

Goodbye 2020, Hello New Year!

by Kellean Gale

Floyd County has seen remarkable growth despite the ongoing hardships of 2020. It was a year full of challenges in many ways. Like others, our community required a “think out of the box” approach to developing new ways of maintaining businesses, our school system, and life at home.

Iconic businesses in downtown Floyd closed shop this year, including Farmers Supply, Blue Ridge Restaurant, and Little Dress Shop. This loss is unfortunate for our community. But among these trials 2020 brought to our county, over ten new businesses began leaping forward to start something new.

Chell’s Chop Shop, Buffalo Christian Academy, Jonesburg Pepper Company, Star and Stone, Buffalo Mountain Bakery, Blue Ridge Diner, and others found their niche during a complicated time. Some of us even started a locally written and published community newspaper. One thing is for sure, the citizens in Floyd County have proven to be resourceful, brave, and resilient. Change can be difficult for many. New regulations on businesses were among these difficulties. Many companies implemented changes in how they did business. Curbside pick-up and outdoor dining



became the new normal. Many companies struggled but adjusted and were creative with their new ideas. Efforts to support the tourist and small business owners in Floyd provided support and financial help during a challenging and unusual economic and social environment.

The end of 2020 is welcomed. Many are setting goals and making resolutions to help meet the new challenges of 2021. One thing is almost inevitable, the coming year will bring new ways to accomplish goals because Floyd County citizens possess the ambition to thrive and create innovative solutions to problems. Time and time again, our county has proven to be there for one another and support each other when times are hard. 2021 will be no exception. We are unique and resourceful.

Little Dress Shop

by Staff Reporter

Few places in Floyd offer women’s clothing choices that do not brandish logos and slogans of the towns’ tourist establishments and renown for music or do not require jogging shoes and a sweatband to accessorize. Something special has left our community and moved on to retirement and the age of online shopping. An eventuality many establishments may find themselves facing. That is another story.

Mary Gardner, owner of Little Dress Shop, grew up helping her parents, Douglas and Ruby Gray, in their general store in the 1940s. She later owned and operated a beauty Salon in Floyd. At that time, her mother wanted to sell clothing, and they put a 4-foot clothing rack in the salon, and our iconic Little Dress Shop grew from there. For 45 years, customers from all over the United States have visited and shopped at the



Little Dress Shop.

They closed the shop at 204 Floyd Hwy S. on Dec. 21, 2019, and reopened on Jun. 5, 2021, at 111 West Main St. in Floyd to liquidate the remaining inventory. They closed December 19, 2020, for the third and final time, as an exclusively brick and mortar establishment. Quite possibly, the shop would have closed sooner if it had not been for the help from her daughter, Elizabeth Reynolds. “Elizabeth has been wonderful to help in so many different ways, and she is a wonderful daughter,” Gardner said. She raised her children and grandchildren in this shop and said, “They learned so much from helping out at the store.”

Good news! This closing is not the end of the dress shop. Mary and Elizabeth have decided to establish an online shopping entity. Gardner said they plan to open an online formal dress shop selling formal attire. The new online shopping site, littledressshopfloyd.com, will offer wedding gowns, mother and grandmother of the bride dresses and flower girls’ dresses. Other offerings will be formal separates and jackets tops. Customers can choose their items online or make an appointment for trying on their selections. Misses and Plus sizes will be available and, of course, jewelry to accessorize. Mary and Elizabeth would like to thank all the customers over the years and people who made the Little Dress Shop so memorable, including Esther

Trail, Geneva Thomas, Ogie Rumburg, Shirley Moran, and others. Gardner sincerely stated, “We would like to thank our customers and appreciate the friendships established throughout the years.”

Our community will miss the Little Dress shop but looks forward to their future endeavors.

For more information, or to make an appointment call (540) 239-7038).

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

The Front Porch	1-3
Around the Table	4-10
The Back Porch	10-18
Church Directory	14-15
From the Kitchen	16
Crossword	17
Land Transfers	18
Calendar of Events.....	19
Classifieds	19
Down the Road	19-20

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The Floyd Beacon prides itself on community involvement and therefore welcomes citizens to freely submit writings to be used as-needed in the Back Porch section. Submit articles, essays, recipes or family stories for our fellow citizens to enjoy. All corrections, comments or submissions of 300 words or less can be emailed to Kellean Gale at editor@thefloydbeacon.com. The Floyd Beacon reserves the right to edit submissions or use as-is and is not responsible for content of submission. Submit your church or civic group events to calendar@thefloydbeacon.com for our community calendar. There is no charge for event submissions. **Welcome home Floyd...welcome home.**

Floyd Town Council Meeting, December 3, 2020

by Becky Howell

The Floyd Town Council and Town of Floyd Planning Commission held a joint hearing to consider a conditional use permit application by Threefold Arts. The permit would allow a mural to honor the town of Floyd and include a “Lovework” in accordance with the state’s “Virginia is for Lovers” campaign. Three comments by electronic submission were read, which were in favor of the mural, and there was no comment from the adjoining property owners. Councilman David Whitaker shared thoughts presented to him by two citizens who had questions about the project. Kyra Aulani, the owner of Threefold Arts, stated that the mural would be financed by a State of Virginia grant. She stated that she would be responsible for maintaining the mural and, if she leaves Floyd, arranging for someone else to maintain it or she will paint over it. The mural is a demonstration of art and is not regulated by the town’s sign ordinance. No action was taken on the permit request. The Town Planning Commission will make a decision at the December 16 meeting and present their recommendation to the Town Council for consideration at the December 17 meeting. The joint hearing was concluded, and the meeting turned over to Town Council.

Mayor Will Griffin reminded participants that public comments should be submitted to Kayla Cox, town manager, prior to the meeting, rather than shared with a Council Member to be presented at the hearing.

Ms. Aphi Fancon, New River Valley Regional Commission, presented information about the sign ordinance for the Town of Floyd, which is currently being revised. Mayor Griffin expressed concern about the time that will be required for staff to enforce the ordinance. Councilman Mike Patton stated the town might have to hire an additional person to take on the responsibilities of zoning administration. Councilman Bruce Turner noted that at some point, council would have to consider increasing town staff. Signs in place before the effective date of the new ordinance will be grandfathered in. The ordinance will only apply when there is a new building or a major renovation, or there is a complaint about a sign. The next steps include final revision provided by the Town of Floyd Planning Commission, public outreach in January, and possible adoption in February.

Four board appointments were made. The only letters of interest received were from the individuals currently holding the positions. Trent Cox was reappointed to serve on the Public Service Authority, and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Supervisors to reappoint Rick Parrish to the PSA. Mike Maslany and Chris Bond were reappointed to the Floyd Town Planning Commission.

The Conditional Use Permit requested by Ms. Stephanie Clague has not been acted on. Town Council decided that the permit will be acted on when the survey of the property is completed and directed Cox to communicate a reminder to Clague.

Cox reported on expenditures with CARES funds. The purchase of dumpsters that was approved last month will not be made because they cannot be delivered before the December 30 deadline. Council decided to use the remaining funds for 3 iPad styluses, microphones for virtual meetings, with the balance divided among the five town employees as hazard pay. It was acknowledged that any items found ineligible during the audit would need to be paid back using town funds.

Cox shared information on bringing Town Hall into ADA compliance. She has contacted architects to get a price on plans that can be provided to contractors and expects to put the project out to bid in the spring. Patton requested that information be available for the next meeting so a decision can be made in January.

Town Council decided to allocate \$100 for a gift certificate for County Administrator Terri Morris in recognition of her many years of outstanding service to Floyd County.



Floyd County School Board Meeting, December 14, 2020

by Becky Howell

Jessica Cromer, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Innovation, shared information about Career and Technical Education (CTE) Exploratory Week which consisted of 4 days, 8 experiences, and 10 happy students. A group of students who attend school four days each week were able to learn about Floyd High School’s CTE classes. They rotated tires, worked with computer coding, fed a baby calf, made and decorated (and ate!) sugar cookies, practiced yoga and breathing techniques, and made birdseed ornaments. The presentation included photos with many happy faces.

Dr. Wheeler, Division Superintendent, requested and was granted approval for revised revenue appropriations and expenditures. Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) of \$311,990 were used for an ionization system to remove viruses, dust, and bacteria to lower the risk of contamination in enclosed spaces.

The 2020-2021 calendar was revised to include a midwinter break on February 19 and 22.

Dr. Wheeler stated that the school environment is continually changing. Teachers now have an opportunity to film and transmit live classes that enable students to participate as if they are actually in the classroom. Probably 70% of the teachers are recording some of their classes; most are posted for students to view at their convenience, rather than presented synchronously. Consideration is being given to having students attend school 4 days a week, but the system will follow the guidelines provided by the New River Health District. It was noted that schools are not the driving force in the pandemic, only about 1% of the cases in the NRV involve K-12 students. Students will return to school on January 7. Student membership on November 30 was 1786, up from 1775 on October 31.

Melissa McDaniel, Director of Special Education and Student Services, reported that 304 students, 15% of the enrolled students, receive special education services, an increase of 7.3% over 2007.

