

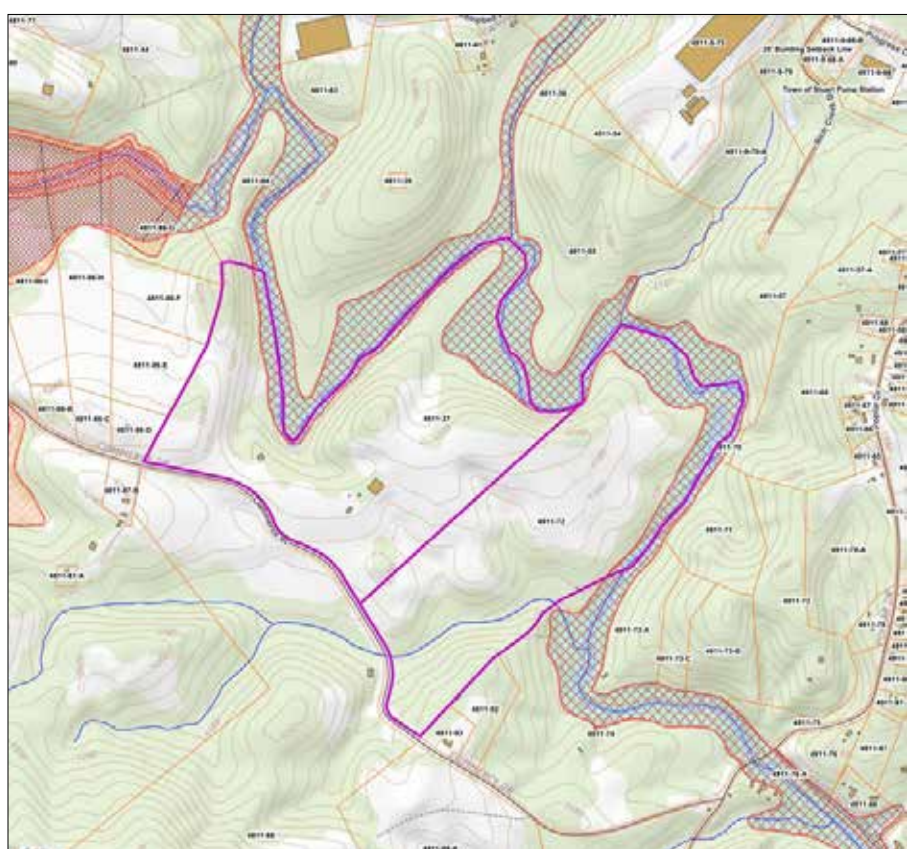


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A map of a proposed project was included in a 2022 letter to affected residents and county officials.

Solar company says project in Patrick lacks approval

By Debbie Hall and Taylor Boyd

There is no approved solar project in Patrick County, however, a company has filed a Notice of Intent with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Dominika Sink, Senior Director of Project Acquisition and Development with Energix, said she knows there's a lot of confusion about Fairy Stone Solar, LLC and its proposed projects.

But "there is no approved project. We have never applied for any permit in Patrick County, and we do not have any permits from the county," she said.

Since the county has no zoning, Sink said the certification form signed by a county official in 2021 was necessary for the company to engage with the DEQ for a Permit By Rule (PBR).

"We have to provide them with a form showing that we've gone through

applicable zoning processes. In the absence of zoning, we have reached out to the county, which I think is what's erroneously referenced, as an approval," she said.

Sink said Fairy Stone Solar contacted the county in 2021.

"We said, 'this is what we're doing. There is no zoning, for us to engage with DEQ on this project. We need to show them some sort of proof that we've gone through the zoning process, but you all do not have zoning, so could you just check this box for us saying it's just not applicable,'" she said.

Now former county administrator Geri Hazelwood signed a certification form in October 2021, records show.

Currently, the company is working on its study and survey as part of its due diligence process, Sink said.

In a March 13 email to building

(See Solar p. 4)

Public hearing scheduled for tax rate



Seating became an issue at the March 13 Board of Supervisors meeting, with several county residents forced to stand during the meeting. County officials have said the limited seating arrangement is due to a Covid era court order in the room that doubles as one of the county's courtrooms.

By Taylor Boyd

A public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29, as the Patrick County Board of Supervisors considers setting the real estate tax rate.

The decision to hold the public hearing was scheduled after the board approved setting the rate not to exceed 73 cents per \$100 of assessed value for the fiscal year 2023-2024. That is the same rate as in the current fiscal year.

In other matters, the board:

*Heard from Mary Clement, of the Blue Ridge District, who is a property owner of Patrick County but a voting resident of Pittsylvania County.

Clement spoke at a previous supervisor meeting about seeing

firsthand acres of solar panels, utility towers, and solar projects in Pittsylvania County.

"I am very glad citizens are speaking out publicly concerning this topic and I am also very glad the county is providing public hearings, meetings, and notices to all concerning this topic," she said.

In light of recent events, Clement said the county is considering doing away with the current ordinance. However, she highly discouraged that.

"Patrick County's ordinance is quite restrictive against solar facilities and serves as a deterrent to these companies whose only motive is money, not green energy. I urge you to keep the current ordinance in place

(See Hearing p. 5)

Vipperman qualifies for regional championship



Kendra Viperman qualified for the 2023 Upper Southeast Regional YMCA Championships to be held in Goldsboro, N.C. on March 16-19 in the 50 yard butterfly. (See page 8 for more.)

School board approves proposed budget

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County School Board approved its 2023-24 proposed budget at a March 14 meeting.

Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said the school board has to present its budget to the county administration before April 1 each year, according to state law.

"We still do not have the new calculation tool from the Department of Education (VDOE), so they did what was called a 'skinny budget' to correct the errors in the 2023 fiscal year budget," he said.

Because the division lacks the state numbers, Wood said the current budget is based on last year's biennium-released calculation tool.

"What we are hearing from



The Patrick County School Board approved its 2023-2024 revenue budget presentation at a March 14 meeting.

our vast organization, we are able to present our revenue budget, which is an estimate," he said.

Once the calculation tool is received, the board will reconvene and present an amended budget to the Patrick County

Board of Supervisors.

Wood said submitting the current working budget will ensure the division is in compliance with the state code, and "so that the county will know what we are requesting for our

(See Budget p. 5)

Council gives funds to help pool



Stuart Parks and Recreation Association member Amy Corns spoke to the Stuart Town Council about the need for financial assistance for the pool at DeHart Park.

By Taylor Boyd

The Stuart Town Council approved giving the Stuart Parks and Recreation Association \$2,500 and a reimbursement equal to its water and sewer costs at its March 15 meeting.

Association member Amy Corns said the funds would help keep the DeHart Park pool a break-even prospect.

"In order to pay the Virginia minimum wage of \$12 per hour, we estimate this is going to add to our break-even budget currently another \$20,000 to our annual budget," she said.

Corns said the funds would help put a dent into the \$20,000 budget deficit that the association is an-

icipating. The group is also planning to request annual financial assistance from the Patrick County Board of Supervisors.

"Our hope is that we the town, the county, and the park board, can all work together for the common goal of supporting our local pool, which in turn supports our county, and our town businesses as well as tourism by bringing in other people from other places who visit our local park and pool," she said.

Corns said the funds will be earmarked specifically for chemicals, maintenance, repairs, and utilities, which will free the park's board up to pay employees.

She also has researched and con-

(See Pool p. 7)

Reynolds Homestead launches the spring session of College for Older Adults



Virginia Tech's Reynolds Homestead in Critz, VA has opened registration for its spring session of College for Older Adults. Classes begin April 17 and run through May 26. This six-week session of classes is

presented through the generous support of The Landmark Center. The variety of opportunities this session includes hikes, computer class, art offerings, crafting sessions, movement classes, and fun

day trips. The full schedule of classes and activities will be posted on the Reynolds Homestead website March 20 at www.reynoldshomestead.vt.edu.

College for Older adults is a semi-annual program lasting six weeks in both the spring and fall. The sessions offer cultural, intellectual, social, and fitness opportunities for adults ages 50 and older. College for Older Adults is perfect for: lifelong learners, those curious about the world around them, people interested in trying new things or making new connections, and anyone who enjoys planned outings and activities.

The membership fee for COA is \$60 and includes tuition for all weekly classes along with specialty one-time offerings. Some class-

es such as art/crafts classes, make and takes, and field trips may have additional supply or transportation fees. A hiking only track is available for \$30 and includes six guided hikes. Payments may be made online by credit or debit card, or via check made payable to Treasurer of Virginia Tech. Online and printable registration options can be accessed from Reynolds Homestead's Facebook page and website. Paper catalogs are available at Reynolds Homestead, the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and Blue Ridge Regional Library.

For more information contact Melanie Gilbert, Assistant manager for Community Engagement Programs at mtgilbert68@vt.edu or by calling (276) 694-7181 ex.22.

Fan favorites, new bands to take Front Porch Fest stages

Front Porch Fest dropped the first of three line up announcements for the annual 4-day music festival to be held Aug 31-Sept 3 in Patrick County. Held on the front porch to the Blue Ridge mountains in Stuart, the yearly event weaves together a love of music and community and the fourteenth annual is set to be the biggest yet. In addition to the high quality lineup, organizers are curating a full schedule of arts, movement, and nature based offerings, a wide variety of vendors,

and engaging children's activities, ensuring there's fun for the whole family this Labor Day weekend at Front Porch Fest 14.

As always, the impressive lineup spans musical genres providing something for all music lovers. Topping the initial line up is the versatile four piece band Dangermuffin, who describes its sound as "futile to define," but points to themes of nature such as ocean, mountains and sun as inspiration for its mu-

(See Favorites p. 4)

Patrick Pioneers Cain Lackey (Part Three)



Preacher Cain Lackey. (Courtesy of Andy Doss)

For the next twelve years, Preacher Lackey preached at Rock Hill Church of the Brethren in Floyd every single Sunday. Lackey did all this while supervising a road crew that was improving Route 8 up Floyd Mountain. This road crew employed convicts and local members of the community, working together.

(See Pioneers p. 10)

By Beverly Belcher Woody

At the end of our journey last week, Cain Lackey had just married Hattie Virginia Elgin in 1904. Hattie became the mother to his two daughters, Malissa and Carrie from his first deceased wife, and his daughter and two sons, Ida Belle, James Paul, and Barney, from his second deceased wife.

In 1905, Cain and Hattie had a son named William Crawford Lackey. Cain continued his work in the lumber business and preaching evenings and weekends. Cain to his two daughters, Malissa and Carrie from his first deceased wife, and his daughter and two sons, Ida Belle, James Paul, and Barney, from his second deceased wife. Cain Lackey was ordained as an Elder to the Smith River Church of the Brethren on August 1, 1908; for the rest of the story, we will refer to him as Preacher Lackey.

Pets of the Week



This handsome male German Shepherd was found near Surrey Bank, at Woodland Dr. and U.S. 58. His family must be missing him.

This pretty female was found on Ararat Highway. She would like to go home.

Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) at (276) 694-6259 for more information, or visit its Facebook page. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and rabies vaccination.

PAWS offers a free spay/neuter program for dogs. Call (276) 694-2378.

Clover Cat Rescue offers a spay/neuter program for cats. Call (276) 694-3598.

Mardi Gras BRAWL
STUART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023
DOORS OPEN 6PM, BELL TIME 7PM

MAIN EVENT: Battle Royal
FOR THE VACATED NWC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

FOR THE VACATED NWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
FOR THE VACATED NWC MID-ATLANTIC HERICAGE CHAMPIONSHIP

FOR THE VACATED NWC CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
FOR THE VACATED NWC LEGENDS GRUDGE MATCH

FOR THE VACATED NWC GAUNTLET MATCH
FOR THE VACATED NWC THE DARK DRAGON VS. JOSH VALEN

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Revenues are ahead of projections

General fund revenue collections for February 2023 were 1.2 percent higher in the first eight months of FY 2023, compared to the same period the previous year, according to Gov. Glenn Youngkin. Relative to the official forecast updated in December, unadjusted general fund revenues are ahead of forecast by \$111.3 million year-to-date.

"February's revenue numbers confirm that our December forecast continues to accurately represent that we will have a multi-billion-dollar surplus," said Youngkin. "Virginians remain overtaxed, and the Commonwealth has abundant resources available to lower costs and cut taxes for families and local businesses. At the same

time, we can make critical investments to transform our behavioral health system, invest in education and law enforcement, and strengthen communities across Virginia. With the continuing uncertainties in the global economy and recent turbulence at U.S. banks, Virginia remains in a position of strength to deliver services and reduce taxes for Virginians."

"February revenue collections came in ahead of plan" said Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. "Results have exceeded expectations based upon a stronger than expected economy since we issued our forecast. In accordance with that forecast, we continue to expect an economic downturn to occur, albeit later than orig-

inally anticipated. Overall, results year-to-date support our outlook, and we continue to have confidence in our December forecast."

Traditionally, February is one of the smallest revenue collection months and marks the beginning of the tax filing season when refunds for the 2022 tax year begin to be issued. Slowdowns in revenue sources such as withholding collections were largely anticipated and included in the December forecast. Unanticipated weakness in corporate income and deed recordation tax collections is being offset by higher interest income. March collections will provide additional insight into individual refunds for the filing season.

Kaine, Warner help lead effort to save rural hospitals

U.S. Sens. Tim Kaine, D-Richmond, and Mark Warner were among those to reintroduce the Save Rural Hospitals Act - legislation to help curb the trend of hospital closures in rural communities by making sure hospitals are fairly reimbursed for their services by the federal government.

