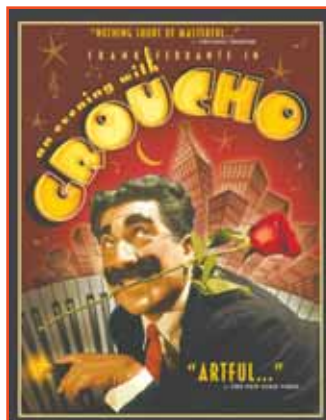
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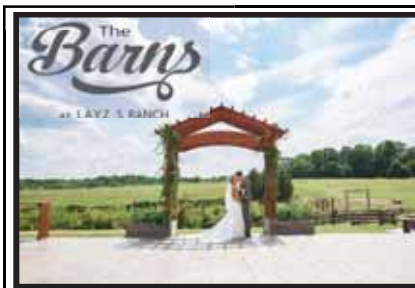
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# OC

## Magazine

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Please email resume with samples of writing, to: [valleyeditor1@gmail.com](mailto:valleyeditor1@gmail.com)

Carlos Santos, Publisher

OC Magazine is published Monthly.



After talking about bears and hibernation, Alison Lineweaver leads her class of three to six-year-old children in a "sleeping teddy bear" activity.



During an interactive lesson on events of the early 20th century, Dana Racette and two of her students, Greta Lineweaver and Penny Cutright, locate countries involved in World War I.

The choice to homeschool can cost a family several hundreds of dollars in curriculum each year, whereas groups like the co-op cut down on the expense because the resources are shared. While families pay a small amount in dues each year, the funds go directly back to the classes.

"Little River Baptist Church is one of the most gracious and generous churches we have ever had the pleasure of working with," said Woolfolk. "They do not charge us a rental fee, and welcomed us with open arms four years ago, when we first approached them about using their facilities."

Christian beliefs are emphasized each Thursday as the day draws to a close. Students and parents gather in the church pews to reflect on the day's activities, with a focus on the values of Christian life with personal goals to honor God and serve others.

Because of time and space available, the program must limit the number of students. Those interested in participating must first contact the director, which is followed up with an interview, visit and application. As a result of the popularity of the co-op, openings are infrequent. **Anyone wanting more information about the process, can contact Woolfolk at [carrie.woolfolk@gmail.com](mailto:carrie.woolfolk@gmail.com).**



For a Logic Class experiment, Micah Harding, Christian Stone, Cedric Cutright and Logan Beltran first estimated how many rubber bands it took to pinch a pumpkin's edge into opening and then experimented to see how close they came.

**Classifieds from page 14**

**SPECIAL NOTICES**

**DEPENDENTS:** Do you know your Veterans Benefits? We do! Virginia Department of Veterans Services, <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov> or, <https://www.virginiaforveterans.com>. Need Help? Call 1(800) 827-1000, M-F, from 8 a.m to 9 p.m., Veterans Affairs Benefits and Services. Or phone: (434) 529-6431.

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Answers to the Crossword Puzzle from page 11

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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
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L	A	C	E	S	T	O	R	E	T	E	A	R	
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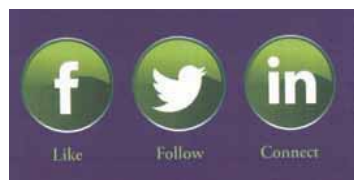
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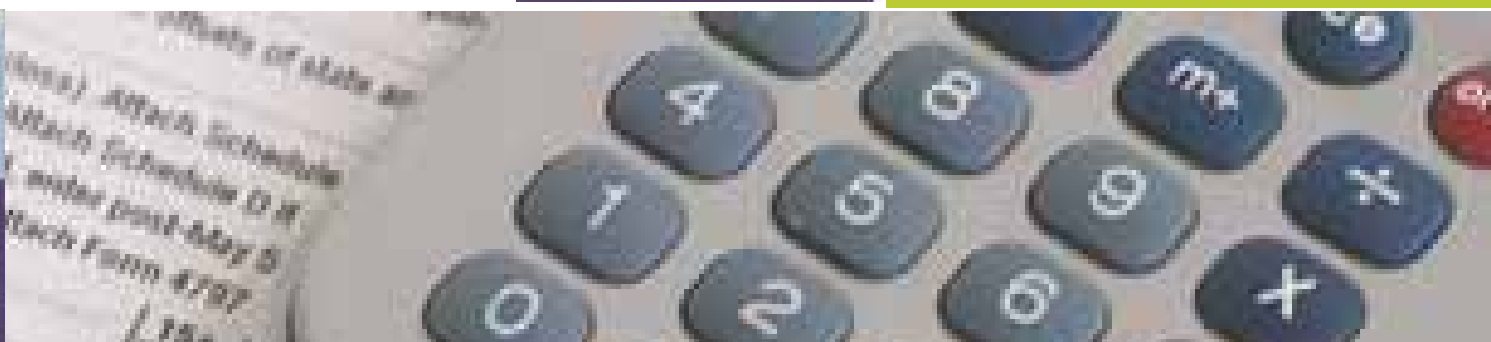
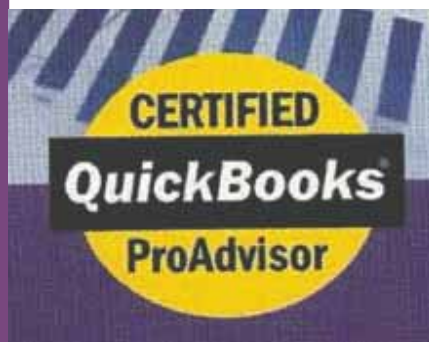
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