Dr. Wheeler reported that construction is proceeding on the Collaboration & Career Development Center renovation and addition. Welding and building trades facilities will be renovated first, with no interruption in classes. Heating systems have been completed in all schools and air conditioning will be complete by the end of February. New water tanks will be hooked up at Willis and Indian Valley over the Christmas break.



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An Executive Order Unmasked

by Michael Gale

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam issued an executive order (EO) on Dec. 10, subtitled Common Sense Surge Restrictions, which he ordered to be effective Dec. 14 until Jan. 31.

When Northam signed the bills into law in October that modified the section of Virginia law titled Powers and Duties of Governor, one of the changes included providing the governor with a choice of making it either a \$500 civil penalty or a Class 1 misdemeanor for violating an EO. For the Dec. 10 EO, Northam chose for all violations to be cited as Class 1 misdemeanors. This means a potential sentence from a judge of up to a \$2,500 fine, up to 12 months in jail, or both or neither. A conviction of a Class 1 misdemeanor results in a criminal record, which can be viewed by employers.

How seriously will this order affect Virginians? For individuals, it consists mostly of exceptions to the directive that they “should remain at their place of residence between 12 and 5 a.m.” and that “all individuals in the Commonwealth aged five and older must cover their mouth and nose with a face covering.” Businesses and their employees have dozens of pages of rules they must follow, and places of worship have a few mandatory rules. The exceptions for individuals are about as numerous as the rules businesses must adhere to.

Examples of the exceptions to the face-covering order include: Face covers do not have to be worn when people are inside their residences, and people may remove them when participating in religious rituals, eating, drinking, exercising, playing a wind instrument, or seeking to communicate with the hearing impaired.

Examples of the exceptions to the stay-at-home order include: obtaining food, beverages, goods or services as permitted in the order; seeking medical attention; taking care of other individuals or animals; engaging in exercise (however, one must comply with social distancing rules); traveling between worship or work and one’s residence; and volunteering with charitable organizations.

However, along with providing all of these exceptions, the governor then provides a list of seven rules that people at a religious service must follow. Then the order proceeds to enumerate more exceptions to the rules, such as: “The presence of more than 10 individuals assembled in an educational instructional setting is not a ‘gathering.’”

If this seems confusing, then consider the people charged with enforcing this edict. In addition to their regular work, the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority are tasked with enforcement of the business restrictions. So are the regulatory authorities—not only the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) but also the Board of



Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam

Accountancy. Yes, the people who license a certified public accountant in Virginia may enforce this order. These are not people who normally have a significant amount of training or practice in writing a criminal citation.

The only section of the EO that says “any law enforcement officer ... may enforce the restrictions in this order” is Section II.B, titled Other Restrictions. This area of the EO focuses on “all public and private in-person gatherings,” with additional rules and exceptions for religious services, education and overnight summer camps. It is curious that an edict set to expire on Jan. 31 addresses overnight summer camps.

If you happen to find yourself before a judge in relation to this EO, remember that you could leave that courtroom with a criminal record. Is there a defense? First, was there an offense? The question of offense must first be presented to the judge. Did the person who wrote the citation or summons investigate to determine if the person charged met any of the exceptions or allowed activities in the EO before doing so? Was the person charged asked if he or she had a medical exception? The order specifies that, “Any person who declines to wear a face covering because of a medical condition shall not be required to produce or carry medical documentation verifying the stated condition nor shall the person be required to identify the precise underlying medical condition.” A goal should be to keep the burden of proof on the accuser. A police officer spends many hours in training and testing to learn how to properly observe, record, charge and testify in court. Someone from DPOR may not be so well prepared for your day in court.

The Supreme Court recognized that “even in a pandemic, the Constitution cannot be put away and forgotten.” It seems that there are people in Richmond who have paid attention to the lawsuits seeking to protect our rights to access the places and things needed to exercise our protected rights. This time the order does not attempt to completely close places of worship, public beaches, or indoor shooting ranges. However, the order does place heavy burdens on restaurants and small businesses. As patrons and supporters of these establishments, it is in Virginians’ best interest to help them stay open—to help them avoid having their operating licenses revoked by government authority zealots. The best way to support them is to remember which people sought and enforced these overreaching exercises of government authority, and when election time rolls around, recall what American columnist and editor John L. O’Sullivan wrote, “The best government is that which governs least.”

VCDL Lobby Day Planning

by Michael Gale

For 18 years, the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL) has held a peaceful Lobby Day and rally in Richmond. This annual event, held each year on MLK Day, is a modern exercise of the protected rights to peacefully assemble and to petition the government. Last year, on Jan. 20, tens of thousands of people assembled in Richmond to ask the Virginia legislature to respect their rights. Not only was there no violence, it was reported that some attendees were seen picking up litter that was not even theirs, and that the Virginia State Capitol area was actually left cleaner than before the start of Lobby Day.

While this event was taking place, there were people working to undermine this long-held Virginia tradition for 2021. When VCDL president Philip Van Cleave went to reserve the space at the Bell Tower, as in years past, he was informed it had already been booked. According to Van Cleave, it was his understanding, based on conversations over the years with the Virginia Department of General Services (VDGS) that this space could not be reserved by groups until six months prior to the event day. Van Cleave was therefore surprised when told that all the time slots for Jan. 18, 2021, had been reserved. According to Van Cleave, the results of a Freedom of Information Act request showed that the 11 a.m. time at the Bell Tower had been requested on Jan. 18—a full year in advance.

When asked whether Van Cleave had any written material concerning VDGS rules for booking events, he responded that the league never asked for written rules in reference to when the Bell Tower could be booked, as it had been a cordial relationship until this last year.

The next Lobby Day will be held Monday, Jan. 18. Adapting to the many changes that ensued last year—including often-changing responses and barriers created by those hostile to the civil right of armed self-defense—VCDL is not planning a single large gathering on the Capitol Square area. At this time, the VCDL plan is to have vehicle caravans coming from the corners of the state and converging on Richmond.

An example of needing to be flexible and adaptive to the opponents of Lobby Day comes from the 2020 Lobby Day when Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam imagined threats of violence and issued Executive Order 49, which declared a state of emergency. According to this executive order (EO), it was “due to potential civil unrest” from the “tens of thousands of advocates” and “that a substantial number of these demonstrators are expected to ... have as their purpose not peaceful assembly but violence, rioting and insurrection.” What future manner of executive orders or other attempts to derail Lobby Day 2021 is unknown. As an interesting point of reference, the governor did not issue any



EOs during the weeks of 2020 when there were actual riots in Richmond that resulted in violence, damage to buildings and cars, and looting.

VCDL issues up-to-date information about plans and responses to problems via its social media outlets. If a person signs up at VCDL.org, the league will send out emails and text messages of alerts and information. Anyone interested in attending the next Lobby Day should plan to track changes.

Our Patriotic Roots and Branches WWI

by Cindy Akers

Floyd County has supplied her share of brave and patriotic citizens to protect the rights and freedoms of people worldwide in many wars and conflicts. There were many citizens and descendants of Floyd County citizens who went to war. Here are just a few of our Floyd County men who went to World War I, also known as The Great War.



On July 31, 1918, at 00:00 Hours (midnight), the military transport ship Re D'Italia shipped out of Newport News VA for deployment to France, with 1641 US Army Troops aboard. On this ship were some of our Floyd County Soldiers.

- Pvt Amos Samuel Clemons (1892-1961 Sowers Cemetery)
- Pvt. Zachary Taylor Lester (1893-1969 Lester Family Cemetery)
- Pvt. Ollie Brown Dickerson, (1889-1966 Reed Cemetery)
- Pvt. Ray Elmer Criner, (1895-1972 Showalter Cemetery)
- Pvt. Oliver Clayton Dickerson, (1893-1973 Big Sand Cemetery) (Brother of George W.T. Dickerson, KIA)
- Pvt Joshua Claude Kenley, (1895-1978 Captain George Quesenberry Cemetery) (Brother of Pvt. Grover Kenley, KIA)
- Pvt. Eli Hezekiah Phillips (1894-1968 Turpin-Simpkins-Phillips Cemetery)
- Pvt. Oscar Woodson Phillips (1891-1967 Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery)

- Pvt. Bernard Alva Sumpter (1894-1955 Sherwood Burial Park, Salem VA)
- Pvt. Frederick Lee Alderman was first reported Missing in Action, and the report later updated to Killed in Action, October 12, 1918, less than ten weeks after shipping overseas. His body was returned home to his family, and he was laid to rest in the Barringer-Maberry Cemetery in Willis. Fred wasn't married and had no children, but he left behind a grieving family including his parents, Homer Atkins Alderman and Talitha Ellen Slusher Alderman, and his eight younger siblings; the last three were under five years old when he left and probably never really knew or could remember him. He was 24 years old.
- Pvt. Everette Randall Pugh was killed in action on September 8, 1918, in France, barely a month after arriving in France. He was the son of William Riley Pugh and Eleanor Moore Pugh and left behind eight siblings, the youngest of whom would not know or remember him. He never married or had children. He is buried in the Moore-Pugh Cemetery. He was 23 years old.
- Pvt. Grover Cleveland Kenley was killed in action on September 2, 1918, one month after arriving in France. He was buried there in Thiaucourt-Regniev-ille, Department de Meurthe-et-Moselle, Lorraine, France. He was the son of John Jackson Kenley and Cora Belle Young Kenley. Never married and with no children, he left behind six siblings, including Pvt. Joshua Claude Kenley, listed above. He was 28 years old.
- Pvt. George W.T. Dickerson was killed in action on October 5, 1918, in France, two months after his arrival. He was the son of Powhatan Thomas Dickerson and Mary Frances Duncan, never married and no children left behind nine siblings, one of which was Pvt. Oliver Clayton Dickerson, listed above. His burial site is uncertain, but he may be buried in Big Sand Cemetery with his parents. He was 29 years old.
- Pvt. Luther Eldridge Harter died of wounds received in battle on September 6, 1918, just about a month after arriving in France. He was the son of Simon T. Harter and Virginia Evelyn Dillon Harter. Luther left his mother and three siblings behind; his father having died when Luther was a baby. He never married or had children. He is buried in the Hancock Cemetery. He was 36 years old.