First introduced in 2020 as a response to the record number of rural hospitals that closed in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, 33 nationwide since 2020, the Save Rural Hospitals Act would amend the flawed Medicare Area Wage Index formula that has disproportionately harmed rural and low-income hospitals. Currently, many hospitals in rural areas lack the resources available to those in more populated areas to offer competitive salaries. Due to those salary differences, rural hospitals receive lower reimbursements from the federal government, which contributes

to their lack of resources and perpetuates a harmful staffing crisis.

The Save Rural Hospitals Act would establish a national minimum of 0.85 for the Medicare Area Wage Index, which is used to adjust a hospital's overall payment from the Medicare program on the basis of geographic differences in labor costs, to ensure that rural hospitals receive fair payment for the care they provide. In Virginia alone, 16 hospitals across the Commonwealth would benefit from this floor being put in place.

"Rural hospitals across the country and the Commonwealth of Virginia are struggling to recruit and retain quality health care professionals," said Warner., D-Alexandria "This legislation aims to ensure that all hospitals are able to deliver appropriate care by attracting employees and compensating them fairly for their lifesaving work

— regardless of where they are located."

The Save Rural Hospitals Act would offer a permanent fix to Medicare's unfair Wage Index, which is harming rural and low-income hospitals. Earlier this year, the senators and a bipartisan group sent a letter to CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure requesting a four-year extension of the current Low Wage Index Hospital Policy, which serves as a temporary fix, raising the payments of hospitals in the bottom wage index quartile.

"Rural hospitals must have the capacity to recruit and retain high-quality professionals to serve their communities," said Beth O'Connor, Executive Director of the Virginia Rural Health Association. "The Save Rural Hospitals Act by Senators Warner, Kaine, and Blackburn will help ensure the Commonwealth's rural hospitals can continue to do just that."

Funds available to increase critical meat processing capacity

Applications for a special funding round aimed at increasing the number of meat processing facilities in Southwest Virginia are being sought by the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission.

This funding from the commission seeks to meet the needs of local producers who have made it clear that adequate meat processing capacity does not exist in the region. This is a critical issue for producers as lengthy and unpredictable wait times for processing of their animals, combined with the long distances often required to get their animals to the processing facility, contribute to greatly decreased profitability and make it much more difficult for these family businesses to continue operating.

Currently, producers are seeing wait times for processing extending out a year or more and are often required to transport their animals hundreds of miles, at great cost, when they are able to obtain time at a facility. Simply put, this is not sustainable and should this unavailability of processing capacity continue it will likely result in the loss of long-time producers who are unable to bear the costs associated with these long and unpredictable wait times and excessive transportation costs to bring their product to market.

John Rhudy, owner of Rhudy Livestock in Burke's Garden said, "The number of processing facilities, especially USDA inspected facilities, has decreased dramatically over the years. The remaining facilities are booked up six

months to a year in advance. It is extremely difficult to get an appointment, and virtually impossible on short notice. With the eat local movement in full swing and the memory of the 2020 shutdowns still fresh, people want access to local meats, as well as the opportunity to have their own home-raised animals processed locally. Locally-owned and operated USDA inspected facilities are needed for farmers and ranchers to have the opportunity to direct market their products, which gives them the chance to be sustainable and stay in business."

To help meet this need the commission will award up to \$2.5 million in total funding for projects that create new USDA certified meat processing capacity within the Southwest Virginia Region. Priority will be given to facilities that are capable of serving multiple localities.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the Tobacco Commission to play a major role in addressing an important issue that our agricultural community is facing", said Tobacco Commission Vice-Chair, Delegate Will Morefield. "This added capacity will help keep family farms in business by reducing the uncertainty, long wait times and high transport costs many of them are currently facing when trying to bring their products to market. The Commission has long prided itself on listening to the needs of our communities and taking action. This funding is a great example of our commitment to doing just that."

Over the years the commission has constantly evolved to

meet the needs of the communities it serves and this funding round is a perfect example of that. As the commission continues the work of developing a diverse economy in Southern and Southwest Virginia it encourages its partners to communicate their needs whenever they feel the commission may be able to help.

The deadline to apply for this special funding round is June 1.

For more information on this special funding round, including program guidelines, visit www.revitalizeva.org.

Cybersecurity Event to be Hosted by NCI, others

The New College Institute (NCI), in partnership with Virginia Society for Technology in Education (VSTE), and Virginia Department of Education's K-12 IT Advisory, will host a cybersecurity experiential planning event titled "Incident Response is a Team Sport." The event is set to take place on March 30 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at NCI in Martinsville.

The event is targeted at K-12 leadership including IT professionals, cybersecurity experts, and educators interested in learning more about and planning for incident response and management. The event will feature presentations from experts in the field including Dr. Tara Nattrass from Dell Technologies, Dr. David Raymond from Virginia Tech Cyber Range, Philip Harmon from Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, Roanoke, VA, and Sergio Orellana of BinaryLab. Topics such as threat intelligence, incident response planning, and best practices for managing cyber incidents will be addressed. The objective for the day is

Arrests reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*John Lincoln Turner, 35, of Willis, was charged March 8 with probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Justice Leigh Denny, 26, of Martinsville, was charged March 8 with fail to appear. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Jay Thomas Goins, 32, address unknown, was charged March 8 with probation violation. Sgt. L.K. Carroll, Jr. was the arresting officer.

*Keith Allen Charles, 35, of Patrick County Jail, was charged March 9 with probation violation. Deputy T. Dalton was the arresting officer.

*Bobby Ray Barker, 32, of Collinsville, was charged March 10 with fail to appear. Lt. Dustin Foley was the arresting officer.

*Anthony Leroy Brannon, 57, of Jonesville, SC, was charged March 11 with one count each abduction and malicious wounding. Deputy I. Wood was the arresting officer.

*Chrystal Kathleen Luckado, 33, of Stuart, was charged March 11 with fail to appear. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

Unemployment rate increased in January

Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in January to 3.2 percent, which is 0.3 of a percentage point above the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in January, the labor force increased by 17,127 to 4,487,399 as the number of unemployed residents increased by 5,013 to 144,754. The number of employed residents rose by 12,114 to 4,342,645. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which edged downward to 3.4 percent.

The Commonwealth's labor force participation rate rose to 65.4 percent in January. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.

Virginia's nonagricultural employment, from the monthly establishment survey, rose by 19,700 jobs in January to 4,131,600. December's preliminary estimate was revised up by 14,000, adding to that month's job gain. In January, private sector employment increased by 20,400 jobs to 3,411,900 while public sector employment

declined by 700 to 719,700. A decrease within that sector occurred in state government (-1,900 jobs), while federal government grew by 900 jobs and local government rose by 300 jobs over the month.

Employment rose in eight of eleven major industry sectors and declined in three. The largest job gain during January occurred in professional and business services, with an increase of 8,700 jobs to 816,500. The second largest increase occurred in leisure and hospitality (+6,900 jobs) to 408,300. Education and health services was third, with a gain of 2,400 jobs, rising to 570,200. Other increases included miscellaneous services (+1,100 jobs) to 195,500, finance (+600 jobs) to 214,800, construction (+400 jobs) to 215,100, manufacturing (+400 jobs) to 245,700, and trade, transportation, and utilities (+200 jobs) to 667,500. The largest job loss during January occurred in government (-700 jobs) to 719,700. The second largest decrease occurred in information, with a decrease of 200 jobs to 71,200. The third largest loss occurred in mining with a decrease of 100 jobs to 7,100.

for schools to leave with a draft of an Incident Response Plan (IRP) if they do not already have one, or to enhance the one they already have as a result of interacting with cybersecurity and legal experts during the day.

"We are thrilled to host this event and bring together experts in the field to share their insights and experiences with our attendees," said Dr. Susheela Shanta, Coordinator of K-12 Programs & Institutional Data for NCI. "Cybersecurity threats are becoming increasingly sophisticated and widespread, and it's more important than ever for K-12 educational institutions to have a robust incident response plan in place. Our event will provide attendees with valuable knowledge and skills to help them better manage cybersecurity incidents and protect their organizations from potential threats."

To register for the event and view the full agenda, please visit the NCI website at <https://newcollegeinstitute.org/event/incident-response-is-a-team-sport-vste-nci-event/>.

Solar

(cont. from page 1)

official Jason Brown, Susan Tripp, Renewable Energy PBR Coordinator with the DEQ, wrote that Fairy Stone Solar, LLC filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) for a proposed solar project in Patrick County.

The email noted that the DEQ received the NOI from Fairy Stone Solar, LLC on December 10, 2021. A notice was published in the Virginia Register of Regulations on January 31, 2022 as required by law, Tripp wrote.

The Permit by Rule (PBR) Solar regulations state that applicants should furnish an NOI to DEQ as early in the project development process as practicable, but certainly after the applicant believes that the proposed project can meet local land use requirements.

“Submittal of an NOI is one of 15 provisions required by the Solar PBR regulations,” Tripp wrote in the email. “To receive authorization to construct and operate a small solar energy project, an applicant must submit a complete application to DEQ which includes all of the 15 provisions of the Solar PBR.”

Portions of the provision require an applicant to furnish the DEQ a certification by the governing body of the locality or localities wherein the small renewable energy project will be located that the project complies with all applicable land use ordinances;

According to DEQ’s solar guidance document, the local government certification should either be a letter on official letterhead stationery from a responsible official of the local government (e.g., county administrator or his designee) or the Local Governing Body Certification Form found in the solar guidance. The certification is required to ensure the project complies with all applicable land use ordinances.

Tripp noted that the “DEQ has NOT received a solar PBR application or a signed local governing body from Fairy Stone Solar, LLC,” in the email. “Because solar project siting approval is determined by localities, DEQ recommends that you consult with your County Attorney to consider whether the proposed project, Fairy Stone Solar, is consistent with Patrick County’s comprehensive plan, local ordinances, and any other applicable laws.”

Tripp could not be reached for additional comments or to explain the process.

A letter from Jeanne Trabulsi, of the Vienna-based Virginia Coalition for Human Rights, also noted that a solar company planned to locate in the county. It was dated Dec. 10, 2022, and distributed to 12 affected residents/landowners in Patrick County - primarily to those in “the community that directly surrounds the proposed solar site of Fairy Stone Solar,” she said.

Copies also were sent to the Patrick County Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission, Trabulsi said.

“Did you know that your property is located near a proposed 12MW solar facility in Stuart named Fairy Stone Solar,” the letter asked. The project, it explained, would be built “on 169 acres (between Commerce Street and the South Mayo River).”

The letter suggested residents discuss the proposal with the Patrick County Board of Supervisors and/or the Planning Commission at the respective December meetings.

A map of the proposed project

(pictured) also was included, along with the caption - Fairy Stone Solar, LLC—Two parcels outlined in purple owned by Five Rock Cidery, LLC in Bellview, Florida. The cross-hatched area represents the flood zone of the South Mayo River.

Jim Best, the agency’s SW Virginia coordinator, also presented a slide-show about the proposed project to the Planning Commission on January 17.

A map of a proposed project was included in a 2022 letter to affected residents and county officials.

New report shows number of Virginia farms, farm acreage remained steady last year

A new report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows the number of Virginia farms remained the same from last year, bucking a national trend of farm declines.

According to the recently released USDA Farms and Land in Farms 2022 Summary report, the total number of farms in Virginia in 2022 was 41,500, unchanged from 2021. The total Virginia land in farms also remained unchanged from the previous year, with 7.7 million acres and an average farm size of 186 acres in 2022.

“The number of Virginia farms has been trending lower since at least 2012, so maintaining the number of farms in 2022 is good,” said Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. “It may speak well of our diversity among the numerous farm types here, or it may be a reflection of improvements in on-farm gross margins coming out of state and federal COVID-19 response.”

While the commonwealth’s unchanged farm and farmland numbers are welcome news, it’s too early to tell if the overall trend in farm declines is slowing or reversing in Virginia, Banks noted. Since 2015, Virginia’s farmland has shrunk from approximately 8.1 million acres to 7.7 million acres, with around 3,200

farms lost.

“Aside from increased competition from development and solar energy projects and the aging farmer population, the last three years have witnessed tremendous pressure on farm margins and expenses, as well as additional supply chain disruptions due to the war in Ukraine,” Banks explained.

Nationally, the number of farms in 2022 is estimated at 2,002,700, down 9,350 farms from 2021. Total farmland also decreased, by nearly 2 million acres since 2021, resulting in 893,400,000 farmed acres last year.

The overall declining rate of farms and farmland is an issue that weighs heavily on those involved in farming. Banks noted that factors like economic pressure, families leaving the farm and high operating costs cause many producers to shut down. Additionally, high startup costs prohibit many from entering farming.

“It’s worrisome that we continue to lose farms, especially mid-sized farms,” he said. “We saw what can happen when our food system relies on a few businesses to process and distribute food. We need to maintain as much production diversity and flexibility as we can. Otherwise we can expect to see greater concentration of food production at the farm level and a greater potential to weaken our country’s food security.”

Favorites

(cont. from page 2)

Returning with powerhouse vocal performances, Caitlin Krisko & the Broadcast hail from Asheville, N.C., and captivate audiences with a perfect balance of power and vulnerability.

