

Laker Weekly



lakerweekly.com

WEDNESDAY December 26, 2018

Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia

WEEKEND'S TOP PICKS

Friday

Friday Breakfast Book Club

This month's book is "The Stars are Fire" by Anita Shreve. New members welcome.

Where: Bedford Central Library, 321 N. Bridge St., Bedford
When: 10 to 11 a.m.

Cost: Free
Contact: 586-8911

DIY Hand-Lettered Artwork: 2019 Resolutions

Commit your resolution to paper, transforming it into a work of art that will remind you to stay on track throughout the year.

Where: Taubman Museum of Art, 110 Salem Ave. S.E., Roanoke
When: Session I: 10:30 a.m. to noon, Session II: 2 to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$25, \$20 Museum members
Contact: Register at www.taubmanmuseum.org, 342-5760

Thursday-Saturday

Pacabella Farm Alpacas & Boutique Holiday Open House

Not sure what to do with your holiday company? We invite you to come feel the warmth and softness of our alpacas and alpaca clothing at our family farm and boutique.

Where: 1799 Jubal A. Early Highway, Wirtz
When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: Free
Contact: 890-8364, www.pacabella.com

CALENDAR

Wednesday

New Beginnings

Where: Liberty Station Restaurant, 515 Bedford Ave., Bedford
When: Noon

Cost: Free
Contact: 721-4330

Thursday

Chronic Pain Support Group

Where: Trinity Ecumenical Parish, 40 Lakemount Drive, Moneta
When: 12:30 p.m.

Cost: Free
Contact: 721-4330

Shine Runners Pub Run

4-mile trail run. Bring a light.
Where: Grassy Hill Preserve, 305 Technology Drive, Rocky Mount
When: 6 to 9 p.m.

Cost: Free
Contact: www.playfranklincounty.com/pub-runs, 483-9293

Family Movie Night: "The Incredibles 2" (PG)

Where: Moneta/SML Library, 13641 Moneta Road, Moneta
When: 5:30 p.m. crafts and games, 6 p.m. movie with snacks

Cost: Free
Contact: 425-7004

Virginia Career Works Job Assistance

Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act provides funding and resources to job seekers that may have barriers to employment. Learn more about the opportunities available by meeting with a Career Navigator with the Region 2000 Workforce Center.

Where: Bedford Central Library, 321 N. Bridge St., Bedford
When: 1 to 4 p.m.

Cost: Free
Contact: www.region2000works.org or call 434-455-5940

Texas Hold'em World Tavern Poker

Open to everyone of any experience level.

Where: Hot Shots, 13360 Booker T. Washington Highway, Moneta
When: 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Cost: Free
Contact: Rich Millar, 703-819-0157

For more events, please see page 4

Franklin Co. administrator to leave his post in March

Laker Weekly

Franklin County Administrator Brent Robertson announced last week that he is leaving his post after three years.

Robertson, who was hired in June 2015, announced in a Dec. 19 press release that he will resign from his position effective March 31, 2019.

"After nearly three decades experience in local government, it felt like the right time to step back, take a breath and explore new and differ-

ent opportunities for me and my family," Robertson said in the release. "It has been an honor serving the citizens of Franklin County for the last 3½ years and look forward to exploring new ways to serve the community."

Robertson previously served as budget and management director for Roanoke County. He began that career as a budget analyst in 1991 and served the department for 16 years.

He was unanimously approved by the Franklin

County Board of Supervisors in a closed-door session in May 2015 and earned just shy of \$131,000 a year.

Robertson replaced outgoing administrator Rick Huff, who left the job after serving as county administrator since 1999.

Franklin County Board of Supervisors Chairman Cline Brubaker said Robertson is of retirement age and that the job of county administrator is a stressful one. Brubaker said he could understand the decision, though he was disap-

pointed to see Robertson go.

"I'm glad that Brent has been our county administrator for the length of time he has," Brubaker said. "I personally think a whole lot of Brent."

The board has not yet discussed how it will go about replacing Robertson, but Brubaker said he expects to rely upon Assistant County Administrator Chris Whitlow in the interim.

Casey Fabris of The Roanoke Times contributed to this story.



Administrator Brent Robertson announced last week that he's leaving his post in March 2019.



Photos by KAREN DILLON | Laker Weekly

With members of Franklin County Sheriff's Office and employees from Walmart in Rocky Mount, Sheriff Bill Overton (center) offers his thoughts about the department's Operation Christmas Tree fundraiser that ended last Thursday with selected families collecting their gifts.

Fundraiser brightens Christmas for families



Toys, food and clothing lined an activity room at the Essig Center last Thursday as families came to collect the gifts as part of the Operation Christmas Tree fundraiser.

By Karen Dillon
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721-4675

Kayla Kizer couldn't stop smiling as officers with Franklin County Sheriff's Office loaded wrapped presents onto a large plastic cart at the Essig Center in Rocky Mount.

"These guys are going to be tickled pink," Kizer said of her and her boyfriend's three kids, ages 5,

3 and 1. "I can already see their faces."

Kizer's family was one of 36 selected this year to be a part of the Operation Christmas Tree fundraiser sponsored by the sheriff's office.

Through sales of Fraser fir trees and other fundraising efforts, as well as donations from the community, the sheriff's office raised more than \$15,000, according to Maj. Mike Bowman.

Last Thursday, recipi-

ent families were invited to pick up their gifts of toys, clothing and food from the Essig Center. As heavy rains fell, deputies helped tote and load gifts into the families' vehicles.

"We're excited for them; we're excited for their families," said Sheriff Bill Overton. "Any of us can find ourselves in despair or in a time of need."

This is the third year

See FUNDRAISER, 2

Bedford Co. Sheriff warns of a new scam

Laker Weekly

Bedford County Sheriff's Office last week warned residents of a new phone scam that's been circulating.

In a news release, Maj. Ricky Gardner said the office has received numerous calls from residents reporting that they had received a phone message from a person identifying himself as Deputy Mike Denton with the sheriff's office.

The recording instructed residents to call Deputy Denton at 540-707-4070, ext.

4. Residents who called that number received an automated message stating that it was sheriff's office, Gardner said.

When callers entered the phone extension, a man answered and identified himself as Deputy Mike Denton. The man then instructed callers to purchase gift cards and to give him the card numbers by phone, Gardner said.

"The Bedford County Sheriff's Office does not employ a Mike Denton," Gardner said in the release. "This is a scam!"

Proposed campground must undergo hearing process again

Laker Weekly

A special use permit for an RV park and campground in Union Hall, previously approved by the Franklin County Planning Commission, once again will undergo the approval process at the commission's next meeting in January.

"During the Planning Commission meeting in December it was discovered that the owner name in the legal notice for the proposed RV campground in Union Hall was incorrect," Steve Sandy, Franklin County's director of planning, said in an email to members of the planning commission.

John Mathena originally submitted the application on behalf of Southlake Motorsports & Marine LLC for a special use permit to construct 28 RV sites and 14 cabins on 14 acres on Old Salem School Road adjacent to Magnum Point Marina, which he also co-owns.

In addition to the RV lots, which will have connections to water, sewer and electricity, and 360-square-foot, one-bedroom cabins, there are plans for a swimming pool, bathhouses and walking trails.

The planning commission

See CAMPGROUND, 2

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