This was a trying time for our citizens. Communications and information were slow and sporadic, and when bad news came, it usually came in the form of a telegram. Citizens were terrified to see the telegraph messenger coming up their walkway. While the boys were fighting the battles overseas, our citizens were fighting the Spanish Flu at home. Casualties from both were catastrophic.

The U.S. officially entered the conflict on April 6, 1917, and it ended on November 11, 1918. In World War I, American losses were modest compared to those of other belligerents, with 116,516 deaths and approximately 320,000 sick and wounded of the 4.7 million men who served. The USA lost more personnel to disease (63,114) than to combat (53,402), largely due to the influenza epidemic of 1918.

The Spanish Flu, also known as the 1918 flu pandemic, was an unusually deadly influenza pandemic caused by the H1N1 influenza A virus. Lasting from February 1918 to April 1920, it infected 500 million people – about a third of the world's population at the time – in four successive waves.



We should pray for our men and women who continue to fight the battles overseas and for those of us fighting a new Flu at home.



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High Country Lights

by Elaine Williams

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For more information on the times and changes for inclement weather, please visit highcountrylights.com

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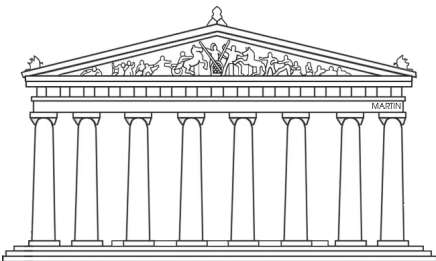
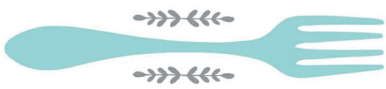
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Around the Table



Dino's Restaraunt

I'd like you to meet Achillaeas Sopikiotis, owner and chef at Dino's restaurant in Willis, VA. He was born in Preveza, Greece, and is now a long time resident and business owner in Floyd County, VA. After a 30 year career as a chef in Chicago, he brought his cooking talents to Floyd County to spend time in the mountain area he enjoys. Many local people stop several times a week for a hearty breakfast, lunch, or dinner, and they are happy he likes his Virginia home because they appreciate his cooking.

"Dino," as his customers like to call him, spent many years vacationing around Buffalo Mountain. While visiting, he made good friends here and decided to move to the area in 2005. When he opened the restaurant, his first customer was Gary Harris, who is still a regular customer. That kind of loyalty says some good homemade food comes from Dino's kitchen. He prepares fresh soups, American favorites, and Greek dishes like moussaka, spanakopita, and gyros. His soups are excellent and made fresh daily, as are many of his menu items.

The restaurant is open seven days a week and even on holidays. Dino's big heart and concern for people shines, especially during the holiday season. He cooks Turkey and trimmings on Thanksgiving and dinner on Christmas so that people who would otherwise not have a family to spend the holidays with can have a nice dinner or people without room to accommodate a large family can enjoy eating a meal together. This generous gift of his time on holidays is just the sort of man he is. Always ready with a smile and a wave from the kitchen while he is cooking up something special. Did I mention he serves terrific desserts?

His nephew Alex also works at the restaurant preparing delicious meals and helping Jennifer with good customer service and friendly, good-natured conversation.



Achillaeas Sopikiotis

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The Raft

by April Gallimore

The raft of life takes me down the river
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He gives my soul rest within
My faith gets tested
I feel battered inside
But the raft keeps floating on further down
The river is calming
The river is taming the inside of my heart
It wakes up my spirit inside
Takes me to a better state of mind
It empties me of despair
His holy presence brings in the bright light
I've never felt freer in my life
Than when I'm pouring out everything before Him
He gives me courage to face another day
He gives me rest when my body is tired
He heals me when I am in pain
He lifts me up when my spirits are down
His raft keeps me floating on down the tame river
The heavenly music of the harps fill my ears
My faith gets tested among the world
But I know my Savior is with me no matter what
The river flows peacefully
The raft continues on following the calm water
On down toward the abundance of everlasting peace
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Through this painful journey of life



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Around the Table

A Message from Paula and the Eternal Sunshine Mule Sanctuary

Eternal Sunshine Mule Sanctuary was “officially” formed as a non-profit organization on February 5, 2019 and received our 501 c3 nonprofit status which means that all donations to our Sanctuary are tax-deductible. The Sanctuary was founded to honor the life and memory of my first mule, named Sunshine who, after a lifetime of service to man, was discarded like trash at an auction after she was no longer physically able to handle the workload her owner needed her to do.

Our Sanctuary was created to save other slaughter bound mules, like Sunshine. We currently have 7 mules and 4 horses that we care for at the Sanctuary. All were slaughter bound. The mules at our Sanctuary range from young to seniors. Our youngest resident mule is 2 years old and our oldest mules are almost 30 years old. We do not adopt out the mules that we save. When we take a mule into our program, we provide them with a loving, caring home for the rest of their lives. We make a lifelong commitment to each and every mule that we take into the Sanctuary.

The pandemic has impacted our donations, as donations have been few and far between this past year.

It has been our goal to have monthly sponsors for each of our resident mules so that the cost of their hay, grain, farrier, deworming medication, etc. would be covered. Currently we only have 1 co-sponsor for one of our mules. We are also hoping to have more fencing put up on the property in the near future to be able to accommodate more mules, but this of course, takes money. We are currently working on some fundraising ideas.

Donations of bags of grain/sweet feed, round bales of hay, waterproof winter turnout blankets, waterproof turnout sheets are always greatly appreciated.

Monetary donations can be made via PayPal to eternalsunshinemulesanctuary@gmail.com or checks made payable to Eternal Sunshine Mule Sanctuary can be mailed to 1614 Childress Road, Willis, VA 24380. Every dollar makes a difference in the lives of these once slaughter bound mules.

Many Thanks,

Paula Althouse

For more information please visit eternalsunshinemulesanctuary.com or email Paula at eternalsunshinemulesanctuary@gmail.com



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Rutter's Wins!

Grandmaster Scott Rutter, 7th Dan black belt instructor and owner of Rutter's Martial Arts located in Bassett, Floyd, and Stuart, Virginia, was recently inducted into the American Freestyle Karate Association Hall of Fame. Rutter was honored with the Silver Lifetime Achievement award for his thirty years of dedication to training



Scott Rutter

in the martial arts and teaching martial arts for over twenty years.

He began training in the martial arts at three years old with his father, the late Grandmaster H. J. Rutter. Although he holds black belt status in seven different styles of martial arts, he specializes in International Taekwondo and Japanese Shotokan Karate. Rutter has accomplished many of his goals, including winning state, national, and world titles, as well as accepted many honors. He has been inducted into the USMA and AMAA Martial Arts Halls of Fame, both as a competitor and an instructor, and has been included in several publications honoring his achievements, including the Who's Who Legends in the Martial Arts

Classes at Rutter's Martial Arts are currently ongoing with some restrictions due to COVID-19 and are always accepting new students ages 3 to adult. Lil Dragons is a program specifically designed for preschool students, ages 3-5 years old in which they learn martial arts skills, and also life skills including manners and respect, stranger danger, and bully prevention skills, among others. Students from 6 year old to adult may choose to join the Taekwondo or Shotokan class. Competition training, women's self-defense, and private lessons are also available.