Front Porch Fest fan-favorite, Winston-Salem’s Big Daddy Love is no gentle string quartet and has been described as “a blend of rock, bluegrass, southern soul, and psychedelic jams,” and will be returning for another year with fresh arrangements and soon to be announced special guests. Seven piece Americana Brass band The Judy Chops will be back on the FPF stages with its chameleon-like arrangements and modern take on vintage sounds. Richmond’s The Wilson Springs Hotel will be making its Front Porch Fest debut and will surely have the audience dancing to tones of traditional country and western swing, bluegrass, folk, and rock that create a unique and individual sound. The cutting edge Isaac Hadden Organ Trio redefines the modern organ trio and carves out a distinct voice in the world of funk, jazz, rock, and R&B. Local groovy blues band, Slick Jr & the Reactors brings its unique perspective to the blues with a blend of original materials and groovy covers. Eclectic, familial folk-rock group Striking Copper effortlessly combines rhythm-driven rock, haunting vocal arrangements, and harmony-rich Americana. Featuring soaring guitar and pedal steel over a heavy groove, Marvelous Funkshun has toured the Southeast heavily since 2014 with dynamic, foot-stomping get downs. If Jerry Garcia and Tom Waits made an Appalachian music duo, it might sound a little like the Brown Mountain Lightning Bugs, which blends the traditional with the trippy to create original mu-

sic which has been called folk(ish). With many more bands to come over two more announcements, this initial drop has something for everyone in the family to enjoy. Whether your favorite band is on the bill, or you’re looking for fresh, new music from singer-song writers to nationally touring powerhouses, the caliber and diversity of music at Front Porch Fest promises to deliver.

Tickets are available online now and guests can choose from 4-day general admission tickets or a limited supply of VIP tickets that include meals, drinks, FPF swag and discounts. Day tickets will be released in the coming months. Limited quantities of car camping tickets remain. Tent camping does not require a pass. The festival is a family friendly event and children 12 and under are free but do require a ticket. The festival features delicious food vendors, tasty libations and eclectic and creative merchandise vendors to ensure an enjoyable weekend. For additional information, to see the lineup, and to purchase tickets for this unforgettable weekend, search for Front Porch Fest on social media or visit the website at www.frontporchfest.com.

FPF is produced by One Family Productions, a non-profit organization with the mission of promoting and supporting community enrichment and growth. OFP creates impactful partnerships and events that are accessible, innovative and engaging. Proceeds from this event are donated to local charities such as the Patrick County Community Food Bank, Caring Hearts Free Clinic of Patrick County and others. More information about the community impact of One Family Productions and ways to get involved can be found at onefamilyproductions.org.

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Cynthia M. Jones, AA, AS



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Hearing

(cont. from page 1)

but review it from the perspective of these companies and their motive to see if further revisions are needed to the ordinance to protect the county," she said.

Clement said trying to figure out who really owns the companies is confusing, especially when many of the LLCs are owned by other corporations.

"I also encourage you to review the ordinance, application process, and documentation itself and consider requiring any LLC applicant to disclose their true business type of organization and ownership, company contracts, years in business, lists of projects completed and under construction, and contract lists of other

localities as reference checks on why they really are and the quality of work they could perform and even require audited financial statements or similar financial documents be submitted," she said.

Clement also suggested the county should review the ordinance for any third-party consultants or contractors needed and ensure the third parties are selected by the county but paid for by the solar company.

She suggested the board and community visit www.citizensfor-responsible-solar.org for more information about solar companies.

*Heard from Jamie Clark, of the Peters Creek District, about an alleged solar panel farm on South Mayo Drive.

Clark said reports in some print media state the former county administrator signed off on a request to have a solar farm installed on South Mayo Drive in Stuart on Oct. 22, 2021, without being reviewed by the county's building inspector or Planning Commission.

"Now, my neighbors and I are being forced to have another unwanted development in our neighborhood. Several years ago, a local junkyard moved into our community, and we had no recourse to keep a commercial



Jane Fulk, of the Planning Commission and former supervisor of the Dan River District, said the commission will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. on March 21 to discuss the county's Comprehensive Plan. That hearing will be held in the Community Room at the Stuart site of Patrick & Henry Community College.

business out of our residential community," he said.

Clark said this is not the only proposed solar farm in the works for the county.

"In recent days, I've learned about two other solar farms that are in the works, and both of these locations are less than five miles from the proposed South Mayo Drive site," he said.

He noted the county currently has a cell tower ordinance that regulates the distance between cell towers, so the county isn't cluttered with towers and blinking lights. He wants any future ordinance involving solar farms to include this language.

Clark said the county does not have a zoning ordinance.

*Heard from Jane Fulk, a member of the Planning Commission and of the Dan River District, about the

county's Comprehensive Plan.

As the county does not include zoning, Fulk said the county's comprehensive plan needs to have in it about renewable energy.

Fulk requested all correspondence regarding solar or renewable energy be forwarded to Larry Crowley, chairman of the Planning Commission.

"We have a great deal of correspondence that we never got. We didn't know anything about it. In fact, I got some more today," she said.

Fulk said she doesn't know who's in charge of getting it and knows the board doesn't get it, "but some way, it goes through the administration process and whoever gets it, I would like for you all to make sure they send it to the chairman of the Planning Commission



Mary Beth Clement spoke about solar during the meeting.

so we can be up to date and not go in cold," she said.

*Approved the meeting minutes.

*Approved the bills, claims, and appropriations.

*Heard an update from Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Director Rebecca Adcock.

*Heard an update from Tourism Coordinator James Houchins.

*Appointed Barbara Jo Newton to the Public Service Authority (PSA).

*Heard supervisors' reports.

*Heard an update on DMV hours. Assistant

County Administrator Donna Shough said the DMV Select is currently training two new employees. The DMV will be closed on March 14, and March 20-24 for training.

"There may be additional closure hours in March and April for inventory and further

training. So, we're asking for patience and understanding while the DMV Select is in this transition period," she said.

*Approved Shough as the third check signature for payroll and vendor checks until a county administrator is named.

*Approved Emergency Management Service (EMS) equipment recommendations through the FY23 capital equipment fund.

*Scheduled a public hearing for April 17 to discuss a school bus video surveillance ordinance.

*Adopted a resolution of a Governing Body for a Jail Vehicle grant. Shough said the Patrick County Sheriff's Office is eligible for a 75 percent grant of up to \$50,000 to purchase two-three vehicles.

*Introduced Travis Murphy as the new Recreation Director.

Budget

(cont. from page 1)

appropriation."

The revenue budget is \$34,827,458.06. The fiscal year 2022-2023 budget was \$34,847,872.81.

"Our overall total budget that we're projecting is actually \$20,414.75 less next year than what we're operating this year," he said.

Wood said the division's budget committee also met with the county officials for a budget workshop.

"We had probably the most productive meeting I can remember us having. Great discussions, and it seems from just the discussions we had back and forth that they're going to include this amount in their budget," he said.

Walter Scott, chairman and of the Smith River District also said the budget meeting went well.

"It was the best budget meeting I've ever been to with the county. I think it's looking really well," he

said.

In other matters, the board:

*Discussed the upcoming 2023 Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Spring Networking Forum.

*Heard from Norma Bozenmayer about the recent Distinguished Patrick Countian Assembly.

*Approved the personnel report as amended.

*Heard the superintendent's report.

*Approved the consent agenda.

*Approved the elementary school handbook.

*Discussed the revised 1 percent sales tax project list.

*Approved directing Wood to seek requests for proposals (RFP) for all of the projects listed in phase II of the 1 percent sales tax project list.

*Directed Wood to meet with Patrick County Treasurer Sandra Stone and discuss the possibility of moving funds into a high-interest account, and any penalties that may occur if the funds need to be



Norma Bozenmayer discussed the Distinguished Patrick Countian Assembly. (Contributed by Amy Walker.)



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Unemployment rate increased in January

Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in January to 3.2 percent, which is 0.3 of a percentage point above the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in January, the labor force increased by 17,127 to 4,487,399 as the number of unemployed residents increased by 5,013 to 144,754. The number of employed residents rose by 12,114 to 4,342,645. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which edged downward to 3.4 percent.

The Commonwealth's labor force participation rate rose to 65.4 percent in January. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.

Virginia's nonagricultural employment, from the monthly establishment survey, rose by 19,700 jobs in January to 4,131,600. December's preliminary estimate was revised up by 14,000, adding to that month's job gain. In January, private sector employment increased by 20,400 jobs to 3,411,900 while public sector employment

declined by 700 to 719,700. A decrease within that sector occurred in state government (-1,900 jobs), while federal government grew by 900 jobs and local government rose by 300 jobs over the month.

Employment rose in eight of eleven major industry sectors and declined in three. The largest job gain during January occurred in professional and business services, with an increase of 8,700 jobs to 816,500. The second largest increase occurred in leisure and hospitality (+6,900 jobs) to 408,300. Education and health services was third, with a gain of 2,400 jobs, rising to 570,200. Other increases included miscellaneous services (+1,100 jobs) to 195,500, finance (+600 jobs) to 214,800, construction (+400 jobs) to 215,100, manufacturing (+400 jobs) to 245,700, and trade, transportation, and utilities (+200 jobs) to 667,500. The largest job loss during January occurred in government (-700 jobs) to 719,700. The second largest decrease occurred in information, with a decrease of 200 jobs to 71,200. The third largest loss occurred in mining with a decrease of 100 jobs to 7,100.

Revenues are ahead of projections

General fund revenue collections for February 2023 were 1.2 percent higher in the first eight months of FY 2023, compared to the same period the previous year, according to Gov. Glenn Youngkin. Relative to the official forecast updated in December, unadjusted general fund revenues are ahead of forecast by \$111.3 million year-to-date.

"February's revenue numbers confirm that our December forecast continues to accurately represent that we will have a multi-billion-dollar surplus," said Youngkin. "Virginians remain overtaxed, and the Commonwealth has abundant resources available to lower costs and cut taxes for families and local businesses. At the same time, we can make critical investments to transform our behavioral health system, invest in education and law enforcement, and strengthen communities across Virginia. With the continuing uncertainties in the global economy and recent turbulence at U.S. banks, Virginia remains in a position of strength to deliver services and reduce taxes for Virginians."

"February revenue collections came in ahead of plan" said Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. "Results have exceeded expectations based upon a stronger than expected economy since we issued our forecast. In accordance with that forecast, we continue to expect an economic downturn to occur, albeit later than originally anticipated. Overall, results year-to-date support our outlook, and we continue to have confidence in our December forecast."

Traditionally, February is one of the smallest revenue collection months and marks the beginning of the tax filing season when refunds for the 2022 tax year begin to be issued. Slowdowns in revenue sources such as withholding collections were largely anticipated and included in the December forecast. Unanticipated weakness in corporate income and deed recordation tax collections is being offset by higher interest income. March collections will provide additional insight into individual refunds for the filing season.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Committee on House Administration

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith

Thanks to the new Republican majority, this Congress my committee responsibilities have expanded. Along with serving on the Energy and Commerce Committee, in January I was selected by Speaker Kevin McCarthy as one of eight Republicans to serve on the Committee on House Administration.

While not well known, the House Administration Committee has a significant portfolio.

Part of our job is focusing on Capitol Hill, overseeing the daily operations of the House of Representatives.

Since the beginning of this Congress, our biggest priority has been to restore regular order to the House, which the Committee hasn't done since 2017.

This includes bringing greater transparency and accountability to House operations. We've had hearings to review each committee's budget requests for the Congress, to ensure efficient use of House resources. We've also given individual Members the opportunity to testify on issues under our jurisdiction and provide feedback on how we can make the People's House more effective.

The Committee is also striving to make the House more open and accessible to the American people by completely reopening the Capitol complex. With the pandemic largely behind us, it's time for Americans to once again have the chance to engage with their Representatives in person.

House Administration is also tasked with overseeing Capitol security, including lapses in security on Jan. 6, 2021. In fact, we recently announced that the Oversight subcommittee, of which I am a member, is launching an investigation into the January 6th Committee, created by House Democrats last Congress. We will be reviewing not only security failures on that day, but also whether pertinent information about the riot was omitted in the Committee's examination.

The Committee also has broad jurisdiction over our federal elections. While our role is limited, we do provide oversight over the Federal Elections Commission and Election Assistance Commission.

The Committee also has two joint Committee under its jurisdiction, which is a committee that consists of both Senate and House members. I am a member of the Joint Committee on Printing, which oversees the operations of the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO). It serves, by law, as the principal printing organization for Federal agencies.

Recently, the Republican members of the Committee gathered in the Capitol for a retreat, where we

spent two days discussing each of our responsibilities as Members of the Committee and our goals for the next two years.

One of my favorite activities during the retreat was visiting the Library of Congress, which is under the jurisdiction of the Committee. Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress is one of the largest libraries in the world, containing approximately 173 million items.

While there, we toured the Preservation Directorate and Conservation Division of the Library, responsible for the conservation of the library's paper-based special collections.

We were shown fascinating pieces from our country's founding, including George Washington's Commission as General of the Continental Army and Thomas Jefferson's original rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, written from June 12-27, 1776. Also, Francis Scott Key's original draft of the Star-Spangled Banner.

We had a chance to view a couple items belonging to Abraham Lincoln, including his second Life Mask (made two months before his death, plaster was placed on Lincoln's face to preserve his likeness) and notes for his Second Inaugural Address. We were also shown the contents of Lincoln's pockets from when he was assassinated at Ford's Theatre in April 1865.

This opportunity was particularly special for me as I have spent many years collecting antique paper and at one point was a dealer of antique paper. A few years ago, I reached out to the Library of Congress to inquire about a book I inherited from my grandmother. Though the library had one copy, they requested to come to my office to see the book in person.

A favorite piece in my collection was an 18th century printing of recent Acts of the Assembly and a discussion on the Alien and Sedition Acts. I have since donated this piece to the Library of Virginia (Virginia's version of the Library of Congress).

Now that it is open again, I encourage anyone coming to D.C. to visit the Library of Congress where you can see incredible mementos from our country's founding and throughout our history.

You likely will also stop at one of the Smithsonian Institution museums, which also falls under House Administration Committee jurisdiction.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, my Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, or via email at www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

Blood Drive set for April 11

Thank you, Patrick Jessup & Associates for supporting Patrick County's oldest blood drive this month. We were always interested in adding to our roster of volunteers. If you are interested in giving back to your community, please consider volunteering your time with the Patrick County Blood Drive, the oldest continuing blood drive in the county. Please stop by the next blood drive or contact one of the volunteers for further information.