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Baldwin, Miles Lee
Ballinger, Emma Nicole
Banks, Josiah Eamon
Beegle, Forest Monroe
Belcher, McKinsey Grace
Bennington, Tanner David
Bergstrom, Brianna Marie
Bergstrom, Kerrie Anne
Berry, Camryn Diane
Bishop, Charity Christene
Bishop, Isaac Cole
Blackwell, MacKenzie Sherman
Blevins, Adriana Deziree
Bond, Ryne Matthew
Bower, Maggie Lynn
Brennan, Courtney Victoria
Britton, Annelise Michelle
Chaffin, Emery Augustus
Chaffin, Marlee Tyme
Clinger, Gracenne Louise
Coble, Tiffany Jaden
Conner, Graham Isaac
Cox, Aiden William
Cox, Chelsea Ann
Cox, Elizabeth Marie
Cox, Mitchell Gregory
Crabtree, Liam Ayan Johnston
Craighead, Anna Lynn
Currie, Emma Grey
Dejesus, Brent Andrew
Deremer, Danielle Elizabeth
Dickerson, William Quinn

Dowd, Lily Ana
Dulaney, Jesse William
Dulaney, Landen Allen
Dulaney, Marshall Arrington
Dulaney, Zora Elizabeth
Dunford, Kallie Marie
Ellis, Clare Elizabeth
Faulkner, Peyton Danielle
Fleeman, Ciarra Rose
Flinchum, Logann Brooke
Floyd, Melony Diane
Gardner, Caleb Dylan
Gearhart, Colby Lewis
Gerald, MacKenzie Kathryn
Gillespie, Ernest Bradley
Gladding, Gina Sophia
Graham, Brianna Leigh
Graham, John-Michael Clay
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Grubb, Collin Spencer
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Hubbard, Kyle Jacob
Huff, Afton Danielle
Janney, Ava Brooke
Johnston, Harley Madison
Jones, Emmaleigh Madison
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Katerba, Emery Christine
Keith, Chase Brandon
Kelleher, Kaia Marie

King, James David
Kiser, Benjamin Levi
Light, Heidi Lea
Little, Taziana Latesa Arnea
Locke, Jasmine Isabelle
Lowry, Caleb Keith
Manning, Sable Attache'
March, Joseph David
Martin, Kazey Lee
Martin, Layla Rose
Martinez Meyer, Maria Clara
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McGuire, Evan Lindburg
Mchugh, Lauren
Miller, Ethan Carl Duncan
Mills, Bailey Necole
Monk, Shane William
Morrison, Brianna Joan
Mullins, Justin Dean
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Nichols, Olivia Grace
Nichols, Paige Myranda
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Nunez, Enzo Luz
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Ocampo, Silas James
Ortiz, Jarrett Bautista
Pastrana, Isaac
Poff, Isaac Thomas
Poff, Mason William
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Rudd, Garreth Grayson
Rupe, Amber Dawn
Salyer, Sharla Grace
Saunders, Romaleta Elianna Marie
Schroeder, Emma Randolph
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Sessions, Stella Rose
Shanta, Nathaniel Jacob
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Turman, Briana Paige
Turman, Grace Marie
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Vest, Nicholas Carl
Vest, Zachary Lee Warren
Vickers, Sean Carter
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Wall, Madeline Elizabeth
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Don't make plans ... make options. - Jennifer Aniston



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Jake vs. the TSA

Zachary Heekin

18 U.S. Code § 2381.Treason: *Whoever, owing allegiance to the United States, levies war against them or adheres to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort within the United States or elsewhere, is guilty of treason and shall suffer death, or shall be imprisoned not less than five years and fined under this title but not less than \$10,000; and shall be incapable of holding any office under the United States.*

I have a wingman, Jake, who goes with me on every trip. We have been traveling together for over 20 years. He is a staunch supporter of the Constitution and a fierce defender of the First Amendment. When he speaks, he speaks loud and clear. Sometimes he makes people angry. That’s OK.

First, some background:

Air travel is a vital part of our economy. I will be the first to say that effective aviation security is absolutely necessary, but the keyword is “effective.” The 9/11 attacks could have been stopped prior to the airport security checkpoints. The clues were there and were known. Some of the culprits were under FBI surveillance. The failure was not with the private contractors that were then running the checkpoints, the failure was with intelligence agencies not acting on information they had.

Tactics are specific actions. Strategy is the goal the tactics achieve. The tactic on that September day was a conspicuous act of violence. You can’t question how well that went. The strategy they achieved exceeded bin Laden’s wildest expectations.

Out of the ashes in New York, Washington DC, and Shanksville rose a monster known as the Transportation Security Act. It’s hard to argue with a name like that, but along with the Homeland Security Act, its effect was to sacrifice, on the altar of “National Security,” precious, priceless freedoms that so many true patriots bled and died for. The cost of our liberty has been deep and wide.

There have been many successful Fourth Amendment challenges, both legal and legislative, to this vast overreach and attempted subjugation of the masses. However, Federal Courts have given the Transportation Security Administration, the TSA (spawned by the Transportation Security Act), a blank check. The Fourth Amendment does not apply to airport screening because, according to the Federal Courts, flying is a choice, not a right. Submit or drive.

At the regulatory level, the TSA has given us backscatter imagers that look beneath our clothes and “enhanced patdowns” that in any other setting would be sexual battery. Flight crews are subject to the same security screening as passengers. (Heaven forbid a pilot should bring something aboard an airplane that would allow him to, like, take control of it or something.) Meanwhile, the ramp agents, who have access to every part of the airplane, swipe a card and walk through a door carrying backpacks- contents unknown.

At the practical level, we have the Blue Shirts at the checkpoint. They have free reign with the weight of the Federal government backing them up. Give a little person a little power and watch what happens. It would take way too long to list the dozens of examples of arrogant abuses of power, which I either witnessed or was subjected to at checkpoints all over the country. Truly, you have no idea. If a person dares to object, they will be labelled “uncooperative” and their day gets really bad. The Blue Shirts have the power, per the Department of Homeland Security, to make your day really bad.

In other words: OBEY.

The final straw was the guy in Roanoke who inspected my Pop Tarts. It was then I decided I needed a wingman. That was when Jake entered the picture.

Jake was in the toy aisle at Walmart when I found him. He cost \$0.88. His full name is Jake the Fake Snake. He does not like the TSA. He rides in my carry-on bag, hiding, lurking, lying in wait to hear the magic words: “Secondary search!” Then he speaks.

If a human dares to speak, they will regret it. Jake speaks silently but loudly. Generally, the reaction is a flinch, followed by anger that anyone would dare to mock. But when politely reminded that fake snakes are not on the “prohibited items” list, the anger turns to frustration.

“I suppose you think this is funny?”

“No, I think it’s tragic. It’s also protected free speech, or are you going to go after the First Amendment now, too?”

They really don’t like that.

So here is where the citation of the U.S. Code comes into play. The strategy was to disrupt our way of life. Nowhere is it so apparent they succeeded than aviation security. From the hallowed halls of DHS headquarters in Washington to the airport checkpoint, the TSA willingly, if not eagerly, tramples our freedom. Aid is being given to our enemies in the name of National Security, but also in the name of indoctrination. It was the camel’s nose. It was the foundation.

Now the same principle is being applied. Terrorists are so 2001, but they did serve their purpose in testing the limits of what We the People are willing to give up so that our benevolent leaders can keep us safe from all harm.

The enemy du jour is a virus. What will be the next limit? We will find out soon.

Then what?

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‘For What It’s Worth’ – Buffalo Springfield

by Kelleen Gale, Editor

As I write this, we, as a nation, are coming to the end of a most unsettling year. We have seen our economy rise to levels of extraordinary heights to then fall to disparaging lows. With a President engaging in economic recovery, the nation has rebounded again to lofty financial heights. Healthcare pundits participate in politicizing a pandemic, aiding efforts employed by our country’s governors and congressional leaders to curtail and shut down the greatest nation on Earth. As riots spirited by the tragic death of George Floyd, issues of police brutality, racial inequality and the defund the police movement, led by Black Lives Matter, overran the streets of our cities, our civil rights and constitutional protections were ignored and trampled upon. Our leaders showed reluctance, at every government level, to support and defend the constitutional rights that secure life, property and freedom of movement for law-abiding citizens while justifying, supporting and defending the actions of anarchists, rioters and protesters raging violence in the streets.

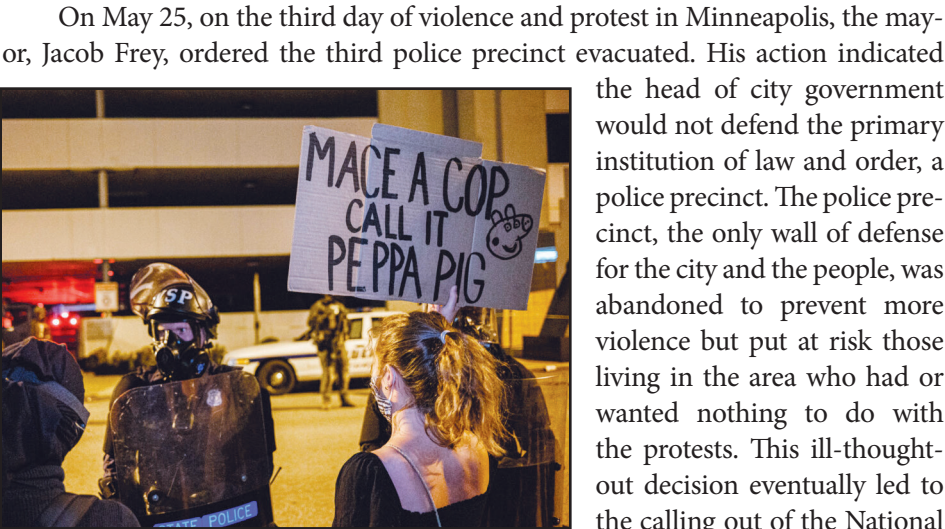
Throughout the year, we witnessed governors, mayors and even some members of the U.S. Congress support criminal action at every opportunity. They verbalized sanctimonious statements of the rationale for making choices that blatantly run cross-purpose to the Constitution they swore an oath to uphold and defend. Some state and national lawmakers and civic leaders defended angry mobs’ rights over those of law-abiding, innocent citizens. They watched businesses and entire sections of cities destroyed, looted and burned, and then joined in the call to defund the police. Working Americans watched as opportunities for economic livelihoods in almost every sector of the economy evaporated with every act of violence and every malfeasant decision civic leaders made. They chose to take unprecedented power into their own hands to confine citizens to their homes; enforce masking; and close businesses, resulting in massive government assistance to the very establishments they closed and the people their decisions forced out of work. The resulting increase in the national debt is \$8 trillion. The convenient tools of choice for justification of constitutional overreach are the COVID-19 pandemic and the good of the people.

Citizens cashed their government checks as the nation watched and listened to televised images and press conference statements that clarified to those willing to see and hear that some mayors, governors and national leaders were not going to defend our persons or our properties. The people we elected, and in whom we place our trust, spoke out in defense and justification of the violence and anarchy, and refused to allow law enforcement to arrest and prosecute the offenders. Effectively, lawlessness was chosen over the rights and liberties of every citizen who respects law and order. We are guaranteed the right to defend our life, our property and our liberty. These principles are the basis of life and individual freedom—and by



1960s Protest

extension, group rights and freedoms—and the very reason laws are established by society. The idea of this happening is almost rationally incomprehensible to most Americans. Yet, it did happen, and we all watched and waited for government to act on our behalf to put a stop to the terrifying nightly behavior in cities all across the nation.



2020 Protest

effectively told the rioters and anarchists in his city and across the country that government will not defend our foundational law-and-order institutions. The protestors quickly overran the building, eventually setting it on fire. Within a few days, cities across the country become victims of riots, looting, burning and personal violence.

The “Imprimis” article by Heather Mac Donald, published in the May/June issue, offers some examples of these facts, including mayor of New York City Bill de Blasio explaining that “400 years of American racism” is not the same as a “store owner or the devout religious person who wants to go back to services.” While the store owner or worshipper may be “understandably aggrieved,” the mayor continued to say that law-abiding citizens’ grievances must still be suppressed by the government in the name of coronavirus safety. At the same time, he allowed the grievances of protestors and rioters to be exempt from suppression. Mac Donald also cites the example of New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy who congratulated Black Lives Matter activists, but did not support nail salon owners who were protesting the closure of their businesses. Murphy was putting the two in “different orbits.”

The thrust of this article is not what happened, but what did not happen. Government leaders did not choose to defend and protect the people, property and freedoms they were elected and sworn to serve. Instead, they gave support and encouragement to people destroying our cities, attacking our citizens, murdering police, holding people and cities hostage, declaring autonomy from our nation, and desiring the downfall of our American way of life. Many of these government officials are the same people who want to remove guns from the American people’s hands.

The conclusion of my thinking is a question: Why should American citizens trust a government to defend and protect our lives, property and liberty when we are led by those who openly support anarchy and do not heed or respect the oath they swore upon taking public office and service to our country? These leaders look for every opportunity to infringe upon our right to bear arms—the only guarantee that a free people will not suffer the tyranny of government. How can we, the people, willingly give up our natural right to self-defense, liberty and independence to such misguided malfeasance, broken trust, and misuse of authority? In moral and good conscious, and in duty to our nation, we cannot and must not, now or ever, stop defending our right to bear arms.

Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable. - Mary Oliver, Poet

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Open by Appointment

My Old Sled

by Clonnie Yearout

It's just an old sled. Just my sixty-year-old snow sled... with lots of memories attached – memories of people and places, friends and faces. I don't remember the exact Christmas that I got the sled, but I know it came from Farmers Supply in Floyd, probably sometime around 1960. Every time I look at that sled, my mind travels



back to an earlier and less hectic era of my life, a time when my vision for the future was measured in minutes and hours rather than months and years.

When you're an adolescent boy with a new sled, there's only one pertinent question: is there snow in the forecast? With respect to snow, I remember Floyd County winters

as being rather unpredictable. It was either feast or famine: snow flurries and light dustings... or monster deluges and drifting. There were some winters when my sled runners rested and rusted. And then there were other winters when the ground was covered for weeks, so deeply that we'd have to shovel paths for sledding.

There were lots of hills off of Laurel Branch Rd., where I grew up, and I sled-ded most of them with neighborhood friends. Every sled ride was different. There were perfectly executed and exhilarating downhill flights that went smoothly and seemed to last forever... and then there were the badly miscalculated routes that bounced off of rocks and passed too close to thorn bushes. Protective helmets were unheard of in those days and had it not been for our multiple layers of clothing, we probably would have suffered several serious injuries.

But like me, my sled is retired now. It spends eleven months of the year in dark storage, waiting for December when Mrs. Yearout has me drag it out so that she can use it for a festive front porch decoration. I used to worry that the sled would be stolen, so now I chain it to the porch column. Any thief who attempts to run off with my sled may bring the porch roof down on his head.

It's hard not to be struck by the irony of it all. My old sled and me... retired and rusting away together, both of us now useful only as semi-interesting antique decorations, reminders of an earlier time, a simpler time, a time when kids played outside in the fresh air, even in the dead of winter.

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and happiness.



Floyd County Church Directory

To have your church added to this list please email: editor@thefloydbeacon.com



Beaver Creek Baptist Church

1657 Beaver Creek Rd Floyd
Sunday School 9:55am
Sunday Worship 11am
Sunday Evening Service 5:30pm
Wednesday Service 7pm

Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren

409 Ridgeview Rd NW Floyd,

Blue Ridge Chapel Assemblies of God

335 East Oxford St, Floyd
(Farm Bureau Building)

Buffalo Mountain Presbyterian Church

2102 Buffalo Rd, Willis
Sunday School 10am
Sunday Worship 11am

Burks Fork Church of the Brethren

2530 Union School Rd, Willis
Sunday Worship 11am

Calvary Baptist Church

1400 Floyd Hwy N Floyd
Sunday School 9:45am
Sunday Worship 11am
Wednesday Service 7pm

Camp Bethel United Methodist Church

4090 Bethlehem Church Rd NE, Floyd

Catholic Church of All Saints

598 Needmore Lane NE, Floyd
Saturday Mass 5pm

Church of the Redeemer

274 Floyd Hwy S Cross Creek Complex, Suite 100, Floyd

Copper Hill Church of the Brethren

8838 Floyd Highway North, Copper Hill
Sunday School 9:30am
Sunday Worship 10:30am

Copper Hill United Methodist Church

128 Hummingbird Lane, Copper Hill

Covenant Church of Willis

621 Alum Ridge Rd NW, Willis

Crossroads Interdenominational Pentacostal Holiness Church

1141 Hummingbird Ln
Copper Hill, VA 24079

Duncan Chapel Church of the Brethren

2176 Duncans Chapel Rd NW, Willis

Faith Baptist Church

5956 Floyd Hwy N, Check
Sunday School 10am
Sunday Worship 11am
Sunday Evening Service 6pm
Wednesday Service 7pm

Falling Branch United Methodist Church

1260 Floyd Highway S, Willis

Floyd Baptist Church

510 E Main St, Floyd
Sunday School 9:45am
Sunday Worship 11am
Wednesday Service 7pm

Floyd Church of God

122 Floyd Hwy S, Floyd
Sunday School 9am
Sunday Worship 10am
Sunday Evening Service 6pm

Floyd Friends Meeting

1199 Christiansburg Pike NE Floyd
Sunday Worship 10am

Floyd Nazarene Church

104 Penn Ave NW Floyd, VA 24091

Floyd United Methodist Church

417 East Main Street, Floyd
Outdoor Sunday Worship 11am

Grace Baptist Church

241 Gallimore Ln NE, Floyd
Sunday School 10am
Sunday Worship 11am
Sunday Evening Service 6pm
Wednesday Meal & Service 5:30pm

Harvestwood Covenant Presbyterian Church

2391 Franklin Pike SE Floyd
Sunday Worship 11am
Wednesday Service 7pm

Head of the River Church

7311 Floyd Hwy N, Copper, Hill

Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church

4621 Indian Valley Rd NW, Willis
Sunday Service 2nd & 4th Sundays 10:30am

Indian Valley Church

942 Macks Mountain Rd NW,
Indian Valley

Indian Valley Church of God

2297 Macks Mountain Rd NW,
Indian Valley
Sunday School 10am
Sunday Worship 11am
Sunday Evening Service 6pm
Thursday Prayer Meeting 7pm

Lighthouse Baptist Church

494 Hall's Store Rd SW, Willis

Little Flock Fellowship Church

1883 Buffalo Mountain Rd SW Willis,
VA 24380

Little River Baptist Church

2449 Floyd Hwy N, Floyd
Wednesday 7 pm Bible Study & Childrens Church
Sunday and Wednesday services can also be viewed online.