Please remember that the American Red Cross encourages donors to make an appointment for your

time to donate via internet at redcross.org or by calling 1-800-733-2767. Walk-ins are welcomed but please know that your donation might take longer as those with appointments are accommodated first.

Next month's blood drive is scheduled for April 11, Tuesday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the John D. Hooker Building in Stuart.

Gene Stirewalt, Stuart

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Weekly SUDOKU

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Letters to the Editor/Viewpoints Policy

The Enterprise welcomes letters to the editor and/or reader viewpoints of 500 words or less. Submissions may be edited for clarity, length, legal ramifications or general taste at the editor's discretion. We reserve the right to refuse to publish submitted letters for the same reasons. All letters must be signed by an individual and include community. Verifiable sources for information cited must be forwarded to the editor. Letters that do not meet these guidelines will not be considered for publication.

Disclaimer: Viewpoints and opinions expressed in letters selected for publication are the opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Enterprise.

Social Security Matters

By National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – How Do I Withdraw My Application for Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I will be 67 next month and reached my full retirement age in July 2022. My wife and I are discussing whether we should take Social Security now or wait until we are age 70 to get a higher benefit. I remember reading that you can start Social Security and, if not needed, pay it back within a year and then “reset” to get a higher benefit by waiting longer. Please describe the steps of this process to take now and repay the year’s benefits if we do not need them. Signed: Uncertain

Dear Uncertain: Well, to exercise the so-called “do over option” (which is essentially withdrawing your application for benefits), you need to contact Social Security (1.800.772.1213 or your local SS field office) and request that your application for benefits be withdrawn. You can also download and complete form SSA-521 and deliver the same to your local Social Security office. You can get that form at this link: www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-521.pdf.

This “do-over option” is only available within 12 months of the date you submit your application and can only be done once in your lifetime. If you use it, you will be required to repay Social Security for all payments made on your behalf, including not only your monthly payments but also any income taxes you had withheld, and any Medicare premiums which were withheld from your monthly payments (Social Security will inform you how much you must repay). Once the repayment is made, it will be as though you never applied for benefits, meaning your benefit amount will be higher when you later re-apply (which would also be the case if you simply didn’t apply – your benefit entitlement continues to grow until you claim, up to age 70 when your maximum SS benefit is attained). This process would be the same for both you and your wife.

However, I suggest you consider whether you really need to withdraw your application. Be aware that since you’ve already reached your full retirement age (FRA) you can claim now and, if you later decide you don’t need the monthly SS money, you can simply temporarily suspend your benefit payments to avoid repaying Social Security everything they’ve already paid to you and on your behalf (you don’t need to formally withdraw your application). By simply suspending (and not withdrawing), your benefit amount will start growing again with each month your benefits are suspended (about .67% more for each month you do not get benefits) and you can keep everything you’ve already received to the point you suspend your payments. To suspend your payments just call Social Security at the number provided above and tell them you wish to suspend your benefits and grow your payment amount. While you can only use the withdrawal process once in your lifetime, you can temporarily suspend your benefit payments multiple times if necessary.

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Your Doctor Just Ordered a Test: Questions You Should Ask

Many doctors today are behaving inappropriately— I’m not talking about their bedside manner, but their test ordering habits. Recently, there has been a push to try and limit certain procedures and tests that do not benefit a patient’s health. At first this was mostly a way for the government and insurance companies to control costs; however, it has grown to become a quality and safety initiative (see “Choosing Wisely” below for more information).

The Issue

Today, many people are given tests they don’t need. One recent study showed that of all the people who undergo a first time cardiac catheterization (or angiogram) that less than a third actually went on to requiring angioplasty or coronary bypass surgery! This means that two-thirds of the patients were exposed to radiation, had an invasive procedure, and didn’t need it. Those odds are worse than flipping a coin.

We are seeing this same phenomena in noninvasive testing as well, especially cardiac stress testing. More and more stress tests are being ordered, but less and less are abnormal. The percentage of stress test that are abnormal has dropped from 40.9% to only 8.7% over a 20-year period². This may mean we are testing more and more lower risk patients who are the least likely to benefit from the test. Why is this happening? There are multiple reasons:

1. Fear of Lawsuits. Doctors want to protect themselves from ‘missing something’.
2. Patient Expectations. Patients in the USA typically feel that more care = better care.
3. Fee for Service Payment Model. Doctors get paid

for doing things, not preventing them.

Why It’s Inappropriate

What’s the big deal if you have to get a test and it turns out normal? You may not always recognize it, but there is a risk/benefit ratio for everything. Every test will at least cost you some time and probably some money. There is also some type of risk: pain with a simple blood draw, radiation exposure and increased future cancer risk, or more serious ones such as stroke, heart attack, or even death with an invasive procedure. Besides these concerns, there is also a potential complication that is not often talked about called the ‘slippery slope’. This is when one test leads to another, which then leads to a procedure that ends in a complication. Unfortunately, this often occurs in patients who did NOT need the first test to begin with.

The JAMA network has published a whole series of articles on this called “Less is More”. The initial case report for this series tells about a nurse who had non-cardiac chest pain that underwent a CT scan that was abnormal, then an invasive heart catheterization, where there was a major complication (a coronary dissection which is a torn vessel) that required emergency bypass surgery, and eventually cardiac transplantation! The sad part of this story is that she did not need any tests to begin with and that she had no blockages in her heart arteries!

Choosing Wisely

So what can the average person do about this? Well, the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) along with Consumer Reports and almost every major medical society has joined together to form the “Choosing

Wisely” initiative. They have compiled lists of typically overdone tests and procedures by specialty and are asking both doctors and the patients to discuss the need to do them. This approach will hopefully foster more open discussion and a stronger doctor-patient relationship (aka therapeutic alliance). For more information check out: choosingwisely.org.

Suppose you don’t have access to the net, or forgot to bring the Choosing Wisely list with you, what can you do? There are several simple questions that you can ask your doctor about the test that he/she is recommending for you:

1. Do I really need to get this done?
2. Will the results change what you will recommend for me to do?
3. What do you expect the test results to be? If normal, why get it?
4. What are the risks of the test itself and future tests/procedures it could lead to?

The vast majority of doctors mean well, but you still have to be your own health advocate. Any good doctor will not mind, nor be offended, if you question their advice.

Sources:

Low Diagnostic Yield of Elective Coronary Angiography. New England Journal of Medicine. 2010.

Temporal trends in the frequency of inducible myocardial ischemia during cardiac stress testing: 1991 to 2009. Journal of the American College of Cardiology. 2013 March.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Harvey Hahn, MD. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

Pool

(cont. from page 1)

tacted recreation departments with a public pool within a 75-mile radius of Stuart, including as far as Winston-Salem in North Carolina, and all the way up to Roanoke.

“DeHart Park is the only pool that is not supported financially through the local government. All the facilities that I spoke to are funded each year by the local government, and I’m very proud that we, the DeHart Park Pool, have been able to maintain a self-sustained budget for over 40 years,” she said.

Corns added the facilities she talked to lose \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. She also noted that DeHart Park is the most expensive pool.

“In Winston-Salem, entry fees are \$2-3” to use the pool, she said. “In Galax, their prices are \$5 for an adult and \$1 for child. Our prices well exceed those surrounding us. We charge \$7 per adult and \$5 per child, so I don’t feel like we can raise our prices any more than we already have.”

Mayor Ray Weiland said the council wants to help because the pool benefits the whole

county.

“We have been in a good position lately, and I feel like this is the kind of thing that I prefer, that if we have a little money, to spread a little bit around,” he said.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons asked what Patrick County’s contribution to the pool was, considering DeHart Park is owned by the county.

Board member Lindsey Puckett said the county’s normal contribution to the pool was zero.

“There is \$0 to the pool. Last year, I think every park got \$1,500, so it was fair. The pool does not see financial support from the county, and there have been a lot of discussions between us and the supervisors trying to give them this information, so it’s not new to them when we meet like this,” she said.

Corns said she has also met with several members of the board to explain the need and show them the numbers.

“To be honest with you, if we don’t get assistance, which I feel like we’re going to - I’m being very positive, that we would have to close our doors,” she said.

Weiland said the council will look into its budget to see if it can give additional funds for the pool “because we feel like it’s an important thing in this county to keep that pool going, and to give the kids an opportunity to get out there and have some fun.”

In other matters, the council:

- *Approved the meeting minutes.
- *Paid the bills.
- *Accepted the Downtown Revitalization Plan.
- *Discussed derelict properties.
- *Approved going forward with blight removals.
- *Heard an update on the wastewater treatment plant.
- *Heard an update on public works.
- *Discussed town policy.
- *Approved an appraisal and feasibility study of the Star Theater that will be presented to the council at a future meeting.
- *Discussed painting the ca-boose.
- *Discussed the public works position and created a committee of Rebecca Adcock, Weiland, Jeff Houchins, and Terry Dalton to look at resumes and do the interview process.

Thank You for reading
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Varsity Softball Wins Two



Mckenzie Holt pitches for the win at home.

By Ashlee Mullis The Lady Cougars had hot bats in Stuart, on Thursday, March 16. Patrick County put 10 runs on the board

in the 1st inning on their way to a 12-2 win over Floyd County. McKenzie Holt got the start for PC, striking out 9 and giving up only 2 runs in the

win. Holt also had 2 hits with 3 RBIs and a triple. Lauren Fulcher was 3 for 3 with 5 RBIs and a home run. Madison Greer and Lilly Hazelwood had multiple hits and Hazelwood added a home run. On Friday, March 17, the Lady Cougars hosted Gretna, getting a 10-0 win. Journey Moore had the win from the circle, striking out 6 and giving up 1 hit. Samantha Harris had 2 home runs in the game. Mckenzie Holt, Journey Moore, and Alexis Knight had 2 hits each in the win.

Local swimmers go the distance in championship meet

Two local swimmers competed with the Martinsville Marlins at the 2023 PYSA Championship Meet earlier this month where the team won 35 individual and relay medals.

Kendra Vipperman (10) captured a gold medal in the 100 yard butterfly with a time of 1:48.58 and a silver medal in the 200 yard individual medley with a time of 3:35.14. Kipton Vipperman (7) placed sixth in the 100 yard freestyle with a time of 1:54.65.

Additionally, Kendra Vipperman qualified for the 2023 Upper Southeast Regional YMCA Championships to be held in Goldsboro, N.C. on March 16-19 in the 50 yard butterfly.

Eight YMCA swim teams from across the region competed on March 3-5 in the Piedmont YMCA Swimming Association League Championships at the Salem Family YMCA, in Sa-



lem. The Martinsville YMCA Marlins swim team competed against teams from Southside Virginia, Franklin County, Eden, Alta Vista, Alleghany Highlands, Bedford, and Salem. The Marlins finished 5th in the team standings.

There were 205 swimmers at the event, ranging in age from 4-18 years old. Twelve Marlin swimmers swam at the championship meet.

The Marlins have been practicing since September and have competed in fifteen meets prior to the championships. The Marlins were coached this season by Cameron Jones and Hunter Goad, both in their second seasons.

“Our team has put in a lot of practice time, and it shows,” Jones said. “I am extremely proud of them, and I am excited to coach another season.”

“Our Marlins finished the swim season

strong. I am so proud of the dedication and hard work each swimmer put in at practice and meets, and excited to see them continue their commitment into the summer season,” Goad said. “We foster a supportive, yet competitive swimming atmosphere, and I am honored to coach such skilled athletes.”

“Working with the swim team is the highlight of my job,” said Martinsville YMCA Aquatics Director Pamela Foley. “I have watched some of these kids grow up, and it means the world to me to see them meet their goals. All of them make me so proud and I can’t wait to see what our next season holds.”

The Marlins will start to practice again on April 10 for the summer league. Any swimmer, aged 5-17, and all levels are invited to join. Please contact Pamela Foley at the YMCA if interested in joining the team.



Jai Penn gets the win on the mound.

Varsity Cougar Baseball Gets Two Wins

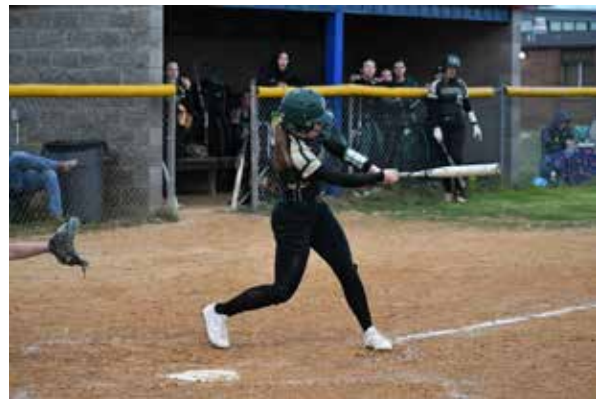
By Ashlee Mullis The Cougars played Floyd County Tuesday, March 14, defeating the Buffaloes 8-2. Jai Penn got the start on the mound,

going 5 innings, striking out 12, walking 1, and allowing no runs. Jackson Horton came in in relief, pitching the remaining two innings. Martin Sawyers led the Cougars at the plate with 2 hits and 2 RBIs. Penn

added 2 hits while Jackson added a double and 2 RBIs. Tucker Swails and Stuart Callahan had 1 hit each.

The Cougars hosted Gretna on Friday night, getting a 9-1 win. Swails got the win on the mound going 4 innings allowing 1 hit and 0 runs. Penn led at the plate with 3 hits. Swails and Jackson Horton had 2 hits each.