Little River Missionary Baptist Church

1148 Poor Farm Rd, Floyd

The Little White Church

3123 Daniels Run Rd, Check
Sunday School 10am
Sunday Worship 11am

Mira Fork Baptist Church

836 Reece Rd SW, Willis

Mount Olivet Baptist Church

9918 Floyd Hwy N, Copper Hill

Mountain View Seventh Day Adventist Church

328 Storkers Knob Rd SE, Floyd
Sunday School 9:30am
Sunday Worship 11am

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

9918 Floyd Hwy N, Copper Hill

Mt. Sinai International Pentecostal Holiness Church

674 Halls Store Rd SW, Willis

Mt. Zion Christian Church

115 Scales Rd NE, Floyd

New Beginnings Christian Church

948 Franklin Pike, Floyd

New Beginnings House of God

110 Burks Fork Rd, Willis

New Harvest Ministries

6236 Floyd Hwy S, Willis

New Haven Baptist Church

1277 New Haven Road SE Floyd
Sunday School 10am
Sunday Worship 11pm & 6pm
Wednesday Service 7pm

Old Union Primitive Baptist Church

1227 Macks Mountain Rd NW,
Indian Valley

Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren

3863 Alum Ridge Rd NW, Floyd

Presbyterian Church of Floyd

169 Newtown Rd NE, Floyd
Sunday Worship 11am

Red Oak Grove Church of the Brethren

775 Red Oak Grove Rd NE, Floyd
Sunday School 10am
Sunday Worship 11am
Wednesday Service 7pm

Reaching Out with Jesus Ministries

800 East Main St, Floyd
Sunday Worship 11am
Sunday Evening Service 6pm
Wednesday Service 7pm
RU Recovery Program Friday 7pm

Shady Grove Church

810 Shady Grove Rd NW,
Indian Valley

Slate Mountain Presbyterian Church

239 Rock Church Rd,
Meadows of Dan
Sunday School 9am
Sunday Worship 10am



Smith's Chapel

322 Meadow Run Rd SE,
Copper Hill

Sojourn Church

188 Eco Village Trail, Floyd
Sunday Worship 10am

St. Mark Lutheran Church

5655 Floyd Hwy South, Willis
Online Sunday Worship 10:30am
Online Wednesday Service 6:30pm

Stonewall Church United Methodist Brethren

4085 Floyd Hwy N, Floyd

Stonewall House of Prayer

134 Stonewall Rd, Floyd
Sunday School 10am
Sunday Worship 11am

Topeco Church of the Brethren

3460 Floyd Hwy S, Floyd
Sunday School 10am
Sunday Worship 11am
Wednesday Service 6:30pm

Tuggle's Gap Baptist Church

16215 Woolwine Hwy, Floyd

White Rock Church of the Brethren

1863 White Rock Rd NW, Floyd

Wild Goose Christian Community

942 Macks Mountain Rd NW,
Indian Valley

Willis Presbyterian Rock Church

110 Burks Fork Rd SW,
Willis, VA 24380

Willis Ridge Mennonite Church

152 Wills Ridge Rd, Floyd
Sunday worship 9:30 am
With Sunday school following

Willis United Methodist Church

5669 Floyd Hwy S, Willis
Sunday School 10am
Sunday Worship 11am

Word of Truth Baptist Church

1040 Fairview Church Rd SW, Floyd
Sunday Worship 11am
Sunday Evening Service 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30pm

Zion Lutheran Church

635 Needmore Lane NE, Floyd
Online Sunday Worship 10:30am
Online Wednesday Evening Service
6:30pm

Pastor's Corner I Make All Things New

by Pastor Vernon Dalton on behalf of the
Floyd Ministerial Association



Time is precious, so I never like to "wish" time away, but like many of you 2020 has been a tough year to say the least and we will be glad to see it in the rear view mirror. God only knows what 2021 holds! Though January 1st is just really another day, in our minds it is a start to something new. The start of the new year brings about many New Year's resolutions. "I'm going to quit smoking", "I'm going to lose weight", "I'm going to eat healthier", and the list goes on and on with the resolutions fading away after only a few months.

The Bible tells us in Revelation 21:5, "Behold, I make all things new..." I want to encourage you to let the New Year bring about a new you! When we accept the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ and repent of our sins something amazing happens. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." Jesus calls it being "born again."

Christmas has just passed, and we celebrated the birth of the greatest gift ever given, a Savior who took our sins and gave us His righteousness. That is how He makes us a new creation. As we submit unto God, the Holy Spirit begins to work in us as a potter does the clay. He works all those imperfections out from within and gives us new desires and affections. Though we can never be perfect in the flesh, we can strive daily to live a life that is pleasing to God. I pray you will make that decision while you still have a chance.

This is my second plea. For those who have been born again, I want to encourage you to make 2021 a new you as well. Let's make 2021 a year that we pray like we have never prayed before, get into the word like we have never been in the word before, witness to others like we have never witnessed before, attend church like you have never attended before. Let's put 2020 behind us and hit the ground running for Jesus in 2021 and see what new things God has in store for us! God bless and Happy New Year!

Active Members who write for the Pastor's Corner: Roy Turpin, Stan Hawkins, Nathan Phillips, Ted Turner, Marvin Wade, Richard Thomas, Sue Morris, Jeff Dalton, Vernon Dalton, Dewayne Troutt, Dwight Haynes, Josh Blankenship, and Gregory Poff. We would like to encourage other ministers in the county to join FCMA, if you have any questions call Gregory Poff at (540) 357-0233.



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~ Dorthy Denneen Volo

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Faith Baptist Church

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Sunday Evening Service 6pm
Wednesday Night Service & Youth Group 7pm

Happy New Year!

Lamentations 3:22-23 tells us that the Lord's mercies are new every morning.

I'm grateful that each day we wake up that God's mercies are new and available. Maybe you're looking to a man or woman for your joy and peace or trusting in the leaders of our nation for the help you desire?

Friend, man will fail you but God will not.
Trust Him as your Savior today and lean on His mercy and grace!

@faithbaptistchurchcheck 5956 Floyd Hwy N, Check 

New Year’s Day Traditional Southern Foods

It’s All About Money

by Kellean Gale

“Peas for pennies, greens for dollars, and cornbread for gold” is an old Southern saying. My grandmother and her sister used to repeat this little ditty at our New Year’s Day family dinners to solicit giggles from my sister, cousins and me. Although I grew up around Detroit, my mother’s family hailed from Kentucky, where they lived and died for generations—that is until the automobile factories opened up job opportunities and enticed them to move north. When they retired, they all returned to their Southern roots in Kentucky to finish out their days enjoying the friendly Southern culture and tasty Southern cooking. My family, like many families, equated prosperity and good fortune with the food they ate.

Black-eyed peas, greens, a little pork, and cornbread—these foods were the staple diet of our ancestors who worked hard and had little income to spare. A meal of rice, black-eyed peas and greens is tasty, wholesome food. It’s a balanced meal, nutritious enough to sustain good health and plentiful enough to avoid empty bellies. These are all good reasons for growing and eating these staple foods. But do we ever wonder why, besides an empty stomach, we eat the way we do? “We eat who we are, where we come from, and how we hope to thrive.” When I read this statement, it answered my question and spurred an investigation into traditional Southern New Year’s Day foods. I wish I could give credit to the food writer who penned those words, but alas I can’t. The best I can do is flesh out the writer’s words with my own thoughts and research on this most-interesting subject.

As for “peas for pennies,” black-eyed peas have a long history in North America. They are a symbol of hope for better things to come. Historically, they represent coins and are believed by some to bring luck and money into the house in the coming year. Food historians attribute the introduction of this food to Africans who traveled across the ocean to North America on slave ships. The crop has been grown in Africa for 5,000 years and has long been a staple of the African diet. Easy to prepare on a slave ship, inexpensive as food for captives, and later enjoyed at the slaveholder’s family table, these little peas, which are not peas but beans, became a staple of the Southern American diet. Many think black-eyed peas resemble cowrie shells, which have been used as currency for

Happy New Year

thousands of years in cultures worldwide. In ancient African stories, the cowrie shell represents Olokun, an ocean goddess of protection and prosperity. No matter how they arrived on the scene, spice them up with onions, peppers, salt and pepper, and serve with collard greens and cornbread to make a delicious down-home Southern meal any time of year.



When it comes to “greens for dollars,” collard greens are flat like paper money. These and other greens, including mustard greens, turnips and cabbage, are braised and often sitting on the table alongside a bowl of black-eyed peas with pork seasoned with spices and a side of cornbread.

And, as to “corn for gold,” the golden color of cornbread represents money, gold and wealth. Images of corn on coins, in art and engraved into monuments can be found worldwide. As immigrants came to America, they brought their symbolism with them.

Finally, pork, which is contained in many Southern New Year’s Day dishes, is considered to be a sign of prosperity because pigs root forward in the search for their food. This can be viewed as a sign of progress and prosperity because they always move forward, unlike chickens and turkeys that scratch backward when feeding, which could be seen as representing setbacks and struggles.