Lady Cougar Softball Team Drops First Game of Season



By Ashlee Mullis The PCHS Varsity Softball Team lost to Dan River 12-11 in Ringgold, on Monday, March 13. Lauren Fulcher went 4-4 with 4 RBIs. Journey Moore went 3-4, and Madison Greer was 3-5. Fulcher, Moore, and Lilly Hazelwood

had a home run each. McKenzie Holt was in the circle for the Lady Cougars, striking out 9. Moore finished up on the mound. Patrick County had the lead until the last inning, where the Lady Wildcat bunt game was too much for the Cougars.

Regional Honors Announced

By Ashlee Mullis

Boys Basketball- Senior Point Guard Jaivontae Penn was named 1st Team All-Region 2C Player. Penn scored 23.2 points per game in region competition, averaged 6 rebounds, 6 assists, 3 steals, and shot 48% from the field, per contest. Senior Small Forward David Smith was named 2nd Team All-Region 2C. Smith averaged a double-double in region play, as well as the entire season, scoring 16.7 points a game in region play and bringing in 10.7 rebounds per contest.

Girls Basketball Senior Missy Hazard was named 1st Team All-Region 2C. She averaged 11.9 points, 6.0 assists, 5.2 rebounds, and 4.1 steals per game. She had a 46.1 field goal percentage and 40.1 3-point goal percentage. Hazard plans to continue her basketball career at Hollins University. Junior Aniya Penn was named 2nd Team All-Region 2C. Penn averaged 9.7 points, 7.4 rebounds, 2.5 steals, and 1.7 assists per game.

Wrestling 2nd Team All-Regional honors went to Sophomore Ethan Cobbler (120), Senior Juan Pablo Gutierrez (126), Senior Trent Alexander (138), Sophomore Paul Pascale (215), and Senior Ricky Mejia (285). Honorable Mention went to Senior Jonathan Culler (106), Sophomore Jackson Iacovone (132), Junior Stephen Spencer (144), Freshman Ben Knight (113), Senior Rawl Mabe (175), and Senior Tristan Hardy (190).

Joey Logano drives dominant Ford to victory in NASCAR Cup race at Atlanta

By Reid Spencer
NASCAR Wire Service

Deftly maneuvering his No. 22 Ford through the final two laps of Sunday's Ambetter Health 400, Joey Logano finished the NASCAR Cup Series race where he started—at the front of the field.

With a push from Christopher Bell on the backstretch on the final lap, Logano moved to the outside of leader Brad Keselowski with huge momentum and charged past Keselowski's No. 6 Ford into the lead.

Logano pulled down to the inside lane through the final two corners and crossed the finish line .193 seconds ahead of Keselowski and .194 seconds ahead of third-place Bell.

“Yeah, first off so special to win Atlanta for me,” said Logano, a Connecticut native who began to refine his talent racing Legends cars at Atlanta. “So many memories of me and my dad racing right here on the quarter mile. This is the full circle for us. So many memories gritting over there with the Legends car, racing, having a big time.

“Dreaming of going straight at the quarter mile and going onto the big track. That was always the dream to do it. To finally win here means so much to me here personally, but the team.

“The Auto Trader Mustang—this thing was an animal. Very, very fast. Able to lead a ton of laps, race really hard there at the end, get a good push from the 20 (Bell) to clear myself. Huge victory. Nice to get one early in the season. Always feels better, but what a great day for us.”

Logano's first victory of the season and first at Atlanta was no surprise. On Saturday, the reigning series champion led eight Ford drivers into the top eight starting positions for Sunday's race.

Logano won the first stage wire-to-wire, leading the first 63 laps. In Stage 2, he finished second to Team Penske teammate Austin Cindric. All told, Logano led 140 of the 260 laps. Keselowski was second with 47 laps led.

The victory was Ford's first of the season after Chevrolet driv-



Joey Logano, driver of the #22 Autotrader Ford, leads the field to the green flag to start the NASCAR Cup Series Ambetter Health 400 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on March 19, 2023 in Hampton, Georgia.

ers claimed trophies in the first four events. Logano is the second straight driver to win from the pole at Atlanta, following Chase Elliott last summer.

Disappointed with second place,

Keselowski was nevertheless elated with the quality of racing in the closing laps.

“The coolest thing about this race is two veterans showed you can run

(See NASCAR p. 13)

Tennis Team Falls to Floyd

By Ashlee Mullis

The Lady Cougars were defeated by the Lady Buffaloes with a 1-8 overall score March 15. In singles, Marissa Bentley fell to Emma Schroeder 6-8, Mia Stowe fell to Alayna Harris 2-8, Madison Mullis fell to Emma Currie 2-8, Cecilia Leon-Cisneros fell to Madi Sloser 0-8, Katie Vernon fell to Jasmine Locke 3-8, and Shyanne Holt falls to Ellie Woods 0-8. In Doubles, Marissa Bentley/Mia Stowe defeated Emma Schroeder/Alayna Harris 8-1, Madison Mullis/Cecilia Leon-Cisneros fell to Emma Currie/Jasmine Locke 2-8, and Katie Vernon/Shyanne Holt fell to Madi Sloser/Addie Vest 0-8.



Cougar Baseball Open Season with Win



Stuart Callahan opens the season on the mound for the Cougars.

Pioneers

(cont. from page 2)

Andrew Doss shared the following stories about his great-great grandfather. "Once, they were working on the mountain road and Preacher Lackey had left to get some supplies. The men had finished up to the point that Lackey had told them to, then they stopped and sat around and talked. Lackey returned and said, 'What in the world are you all doing standing around? You can't get no work down with your shovels on your back!'"

While Preacher Lackey was managing a road gang, sawmilling, and preaching, Doss stated that "he rarely missed appointments to visit. Many times, he forced horses into high water to make it across the river. He once preached at Roanoke Central Church of the Brethren, and the audience said it seemed like John the Baptist had returned. Everywhere he went, his presence was so magnetic that everyone wanted to meet him, shake his hand, or even offer him money. It was said that many of the boys and girls in the Rocky Knob area of Floyd County owed him the credit for starting them on the road to happy and productive careers."

Doss also shared that "By 1919, Cain was a prominent prohibitionist, a member of the Anti-Saloon League, and spoke for Temperance groups all over the state. As a fervent Temperance man, Lackey received authority to bust stills and arrest bootleggers. He would go to public places and try to convince people to quit drinking and push to ban liquor production. One producer told him that his liquor didn't hurt anyone in Patrick County. Preacher Lackey protested that hurting a mother's boy in New York was the same as hurting a mother's boy at home. Of the alcohol problem in Patrick County, Lackey said "I'm going to stay here and fight the devil as long as I live."

One of Lackey's most clever (and humorous) examples of his fight for sobriety was shared by the late Joel Naff, who served as a sum-

mer pastor at Smith River Church of the Brethren. Preacher Lackey was preaching at an outdoor revival in the community. Two intoxicated young men began to disrupt the services by being loud and disrespectful. The sheriff came to arrest the young men and the judge allowed Preacher Lackey to pass sentence at their day in court. Preacher Lackey said to just give them a couple of days in jail. The judge was surprised by his leniency, but soon found out what Lackey had planned. Once the boys were locked up, Lackey brought his Bible and began to preach to them! He reported that one of the boys hid in the corner of the cell for a while, but later came around to listen to the Word. Both of these young men later joined the church.

Preacher Lackey managed to find the time to found Goodwill Church of the Brethren and become Supervisor of the Smith River District of Patrick County in 1923. The Smith River Church of the Brethren was Preacher Lackey's primary congregation, but he traveled around Virginia and North Carolina and led revival services. Lackey partnered with his son-in-law Posey Nolen (husband of Malissa) and together they rode the circuit on horseback, evangelizing homes both in the mountains and the lowlands and baptizing.

Preacher Lackey suffered from diabetes for many years. As his health declined, and despite his wife's urging, he desperately tried to attend as many church meetings as he could. He said, "If there is any good going on, I want to be there to enjoy it too." He died on July 3rd, 1933, at age of 64 years and 6 months. Posey Nolen and S. L. Ross conducted his funeral. He was buried in the Elgin cemetery.

Thank you so much to Andrew Doss for sharing all these wonderful photos and stories about his grandfather, Cain Lackey, a man to be much admired. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.

By Ashlee Mullis

The Patrick County Varsity Baseball Team traveled to Dan River, on Monday, March 13, getting a 3-2 win over the Wildcats. Stuart Callahan got the start and win on the mound going 4 innings. Jai Penn got the save while pitching 3 in-

nings. Tucker Swails led the Cougars at the plate going 2-3 with a double and an RBI. Jackson Horton also added a double and an RBI. Hunter Pendleton, Martin Sawyers, Stuart Callahan, and Gavin Fain also added a hit for the Cougars.

Prepare now for extreme spring weather

Strong winds, tornadoes, hailstorms, lightning and flash floods – these are just some of the severe weather events that can accompany the arrival of spring.

Severe weather can strike anywhere and anytime. Advance planning is the key to protecting yourself, your loved ones and your property – both physically and financially.

The State Corporation Commission's (SCC) Bureau of Insurance (Bureau) encourages Virginians to plan now for the possibility of extreme spring weather. "Assess your risk and make sure you have the insurance coverage you need if severe weather causes damage to your home, business, vehicles or other property," said Virginia Insurance Commissioner Scott A. White.

The bureau encourages Virginians to consider the following:

Review your insurance policy and contact your insurance agent or company if

you have any questions about your coverage.

Create a detailed inventory of your belongings including photos and receipts of your property if you have them. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) provides a free home inventory app that can help you with this process. Additionally, you can use the NAIC's Home Inventory Checklist as a guide. Store your home inventory checklist and insurance policy information in a secure, waterproof location.

Most homeowners and renters insurance policies do not cover losses due to flooding. If you believe that you may need flood coverage, talk to your insurance agent about how to obtain flood insurance or visit the National Flood Insurance Program website at floodsmart.gov. Keep in mind that there is typically a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effect.

Automobile other-than-collision insurance coverage, often called "comprehensive" insurance coverage, helps pay to repair or replace vehicles if they are stolen or damaged by such things as fire, water, wind, hail, vandalism, glass breakage, falling objects or contact with an animal.

If your home, business, vehicles or other property are damaged due to severe weather, the Bureau

recommends that Virginians keep several steps in mind:

Contact your insurance company or agent as soon as possible after the danger or risk has passed.

Take photos of your damaged property once it is safe to do so.

Save the receipts for the costs of any emergency repairs that are needed to prevent further damage to your property.

If you feel you are treated unfairly, contact the Bureau of Insurance Property & Casualty Consumer Services team at 804-371-9185 or file a complaint.

The bureau offers free consumer guides for homeowners and commercial property owners with information about what to do when a disaster strikes. These and many other consumer insurance guides are available on the Bureau's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Insurance.

The bureau's specially trained staff can assist consumers with their insurance-related questions and concerns. To learn more, contact the Consumer Services Section of the bureau's Property and Casualty Division toll-free at 1-877-310-6560 or in Richmond at 804-371-9185.

For additional emergency preparedness information related to various types of disasters and hazards, visit the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website at vae-mergency.gov.

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Beatrice Hubbard Stovall

Mrs. Beatrice Hubbard Stovall, age 85 of Stuart, passed away Monday, March 13, 2023, at Heritage Hall Laurel Meadows in Laurel Fork, VA. She was born on August 5, 1937, in Patrick County to the late George McKinley Hubbard and Bertie West



Hubbard. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Billy Richard Stovall: five sisters, Pauline Cruise, Juel Sewell, Christine Kirk, Callie Snead, Louise Sewell; three brothers, Ralph Hubbard, Dayton Hubbard, and Billy Hubbard. Beatrice loved spending time with her family. She enjoyed gardening, canning, and sharing her vegetables with her friends. She loved growing flowers, quilting, and reading. She was an avid basketball and softball player in high school.

Surviving is one daughter and son-in-law, Brenda and Roger Conner of Meadows of Dan; three grandchildren, Ashley Hihn and husband, Mi-

chael of Suffolk, VA, Roger Conner II of Meadows of Dan, VA, Tammy Sarvis and husband Douglas of Aynor SC; two great-grandchildren: Hannah Grace Sarvis and Maverick Paul Hihn; one sister, Hope Hubbard Harris of Meadows of Dan, VA, and several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be held Saturday, March 18, 2023, at 2:30 PM at the Hubbard Family Cemetery with Bill Banks officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at Moody Funeral Home. Flowers will be accepted, or memorial donations may be made to The Patrick County Master Gardeners Association c/o Sylvia Cummings, 1506 Central Academy Road, Stuart, VA 24171, or The Patrick County Alzheimer's Association c/o P.O. Box 1301, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Patricia "Patty" Harris Hazelwood

Mrs. Patricia "Patty" Harris Hazelwood, age 67, of Stuart, Virginia went to be with her Lord and Savior in her heavenly home on Monday, March 13, 2023, at Moses Cone Hospital of Greensboro. She was born in Patrick County on May



two brothers, Kevin Harris of Martinsville, and George Harris of Stuart; one sister, Debbie Handy of Smith Mountain Lake; special friend, Sandy Davis; several nieces and nephews; her beloved dog, "Flop", and many dear friends.

A funeral service for Mrs. Patty Hazelwood will be held on Friday, March 17, 2023, at 12:00 noon at Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Stuart with Pastor Wayne Moore officiating. Burial will follow the service in the High Point Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends two hours prior to the service at the funeral home on Friday morning. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Patty may be made to the Patrick County Cougar Club, P.O. Box 225, Stuart, Virginia 24171 or to the Patrick County Rotary Club, P.O. Box 562 or to High Point Baptist Church, 2381 Big A School Road, Stuart, VA 24171. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is serving the Hazelwood family, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

15, 1955, to George William Harris and Catherine Biggs Harris. Patty was preceded in death by her father, George William Harris, mother-in-law, Nancy T. Hazelwood, and father-in-law, Homer R. Hazelwood. She was a faithful member of High Point Baptist Church. Everyone that knew Patty was assured of her love and devotion to the Lord, her family, and her community.

Left to cherish the sweet memories of Patty Hazelwood are her loving husband, Danny Hazelwood of the home; one son and daughter-in-law, Michael Hazelwood (Leigh Ann) of Stuart; one daughter and son-in-law, Misty Hazelwood Roberts (Andy) of Stuart; five grandchildren, Stuart Callahan, Lilly Hazelwood, Jackson Callahan, Jayden Callahan, and Lauren Hazelwood, all of Stuart; her mother, Catherine Biggs Harris of Stuart;

Douglas Leon Shuff, Sr.

Mr. Douglas Leon Shuff, Sr., age 74, of Woolwine, VA passed away Thursday, March 16, 2023, at Atrium Health-Wake Forest Baptist Hospital. He was born in Patrick County on October 24, 1948, to the late Warren G. and Agnes Rorer Shuff. In addition



to his parents, he was preceded in death by his father-in-law Hubert Wills, his mother-in-law Ruth Wills, his sisters-in-law Pat Shuff and Anita Nestor. Mr. Shuff's love for the Lord was shown through his dedication of the ministry for over 50 years. He was a semi-retired pastor of New Hope Pentecostal Holiness Church in Elkin, NC, and a member of the Cornerstone Conference of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church. He spent time each morning in prayer and Bible reading. He was a member of Buffalo Ridge Pentecostal Holiness Church. Mr. Shuff was blessed with a loving wife of 52 and a half years, three children, eight grandchildren, and four grand-dogs, with whom he loved spending time with. He enjoyed cooking, eating ice-cream, gardening, and old cars.

Surviving is his wife, Dorcas Wills Shuff of the home; one son and daughter-in-law, Douglas Shuff Jr. (Emily) of Woolwine, VA; two daughters and sons-in-law, Tabitha Shuff Sigmon (Steve) of Advance,

NC, Tonya Shuff Randolph (Ronnie) of Chesnee SC; eight grandchildren, Zachary Randolph, David Sigmon, AJ Sigmon, Lexie Shuff, Paisley Shuff, Nathan Shuff, Charlee Shuff, Christopher Shuff; one sister and brother-in-law, Rebecca Shuff Clark (Ron); two brothers, Bennett Shuff and Barney Shuff; sister-in-law, Patti Corum (Willie); brother-in-law, Bill Nester; and several nieces, nephews, as well as, great nieces and nephews.

A funeral service for Mr. Douglas Leon Shuff, Sr. will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at Buffalo Ridge Pentecostal Holiness Church in Woolwine with Pastor Kenneth Terry officiating. Burial will follow the service in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends one and a half hours prior to the service at the church on Saturday afternoon. The family will accept flowers, or memorial donations may be made to Global Outreach-International Pentecostal Holiness Church, P.O. Box 12609, Oklahoma City, OK 73157, or to Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 38, Woolwine, VA 24185. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is serving the Shuff family, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Sandra Kay Martin Akers

Ms. Sandra Kay Martin Akers, age 62, of Spencer, Virginia passed away on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at SOVAH Hospital of Martinsville. She was born in Martinsville on May 24, 1960, to the late Oscar Charlie Martin and the late Edna Pearl Craig Martin. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one brother, Lonnie Martin, one sister-in-law, Angie Martin, and one brother-in-law, Olin Pendleton. Sandra loved flowers, animals, and her family dearly. Ms. Akers will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.



(Ann) of Bassett, Virginia; her lifetime companion, Dewey "Junior" Penn of Spencer, Virginia; several nieces and nephews; and many special friends.

A funeral service for Ms. Akers will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

at Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Stuart with Pastor Ronald Penn and Pastor Burgie Penn officiating. Burial will follow the service in the County Line Church of God of Prophecy Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Thursday afternoon. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Ms. Akers may be made to the PAWS (Patrick Animal Welfare Society), P.O. Box 743, Stuart, VA 24171. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is serving the Akers family, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Left to cherish the wonderful memories of Ms. Akers are three sisters and brother-in-law, Shirley Pendleton of Stuart, Virginia, Peggy Haynes (Edward) of Stuart, Virginia, Betty Sue Martin of Stuart, Virginia; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Mike Martin (Gayle) of Bassett, Virginia, Kenneth Martin

Jerry Leonard Webb

Mr. Jerry Leonard Webb, age 74, of Meadows of Dan, Virginia passed away on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at Atrium Health-Wake Forest Baptist Hospital. He was born in Patrick County on July 25, 1948, to the late Avery Leonard and Joyce Farley Webb. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Timothy Mark Webb. Jerry was a member of Meadows of Dan Baptist Church. He was the owner of Jerry and Connie's House of Collectibles and loved his customers. Jerry worked for VDOT for 30 years.



one sister and brother-in-law, Judy Webb Turman (Dexter); four nephews; one great niece; and a dog, Scrap-Doo.

A funeral service for Mr. Webb will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at 12:00 noon at Meadows of Dan

Surviving is his loving wife of 51 years, Connie of the home; a son and daughter-in-law, Stacy Matthew Webb (Donna) of Quicksburg, VA; a daughter, Jennifer Lynn Schall (Todd) of Buchanan, VA; five grandchildren, Bailey Webb, D.J. Schall, Cory Schall, Katelynn Schall, Emma Schall; three great-grandchildren, Preston, Noah, Violet,

Baptist Church with Pastor Shawn Carter officiating. Burial will follow the service in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Mr. Webb may be made to the Vesta Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 911, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120. The family would like to extend a special thank you to the Vesta Rescue Squad for all their dedication and care given to Jerry and members of the community. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is serving the Webb family, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

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bring glory to the Lord? Timothy was encouraged to be faithful and endure hardness, which means suffering affliction. Paul illustrates this truth through a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer, all of whom suffered privation. Paul uses two examples, the supreme example of one who endured such hardship, Jesus Christ, and the second one, was himself.

As Believers how well are we at being representatives of Jesus Christ? Does Jesus approve of the way we live for Him? Does our lifestyle bring glory to the Lord? As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to do all things for the glory of the Lord. The Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 2:14-15 gives His son in the ministry, Timothy, instructions on being an approved worker for Jesus Christ. Paul first says to work hard to present yourself to God and receive His approval. Key thing is to seek God's approval, not man's. Again, I ask, does our lifestyle bring glory to the Lord?

Paul warns Timothy of the difficulties of the ministry and urges him to be strong in contrast to those who defected. We, too, need to be strong in the work of the Lord. Our work and service need to be pleasing to the Lord. People pleasing can cause us to get overwhelmed by the different things people request. Does our lifestyle

In Romans Chapter 12 verses 1-2, the Apostle Paul instructed the Roman church to give their bodies to God because of all he had done for them. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice, the kind He will find acceptable. This is pleasing to Him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then, you will learn to know God's will for you which is good and pleasing and perfect. Then, you will understand a lifestyle that brings glory to the Lord.

Do all things for the glory of the Lord. Seek His approval. Be faithful and endure. Live a lifestyle that brings glory to the Lord.

CHILD FIND

In accordance with Regulation Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia, the Patrick County Public Schools wish to announce the availability of special education services for those children who qualify.

Special Education services are available in Patrick County Public Schools for those (age birth to 21 inclusive) who are eligible in the following exceptionalities:

- * "Autism" means a developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age three, that adversely affects a child's educational performance. Other characteristics often associated with autism are engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines, and unusual responses to sensory experiences. The term does not apply if a child's educational performance is adversely affected primarily because the child has an emotional disturbance. A child who manifests the characteristics of autism after age three could be diagnosed as having autism if the criteria in this definition are satisfied.
- * "Deafness" means a hearing impairment that is so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing with or without amplification, which adversely affects educational performance.
- * "Deaf-blindness" means hearing and visual impairments occurring at the same time, the combination of which causes severe communication and other developmental and educational problems that cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or blindness.
- * "Hearing Impairment" means an impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child's educational performance, but which is not included under the definition of "deafness" in this section.
- * "Intellectual Disability" means significantly sub-average general intellectual functioning existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and manifested during the developmental period, which adversely affects a child's educational performance.
- * "Multiple Disabilities" means two or more impairments at the same time (such as intellectually disabled, blindness, learning disabled, orthopedic impairment, etc.) the combination of which causes such serious educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for one of the impairments. The term does not include deaf-blindness.
- * "Orthopedic Impairment" means a severe orthopedic impairment which adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes impairments caused by congenital anomaly (e.g. club foot, absence of some member), impairments caused by some disease (e.g. poliomyelitis, bond tuberculosis), and impairments from other causes (e.g. cerebral palsy, amputations and fractures or burns which cause contractures).
- * "Other Health Impaired" means having limited strength, vitality, or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment that is due to chronic or acute health problems such as asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, sickle cell anemia, and Tourette Syndrome.
- * "Emotional Disability" is defined as follows: 1) The term means a condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to marked degree, which adversely affects educational performance: a. an inability to learn which cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory or health factors; b. an inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers; c. inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances; d. a general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression; or e. a tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems. 2) The term includes schizophrenia. The term does not apply to children who are socially maladjusted, unless it is determined that they have an emotional disability.
- * "Specific Learning Disability" means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell or to do mathematical calculations. The term includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia and developmental aphasia. The term does not include children who have learning problems which are primarily the result of visual, hearing or motor disabilities or intellectual disabilities, or emotional disabilities or of environmental, cultural or economic disadvantage.
- * "Speech or Language Impairment" means a communication disorder, such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment, or a voice impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance.
- * "Visual Impairment" means a visual impairment that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness.
- * "Developmental Delay" means a disability affecting a child ages two through six: 1) who is experiencing development delays, as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, in one or more of the following areas: physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development, or adaptive development; and 2) who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.
- * "Traumatic Brain Injury" means an acquired injury to the brain, caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment or both, that adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas, such as cognition; language; memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgment; problem solving; sensory, perceptual, and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; information processing; and speech. The term does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative, or to brain injuries induced by birth trauma.

Children who exhibit impairments in the above listed categories should be referred for possible special services. Those who qualify will be provided a free and appropriate education as specified under the "Individuals With Disabilities Education Act". Parents of children who may qualify for services under IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 should contact the school's principal or Mrs. Elizabeth Minter, Director of Special Education at (276)694-3163.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Colossians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who hid 100 prophets in a cave when Jezebel was trying to kill them? Obadiah, Achan, Rachel, Joseph
3. In Revelation 21:1's vision, what will not exist in the world to come? Sky, Mountain, Sea, Darkness
4. What's the only animal/creature in the Bible that tells a lie? Serpent, Camel, Donkey, Dove
5. In which book is the phrase

"The nations are as a drop of a bucket"? TITLE: None, Genesis, Isaiah, Romans
 6. Which city was famous for its fallen walls? Derbe, Jericho, Corinth, Capernaum
 ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Obadiah, 3) Sea, 4) Serpent, 5) Isaiah 40:15, 6) Jericho
 Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.
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Super Crossword

STUDY OF GENESIS

- | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 47 Puccini work | 90 Camera item for a long or short view | 4 Lion features | 42 One of the four seasons | 80 Fashion designer Phillip |
| 1 Downhiller's headwear | 51 Gala after a presidential oath | 91 Down Under dweller | 5 French buds | 43 Wildly excited | 82 Name shared by 12 popes |
| 8 Mexican beach resort | 54 Cutting noise | 92 "Me? Never!" | 6 Moral failure | 44 Blast stuff | 84 Least cloudy |
| 14 Island home of Odysseus | 55 Quadrillionth: Prefix | 94 — Cruces | 7 Bowler, informally | 45 Sapporo sash | 86 Join forces |
| 20 University of Wyoming's city | 56 — epic scale | 95 Says "yes" to | 9 Clumsy sorts | 46 Prohibit | 87 Fall lawn tool |
| 21 Moon-landing program | 57 Musical insensitivity | 96 Celebratory event for a rollout | 10 Signal "yes" | 48 Just between us | 88 Rx writer |
| 22 Had to have | 59 Sets for viewing | 102 Swung tool | 11 Actor Montgomery | 49 Stream in the title of 1957's Best Picture | 89 A flirtatious look |
| 23 They appear before a film's first scene | 60 Perfume by Dana | 103 Green gem | 12 Radical sort | 50 Church area | 95 Element #8 |
| 25 Viewed to be | 61 Lured | 107 Prefix with directional | 13 GI's "Uh-uh!" | 52 Horse color pattern | 96 Safe securers |
| 26 Cakes of cornbread | 63 "You Gotta Be" singer of 1994 | 108 Cosmetician | 14 Owing money | 53 Fills with freight | 97 Love, in Italy |
| 27 Indy units | 65 Graduation address | Lauder | 15 PGA peg | 58 Irish actor Stephen | 98 Not stricken |
| 28 Bichon — (white dog) | 66 Graduation address | 109 Sainly | 16 Shoe lifts | 59 — or two (on occasion) | 99 Kidney-related |
| 30 Stitch's cartoon friend | 67 Keyless, musically | 111 Birds-and-bees class | 17 Grant entry to | 61 Lawyer Melvin called "The King of Torts" | 100 "Neon" fish |
| 31 Bleating females | 72 Many a Netflix show | 112 Stick together | 18 Singer/rapper Green | 62 — Moines | 102 Schooner fill |
| 32 Speedy plane | 73 "— Dinka Doo" (Jimmy Durante tune) | 114 Bible's first words (apt for this puzzle's theme) | 19 Attach | 64 Minis, midis and maxis | 103 One of the Bush twins |
| 33 It turns a computer on | 75 Candy in collectible dispensers | 117 Actress McNichol or Swanson | 24 Purring pet | 66 GPS display | 104 Around a line of symmetry |
| 35 Always, to bards | 76 "Mice" or "lice," but not "rice" | 118 Quarterback great Dan | 29 "Remington —" | 67 Tetley competitor | 105 AI — (a bit firm) |
| 36 Vintage auto | 77 Blowout, e.g. | 119 Flow out | 32 Bach's "—, Joy of Man's Desiring" | 68 Bridal gown features | 106 Knife features |
| 38 Active Sicilian volcano | 82 Look for prey, as a lion | 120 Smallish sofa | 33 Mediocre | 69 Grain towers | 109 Birds sitting on clutches |
| 39 Holders of emergency supplies | 83 Cyber-addresses | 121 Slip away | 34 108-card game | 70 Hammer's striking end | 110 Conical-bore woodwind |
| 43 Women with babies on the way | 85 Membership ceremony | 122 City in Arizona or Mexico | 35 Frozen waffle brand | 71 Since Hector was — | 111 Hosiery flaw |
| | 88 Phony: Prefix | | 36 Move in circles | 77 Starts to remove a jacket, say | 113 GPS display: Abbr. |
| | | | 37 "Lose Yourself" rapper | 78 — de Janeiro | 115 Trendy |
| | | | 39 Natural ability | 79 — Z (total) | 116 "It seems to me," online |
| | | | 40 Many short plays | | |
| | | | 41 Hoodwink | | |

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Puzzle answers page 16

CLASSIFIED

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HELP WANTED

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If you have been the victim or witness of a crime, please contact your local Victim/Witness program to learn about Crime Victim's Rights and assistance that may be available to you.