If your roots began in Germany, you will find sauerkraut and pork on the New Year’s menu. While families who have Scandinavian roots will be dazzled by the glitter of silver in the scales of herring fish on their plates New Year’s day, and those with Italian roots will see ancient Roman coins in the irregular shape and color of lentils served with sausage at their dinner tables.

What unites us is that what we eat on New Year’s Day is all about where we come from and our hopes to thrive in the “new world” and New Year. It’s all about money.

from the kitchen...



Cornbread

- 1 cup corn meal
- 1 cup flour
- ¼ cup sugar
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 or 2 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- ¼ cup shortening, melted

Sift together dry ingredients. Add milk, well beaten eggs, and shortening. Add corn meal, salt, flour and soda. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes.

Corn Meal Mush

Bring to boil 2 cups of water in a stew pan. Put 1 cup corn meal, ¼ cup white flour and 1 tsp. salt in a bowl. Stir in 1 cup cold water, then add the boiling water. Keep stirring until it boils. Turn to simmer for 15 to 20 minutes. Pour in a loaf pan which has been rinsed in cold water. Cover with wax paper and let stand overnight. Slice and fry in shortening.



Jaycee

A New Year Miracle needed

for a bonded pair of Floyd dogs whose owner passed away.

Remember the Bumpus hounds from the Christmas Story? Well, meet Floyd County’s very own version!

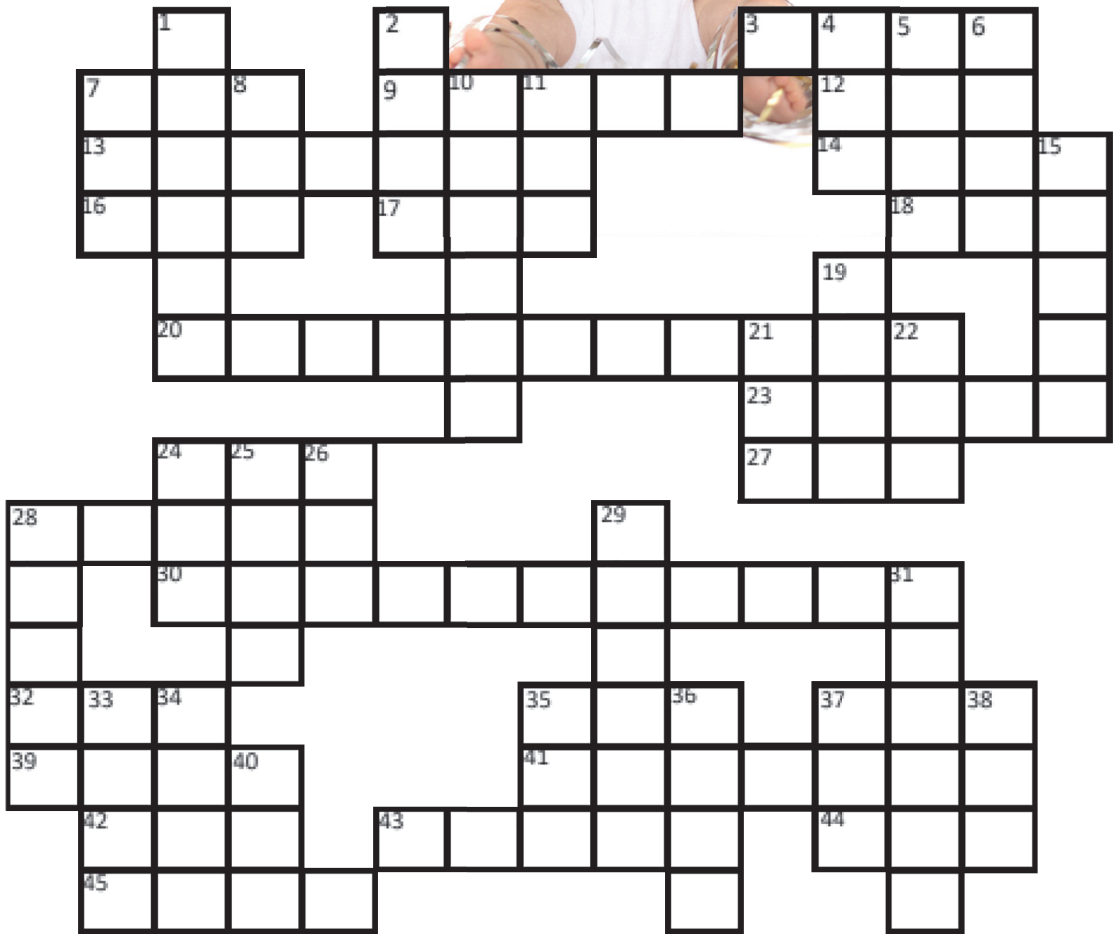
Jaycee and Reecey are a bonded pair of sisters and looking for a new forever home. They are very sweet, older bloodhounds/redbone coonhounds that just want someone to love them. They miss their owner that recently passed away and are ready to settle down in a new forever home.

Jaycee is really happy to just lean against you and be loved on. Reecey is loving and very playful she’s kind of a clumsy goofball, like she doesn’t realize how big she is. They are both very happy girls and look like they are always smiling. Jaycee is the darker red female and Reecey is the lighter golden female. Approximate age is 7-8. They lived with cats for years and were fine with them. If you are interested in meeting Jaycee and Reecey, call the Floyd County Humane Society at 540-745-7207.



Reecey

CROSSWORD New Year

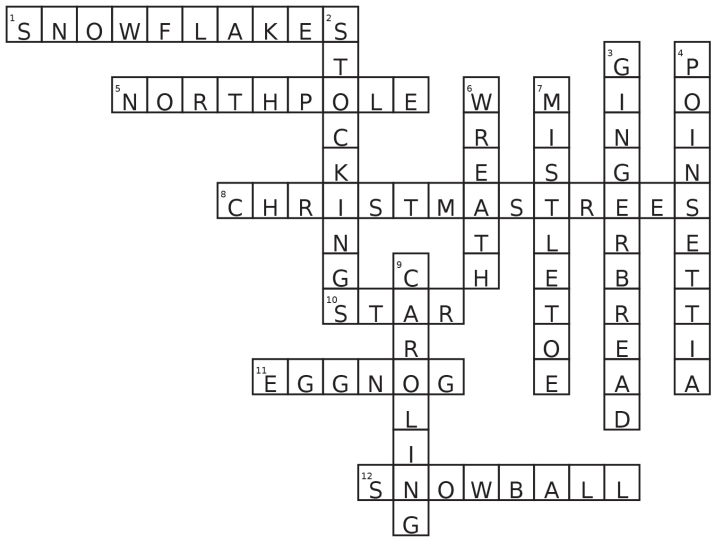


- Across
- 3. First Garden
 - 7. Dog Sound
 - 9. Not Before
 - 12. Shortened Avenue
 - 13. Main Jell-O Ingredient
 - 14. First Trial CD
 - 16. Large Flightless Bird
 - 17. Picnic Pest
 - 18. Silent “yes”
 - 20. Make them for the New Year
 - 23. Not Wants
 - 24. Short for Doctor
 - 27. Female Sheep
 - 28. Sports Stadium
 - 30. Dec 31 Holiday
 - 32. Notable Time Period
 - 35. “It Is” Together
 - 37. First Three Vowels
 - 39. Steals
 - 41. No Refunds or _____
 - 42. Student Council Assoc.
 - 43. Do Not Blink
 - 44. Touchdowns
 - 45. Edward Nickname