This is NOT a 24-hour hotline.



First Signature Art Piece by Local Artist unveiled by the Crooked Road



Artist Ellen Elmes with Dickenson County Representatives Town Mayor Danny Lambert, Town Councilman James Childress, Dana Cronkhite, Larry Barton.

The Crooked Road revealed its first signature art piece on Friday, March 10 in Clintwood, Virginia. The artwork, titled "The Magnificent Mandolin" was painted by local artist, Ellen Elmes, and was unveiled to tourism partners and community members at a private reception held at the Ralph Stanley Museum.

Elmes is a muralist and artisan from Jewell Ridge, Virginia whose paintings have been acclaimed for their unique, collage-style blend of symbolic imagery and flowing natural-

ism. From watercolor paintings inspired by the majesty of the ancient Appalachians, to painted expressions sparked by the songs and music of Carter and Ralph Stanley, to murals depicting the heart of rural communities, Elmes's art thrives on the rhythms of her personal life and community experiences.

Regarding the new Crooked Road signature art, Elmes said, "This painting evolved from both my love of the high-toned, high-spirited sound of the mandolin

and from my admiration of its curvy and organic shape. The scroll shape of the mandolin's upper



Crooked Road Director Carrie Beck with artist Ellen Elmes - Rita Surratt, Dickenson County Tourism, Scotty Wampler, Cumberland Plateau PDC - Michelle Workman, VTC.

body is particularly intriguing to me because it mirrors the natural form of the sea-dwelling chambered nautilus, a shell shape I have rendered in my design. This shell's graceful spiral of growth is seen in many forms of nature – the fiddlehead of a young fern, the seed pattern of a sunflower center, the swirl of a pinecone base – and its ratio of expansion common to all these forms was considered by the ancient Greeks to be the perfection of beauty; as they called it, the "Golden Spiral." I think the mandolin is a person-made perfection in sound and style."

The piece will be displayed at venues and

events throughout 2023 to promote heritage music in the region.

The Crooked Road and this project are supported [in part] by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Sup-

port for this project also comes from an award from the National Endowment for the Arts American Rescue Plan grant program.

For more information about The Crooked Road, visit www.thecrookedroadva.com, call (276) 492-2400 ext. 2409, or email info@thecrookedroad.org.



The Magnificent Mandolin Artwork.

Virginia peanut growers honor National Peanut Month by helping those in need

In honor of National Peanut Month, the Virginia Peanut Board, Virginia Peanut Growers Association and Peanut Proud donated a record-breaking number of peanut butter pallets to the Federation of Virginia Food Banks.

National Peanut Month is observed in March and celebrates the versatility of the peanut. Used in a variety of Virginia products, the legume is packed with protein, vitamins, minerals, folate and other essential nutrients.

This year marks the 13th month that Virginia's peanut growers have donated at least two pallets, or 2,880 jars, of peanut butter. Contributions are given to Virginia's seven

regional food banks to distribute throughout their network of 1,350 pantries, soup kitchens and other partner agencies.

This year's donations exceeded recent-year highs with an 18-pallet contribution from Peanut Proud—the equivalent of 25,920 jars. Total contributions reached 20 pallets, or 28,000 jars—enough to feed thousands of families experiencing food insecurity in Virginia and Washington, D.C.

The record-breaking donation comes at a "critical time," said Eddie Oliver, executive director of the Federation of Virginia Food Banks. Mindful of higher costs at grocery stores and growing pantry lines, Oliver expressed his

gratitude for the impactful support.

"It's been incredibly meaningful to be able to do this the number of years that we have," said Dell Cotton, executive secretary of the Virginia Peanut Growers Association.

M.L. Everett, chair of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Peanut Advisory Committee, concurred. "As a peanut grower in Southeast Virginia, I am very happy to see that our peanut organizations and Virginia Farm Bureau members are again supporting local food drives and food banks with peanut butter," he said.

Because peanut butter is one of the most requested items at food banks,

peanut growers hope their annual initiative inspires others to donate peanut butter to their local food banks.

"Peanut butter is the perfect item for food banks because of its nutritional benefits, and it's shelf-stable," Cotton said. "These big jars will last multiple meals for a family who needs it."

Rich in heart-healthy fats and protein, a 2-tablespoon serving of peanut butter contains up to 8 grams of protein and 2-3 grams of fiber.

"It's always important to support those who don't have the capabilities to support themselves, and any of us can fall into that same dilemma," Cotton said. "Hopefully donations like this are able to help get them back on their feet and through a tough time."

To find a food bank near you, visit vafoodbanks.org/virginia-food-bank-locator.

DAR program focuses on 'Grandma Moses'

The Colonel Abram Penn Chapter NSDAR met March 13 in the fellowship hall of Stuart Presbyterian Church. Ann McConnell, Regent, presided with five members and one prospective member present.

A business meeting followed the DAR Ritual. Committee reports were given and upcoming chapter events and activities were discussed.

At the conclusion of the business meeting Regent McConnell presented a program on Anna Mary Robertson, better known as "Grandma Moses." Grandma Moses joined the Daughters of the American Revolution when she was ninety-one years old. Her painting of the Battle Of Bennington, in which one of her ancestors fought, was donated to the DAR and is displayed in the Americana Room of DAR's Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible to join the DAR. For more information contact nammccconnell@yahoo.com.

The life, art and DAR membership of Grandma Moses were discussed at the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter NSDAR March meeting. Pictured are Lucy Rudd, Ann McConnell, Caroline Harnsberger, Sheree Russo and Beth Witt.

Special meeting set for public hearing on tax rate and interim county administrator discussion

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors scheduled a special called meeting on Wednesday, March 29 to discuss the interim county administrator and hold a public hearing on the proposed real estate tax rate.

The public hearing begins at 6 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Veteran's Memorial Building, located at 106 Rucker Street in Stuart.

The proposed tax rate will not ex-

ceed \$.73 per \$100 of assessed value for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, which is the same as the current year.

The board is expected to set the tax rate following the hearing, and potentially discuss the upcoming budget

The board also will meet in closed session to discuss personnel and contract matters related to the appointment of an Interim County Administrator.

April 7, 2023

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Projects to enhance existing land, water trails eligible for Recreational Trails Program grants

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation will hold an open grant round for \$1.4 million in Recreational Trails Program grants from March 16 through May 9.

For the 2023 grant round, projects for new trail construction are not eligible, but maintenance, repair and amenity projects for existing land and water trails will be considered.

The Recreational Trails Program, or RTP, is a federal, matching reimbursement program established to construct and rehabilitate recreational trails and trail-related facilities. It is anticipated that projects for new trail construction will become eligible again in 2024.

The RTP is an 80-20% matching reimbursement program. Requests must be for a minimum of \$25,000 with a minimum total project cost of \$31,250. Grantees must be able to fund 100% of their project while seeking periodic reimbursements.

Eligible applicants include: Counties, cities and towns Park and recreation authorities Tribal governments State agencies Federal agencies

Nonprofit organizations with support from a governmental body

Applications will be due via email no later than May 9 at 4 p.m.

A virtual informational session and application workshop will be held March 22 at 1 p.m. Visit this page for more information and to register: dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/trailfund.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. An updated program manual, application materials and applicant resources will be posted on the page by March 16.

Project sponsors with open RTP grants from previous grant rounds should review the manual to determine eligibility based on open project completion date.

For more information, email the DCR Recreation Grants Team at recreationgrants@dcr.virginia.gov.

Funding for the Recreational Trails Program is made possible through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The program is administered by the Federal Highway Administration. Federal law under 23 U.S. Code section 206 mandates that 30% of available funding be used for motorized recreational trails, 30% be used for non-motorized recreational trails and 40% be used for multiple-use trails.

Month-long coloring contest launched for National Agriculture Month

National Agriculture Week, through March 27, celebrates agriculture, spreads awareness of its vital role in stabilizing the economy and promotes how food and fiber products are produced. To commemorate the national week, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Women's Leadership Committee is hosting a statewide youth coloring contest throughout March.

Virginia agriculture-themed coloring sheets must be submitted to women@vafb.com by March 31 for a chance to win a Walmart gift card. Winners will be announced April 6, and their artwork will be displayed on the VFBB Women's Leadership Program Facebook page. To access the coloring sheet, visit bit.ly/WLColoringcontest.

2023 Congressional Art Competition gets underway

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith announced the beginning of the 2023 Congressional Art Competition in the Ninth District.

"Each year, the U.S. House of Representatives sponsors the Congressional Art Competition for high school students. It's a great opportunity to see the artistic talents of Southwest Virginia students, one of whom will have his or her work selected for display in the Capitol," Griffith, R-Salem said. "Last year, Maria Wilson of Virginia High School won the Congressional Art Competition in Virginia's Ninth Congressional District. Her artwork is entitled 'Highlands Sunset.'

"The theme for this year's contest is 'Discovering Virginia's Beautiful Ninth District.' I look forward to seeing how the young artists of the Ninth will use their talents in exploration of this theme," he added.

Interested students must submit

a photograph of their original artwork to either the Christiansburg or Abingdon district office by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 21 for consideration. Each entry must be accompanied by a completed student information release form, which is available by contacting a Ninth District office or visiting www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

The winning artwork will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol complex for one year. In addition, the second and third place selections will be on display in one of the Ninth District offices.

To read the complete listing of rules and guidelines or download the Student Release Form for the Congressional Art Competition, please visit www.morgangriffith.house.gov. Faculty or students with any additional questions about the competition may contact Josh Hess at (540) 381-5671 or by email at josh.hess@mail.house.gov.

Farm Market Fresh Program for Seniors to begin accepting applications on April 3

The Southern Area Agency on Aging will accept applications for Farm Market Fresh Program, also known as the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, beginning April 3 and continuing as long as the supply lasts.

Eligible seniors may receive \$50 worth of checks that can be used to purchase locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables and cut herbs at participating farmers' markets. The number of people who can participate is limited.

Beginning on Monday, April 3, the SAAA will take applications over the phone and in person. The agency will continue to accept applications throughout the following weeks while the supply of \$50 booklets lasts.