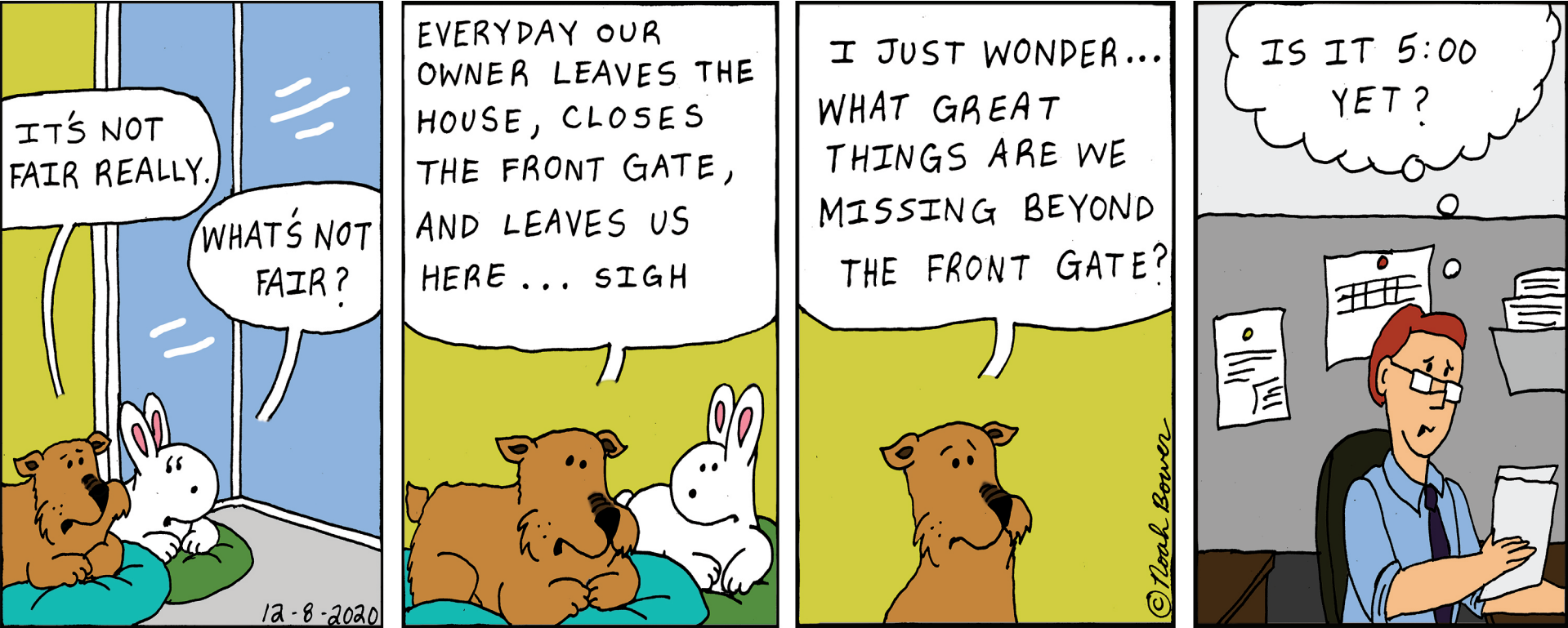
- Down:
- 1. A Bad Shake
 - 2. What Graphs Show
 - 4. Mom’s Partner
 - 5. Odd’s Opposite
 - 6. Lost Clownfish
 - 7. Celebrated Through Birthdays
 - 8. Winter Illness
 - 10. End of Year Tests
 - 11. Explosive Letters
 - 15. Distinct Smells
 - 19. Rebirth
 - 21. Not Some But Only _____
 - 22. What Eyes Do
 - 24. The Lion’s _____
 - 25. Single Bills
 - 26. Crow Call
 - 28. To Change
 - 29. Moon Acne
 - 31. Fix a Problem (make)
 - 33. Flower With Thorns
 - 34. Alphabet Quartet
 - 35. Lyricist Gershwin
 - 36. Flower Supporter
 - 37. Certain Museum Contents
 - 38. In School Suspension
 - 40. Not Happy

Answers to Crossword

DECEMBER 15 . . .



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LAND TRANSFERS

AR = Alum Ridge District V = Indian Valley District
BF = Burks Fork Distric LG = Locust Grove District
C = Courthouse District LR = Little River District

BAUM, JOSEPH J to REEVES, JIMMY T, Floyd; 11/04/20, C, \$297,500

COCKRAM, DARRELL MICHAEL to WADE, ARTHUR, Floyd; 11/13/20, C, 19.228 ac, \$120,000

CONNER, BANKS H to CARLSON, CHERYL C, TR, Virginia Beach; 11/04/20, LG, \$209,900

GOODWIN, BARBARA J, TR to ZADARLA, DIANA, Copper Hill; 11/04/20, \$230,000

GRIFFITH, RICHARD to COCKRAM, SEAN EDWIN, Floyd; 11/05/20, C, 1.381 ac

HADDOX, BRITTANY N to SLUSHER, JESSIE ALLEN, Floyd; 11/06/20, LR, 78.33 ac, \$100,000

HICKSON, WILLIAM E, JR to PERKINS, CHRISTOPHER LESLIE, Floyd; 11/04/20, BF

HUDSON, TIM to QUESINBERRY, ALETHA MICHELLE, Floyd; 11/12/20, C, 3.1848 ac

HYLTON, ROSELYN P to ELLIOTT, RUTH H, Fredericksburg; 11/13/20, BF, 0.869 & ¾ ac, \$45,000

JACKSON, DIANE to WALLACE, CHRISTOPHER LEE, Floyd; 11/09/20, C, \$370,000.

KEYSTONE DESIGN INC to TEAGUE, MARTHA KATE, Ashland, OR; 11/4/20, LG, \$149,000

LITTLE RIVER HOLDINGS LLC to SMITH, JENNIFER LYNN, Willis; 11/13/20, BF, 4.7872 ac, \$33,000

MARSHALL, CARMON J to CLARKE, LESLIE K, IV, Brandon, FL; 11/12/20, IV, 7.227 ac, \$42,450

MARSICO, ERNEST WAYNE to PARR, WILLARD LEWIS, Floyd; 11/05/20, AR, 3.715 ac, \$316,000

MESSINEO, PAUL STEPHEN to PETROSKY, GEORGE, Burlington, CT; 11/04/20, C, 0.405 ac, \$175,000

OUDEKIRK, GREGG to PENNEWELL, MELSON WAYNE, Floyd; 11/04/20, LG, 52.44 & 7.258 ac, \$610,000

PATRIOT LAND GROUP LLC to ABERNETHY, KAREN, Stanley, NC; 11/13/20, 25 ac, \$120,000

RICH, D RUDOLPH, SR to VAN O'LINDA, WILLIAM M, JR , Southern Pines, NC; 11/13/20, BF, 1 ac, \$138,000

ROBINETTE, DWAYNE L to ROBINETTE, DAVID L, Wytheville; 11/10/20, C

SMITH, NORA ANNE to GRIFFITH, RICHARD, Floyd; 11/05/20, C, 7.150 ac

SMITH, NORA ANNE to COCKRAM, SEAN, Floyd; 11/05/20, C, 1.024 ac

SMITH, NORA ANNE to COCKRAM, JAMES E, Floyd; 11/05/20, C, 2.870 ac

SOWERS, FRANCES POFF to THURSTON, GARY, Floyd; 11/12/20, LR, 30.4118 ac

ST CLAIR, RONALD H to SMITH, MICHAEL WAYNE, Pilot; 11/04/20, LR

TAYLOR, WILLIAM G to ALESSI, KEITH E, Roanoke; 11/10/20, BF, 29.6003 ac, \$399,950

UNDERWOOD, PATRICIA D to MACWOODARD-VLADYKA, DAWN M, Check; 11/09/20, LG, \$45,860

WAIDE, WILLIAM H to PATRIOT LAND GROUP LLC, Cornelius, NC; 11/13/20, 25 ac, \$100,000

YOUNG, EDWARD L to YOUNG, CAROL A, Willis; 11/05/20, IV, 5.054, 6.6038, & 0.170 ac

YOUNG, ROBERTA LEE to YOUNG, ROBERTA LEE, TR, Boones Mill; 11/04/20, BF, 51.51 ac

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CALENDAR of Events

If you have events you would like included in the calendar, email: Calendar@TheFloydBeacon.com. Please include the time and address of the event, along with phone number and website if available.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

Indoor Farmers Market, 10am-1pm, 101 E Main, Floyd, warehouse space behind Farmers Supply

Bluegrass Music, 4-6 pm @ Wildwood General Store, 2380 Floyd Hwy S, weather permitting. Check website for other events – <http://www.wildwoodfarmsdaylilies.com/>

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

Electoral Board Meeting, 4 pm @ 120 W. Oxford St, Floyd

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

Youth Night, 6-8pm @ Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Dugspur Meal, lessons, games; ages 4-18

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

Floyd Town Council, 5:30 pm @ Skip Bishop Town Hall, 134 Wilson St., Floyd

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

Indoor Farmers Market, 10am-1pm 101 E Main, Floyd, warehouse space behind Farmers Supply
Bluegrass Music, 4-6 pm @ Wildwood General Store, 2380 Floyd Hwy S, weather permitting. Check website for other events – <http://www.wildwoodfarmsdaylilies.com/>

If you have events you would like included in the calendar, email calendar@thefloydbeacon.com. Please include the time and address of the event, along with phone number and website if available.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

Floyd School Board Meeting, 5 pm @ 140 Harris Hart Road, NE, Floyd

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

Board of Supervisors Meeting, 8:30 am @ 120 W. Oxford St, Floyd

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

Youth Night, 6-8pm @ Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church, DugspurMeal, lessons, games; ages 4-18

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

Indoor Farmers Market, 10am-1pm 101 E Main, Floyd, warehouse space behind Farmers Supply
Bluegrass Music, 4-6 pm @ Wildwood General Store, 2380 Floyd Hwy S, weather permitting. Check website for other events – <http://www.wildwoodfarmsdaylilies.com/>

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

Floyd County Planning Commission 6 pm, 120 W. Oxford St., Floyd

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Happy New Year 2021!

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All of these properties were listed by Levi Cox. To view these properties and others, visit LeviCoxRealtor.com



Levi Cox, Realtor works with sellers and buyers throughout Southwest Virginia. He was born and raised in Floyd County VA where he specializes in Homes, Land, Farms and Hunting Properties for sale. **Are you looking to sell?** Levi can help you list your property, whatever it may be. **Looking to buy?** Levi will work for you and with you to find the property of your dreams! **Contact him today!**



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