You may qualify if:

*you are (or will become) 60 years of age or older on or before June 1, 2023, and

*you are a resident of Danville

City, Martinsville City, Franklin County, Patrick County, Henry County or Pittsylvania County, and

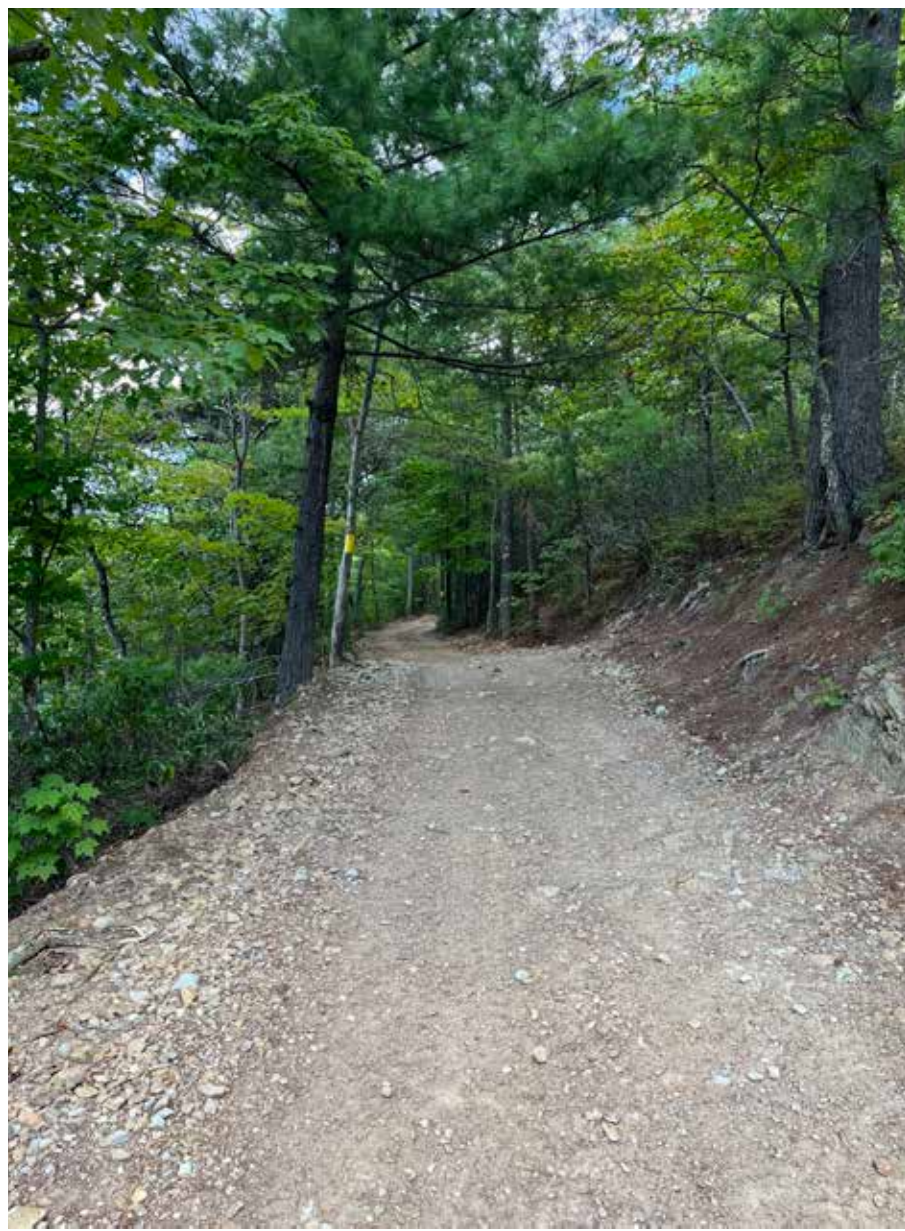
*you do not live with and are not an immediate family member of the farmer who grows the produce, and

*you have a gross monthly household income that does not exceed the income requirements of the program.

The income limit for this program has changed. Individuals who were not eligible in the past may be eligible now, so all are encouraged to apply.

Individuals and couples who wish to apply for checks must contact the SAAA at (276) 632-6442 or toll-free at 1-800-468-4571.

Applicants must be prepared to certify total gross household income information when applying over the phone or in person on the date of application and while enrolled in the program.



South Pedlar ATV Trail System in George Washington and Jefferson National Forest.

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PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED BY AGE GROUPS | COMPLETE REGISTRATION FORM BELOW

REGISTRATION VIA MAIL (FORM BELOW) OR REGISTER ONLINE RETURN TO: Patrick County Alzheimer's Group c/o Sally Smith PO Box 1304 Stuart, VA 24171

NAME: _____

TYPE OF TALENT: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____ AGE: _____

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Shane Vernon 276-229-6093
 Donald Lewis 276-692-5442
 April Webb 276-733-3575
 Stan Webb 276-235-3149

Meetings

Wednesday, March 22

The Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) will meet at 7 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Thursday, March 23

The Stuart Town Council will hold a budget committee meeting at 2 p.m. in the Stuart Town Office.

Wednesday, March 29

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Events

Thursday, March 23

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) will hold a Management Bootcamp course in Patrick County from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost is \$90, or \$350 including the other three sessions. Pre-registration is required by going to ph.august.net, or calling (276) 656-0260.

An informational meeting to gauge interest in the Stuart area for a new Ruritan club will be held at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC). This will be the 3rd in a series of informational meetings. Call Pamela Roberson Smith at (276) 229-6931 with questions.

Saturday, March 25

The Colonel Abram Penn and Patrick Henry Chapters Daughters of the American Revolution will conduct a genealogy workshop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Stuart Library.

Batts Blooming Blessings Farm will hold a fundraiser for the Homebound and homeschool prom. The event starts at 11 a.m. and includes a fish fry/bake sale and a free petting zoo. Plates are \$8 each, and combos with dessert and drink are \$10 each. A cake walk with a \$5 entry fee will also be held. For more information, call Shavonda Redd Teague at (276) 229-5569.

Sunday, March 26

Mountain View Church, 3639 Mountain View Road, Meadows of Dan, will hold a community meal free of charge at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, March 28

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC)

will hold a Photography Workshop on Fun with Bubbles from 6-8 p.m. The cost of the course is \$49. Pre-registration is required by going to august.net, or calling (276) 656-5461.

Saturday, April 1

The annual Stuart Wine & Beer Festival will be held from 12-4 p.m. at the Stuart Farmers' Market. Admission is free and there will be a \$10 wine tasting.

Sunday April 2

First United Methodist Church will hold a Palm Sunday service at 11 a.m. and the sanctuary will feature the children's music ministries. There will not be an early service.

Thursday, April 6

First United Methodist Church will hold a Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Friday, April 7

The Patrick County Alzheimer's Group, LLC, will hold a Gift Card Bingo event at the Stuart Rotary - Hooker Building. Doors open at 6 p.m. and games start at 7 p.m. Individual bingo cards are \$20, and the bingo game card pack is \$25. Concessions will be available for purchase.

First United Methodist Church will hold a Good Friday service at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Saturday, April 8

Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church will hold a Community Easter Egg Hunt from 2-4 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided and a craft to learn the true meaning of Easter.

First United Methodist Church will be open Good Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for prayer.

Sunday, April 9

First United Methodist Church will hold an Easter Morning Worship at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary featuring the Chancel Choir and Brass 5 from Roanoke. There will not be an early service.

Ongoing

The Coffee Break Café hosts live music on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Bring an instrument, or just come and listen.

The Patrick County Library hosts Story Time with Ms. Sam at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, with books, songs, finger plays, and more. For more information, call (276) 694-3352.

The Patrick County Library will hold the LEGO Club with Ms. Sam on Mondays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. This program is mainly intended for school age children. For more information, call the library at (276) 694-3352.

The Ararat Ruritan Club hosts virtual raffles on its Facebook page on the first of each month. Various items are raffled off at \$10 or \$20 per limited chance, with 30-35 chances on each raffle. Prize values range from \$150 to \$400. For more information, go to Facebook.com/AraratRuritanClub or contact the club via email at AraratRuritanClub@gmail.com or Kevin Smith at 276-229-6493.

The Patrick County Quilters' Sit-N-Sew is held on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Quilted Colors. For more information, call 276-694-3020 or email patrickcountyquilters@gmail.com.

The Ararat Ruritan Club will hold Rook games every Monday night from 6:30-8 p.m.

The Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club (BARC) and our Region Four Auxiliary Communication network (AUXCOMM) are meeting in person. Everyone interested in ham radio is invited to attend the BARC meeting, and all AUXCOMM volunteers and curious hams are encouraged to attend the AUXCOMM meeting. AUXCOMM meets at 6:30 p.m. and BARC meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 4th Thursday of each month at the First Christian Church in Galax, VA. Mark your calendars! Both organizations serve SW Virginia and NW North Carolina. Visit www.briarpatcharc.com for the latest scoop, local on-air networks details and VE test sessions for station licensing.

NOTICE

All announcements to be included in the Community Calendar must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday the week before publish date. Items are published as space permits. Email to: dhall@theenterprise.net

FEATURED PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



Bassett, VA - Open House - April 15th at 11 AM

Beautiful Historic Colonial home built in 1837. Lots of original character! Features 4 BR, 1.5 BA & 4 non-conforming bedrooms. Over 2,850 sq ft of living space, not including the 2 bonus rooms on the 3rd floor. The Travelers room could make for a nice Mother-In-Law Suite. There are so many small details in the home, all the way down to the beautiful trim and chair railing. Home has propane heating and 3 original fireplaces. Located on a nice 9.27 acre lot. Includes an outbuilding and public water & sewer. \$525,000




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REAL ESTATE AUCTION LIVE AND ONLINE

105 ACRES SOLD IN 4 TRACTS

**Home, Timber, Recreational,
Hunting Property**

420 Woodland Dr, Rotary Field, Stuart, VA

Auction: Friday, March 31 at 11am

Preview:

Sunday, March 26, 4pm - 6pm



For more information,
visit rogersauctiongroup.com.



Keith Gunter – Auctioneer/Sales Manager
276-952-5281 – VAAL #2 | 336-789-2926

XNSP3021

Online Auction

Ends Wednesday, April 5th @ 4 PM

New Contemporary Home Near Dan River!

323 Ramp Hollow Lane, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



Preview Date – Tuesday March 21st at 4 PM

You have the opportunity to purchase a beautiful contemporary home in Meadows of Dan VA. This property features +/- 5 acres of land near the Dan River! Built in 2022, this high quality home features +/- 944 square feet with 2 bedrooms, and 1 bath. Construction beyond building code and includes concrete floors, vaulted ceiling in great room, split unit heating and cooling, PBR metal roof used in industrial construction, metal siding, 2x6 exterior walls foam insulation in walls and ceiling. Has a private well and septic, and gravel driveway. Storage building also on the property. Located on +/- 5 acres, this property is in a secluded location with nice views. Enjoy quiet country living near the Dan River in Meadows of Dan VA! This would make a great recreational or fishing retreat! Great as a year round home or vacation retreat. Don't miss your opportunity to own this unique mountain get-away!

Maps provided in the bidder packet were plotted through advanced mapping software using metes and bounds description from deed and is most likely more accurate than the county GIS in regards to the boundary.

Directions – From Hillsville- Rt 58 East to 58 East Business at Blue Ridge Parkway and Meadows of Dan. Take right on Squirrel Spur Rd, left on Bent Rd, to left on Ramp Hollow Lane. Access is by private drive – Ramp Hollow Lane.

Contact Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com; or Realtor Darrell Hylton at 540-250-0850 or dwh@swva.net

Terms: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 required day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold "as is, where is, with any and all faults." Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com



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Matt Gallimore, Broker/Auctioneer Lic #2907004059

Spring planting is underway in Stuart



The Patrick County Master Gardeners were hard at work on March 16, beautifying Main Street with flowers and plants as spring time approaches. Pictured are Tom DeBusk, Sherry Easterbrooks and Dee Nolan. (Pat Delaney)

Gardeners get set for April 8 workshop

The Patrick County Master Gardeners prepared the Learning Garden at 1208 Tudor Orchard Road for the first workshop, to be presented on April 8 at 10 a.m.

Topics will include no till gardening, regenerative agriculture, soil biology and the scoop on poop.

The May 13 workshop will cover square foot gardening, bag gardening and raised bed gardening.

Mark your calendar for the annual plant sale - April 29, 8 a.m. to noon in the Rotary Building on Woodlawn Drive in Stuart. (Contributed photos)



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**14 Judicial and Non Judicial
Parcels of Real Estate**

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Thurs, Mar 23 Starting at 11am**

**1 property will close every 10 minutes
beginning at 11:00am**



For property information and locations, visit rogersauctiongroup.com. TACS handles all contracts and earnest money subject to posted terms.



Keith Gunter – Auctioneer/Sales Manager
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XNSP3022

Fiber artists learn new skill

Fiber artists were taught the skill of drop spinning with homemade drop spindles at a recent Weavers exchange meeting. The next Weavers Exchange meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, at the Reynolds Homestead. Anyone interested in fiber arts is welcome. Contact Reynolds Homestead for information on the Weavers Exchange or weaving classes.



Hey, 80s kid. Get to know your colon health!



March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month—the perfect time to schedule your colonoscopy. A colonoscopy is a screening that helps identify cancers early, when the odds of successful treatment are highest. Schedule your appointment today if you have any of the following risk factors:

- You are age 45 or older
- You've experienced a persistent abdominal discomfort or change in your bowel habits
- A family member has experienced colon cancer or polyps in the past

Learn more about your colon health.

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Or to find a healthcare provider, call

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Online Auction

Ends Thursday, April 6th @ 4 PM
Recreational Land For Sale in Woolwine, VA
Woolwine Hwy, Woolwine, VA 24185

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



Beautiful +/- 65.79 acre recreational property located in the Woolwine Community of Patrick County VA, situated between the towns of Stuart and Floyd VA. This mostly wooded property features rolling topography and approximately 6.5 acres of open land. Has over 1,700 feet of frontage on Conner Creek, and over 2,500 feet of frontage on Jacks Creek. Also only a minute to Smith River and close to 2 lakes! This property is an ideal location for hunting and recreation, with plenty of space for hiking, hunting, camping, and exploring the outdoors. It would also make a great location for building a home, with the scenic beauty and natural surroundings providing a peaceful and serene setting for a private retreat. Located near the Blue Ridge Parkway, this property offers easy access to some of the most breathtaking views and outdoor activities in the region. Only minutes from the Smith River, 15 minutes to Fairystone Lake and 20 minutes to Philpott Lake! This property would be the ideal location for an avid fisherman or outdoor enthusiast. Don't miss out on the opportunity to own this stunning piece of land in a prime location.

Directions From Stuart, VA – Highway 58 West; Veer Right on Route 8 North / Woolwine Highway towards Floyd County and Blue Ridge Parkway; Property on left before Woolwine VA. Right of Way entrance beside auction sign just before adjoining property 8735 Woolwine Highway, Woolwine VA.

Contact Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com or Contact Boobie DeHart Realtor at 276-952-5061 or email boobied@yahoo.com

Terms: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 required day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com

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Online Auction

Ends Tuesday, April 11th @ 4 PM
WOODED LAND FOR SALE!
Brammer Spur Road, Woolwine, VA 24185

Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



Looking for the perfect spot to build your dream home or vacation cabin? Look no further than this beautiful +/- 65.32 acre wooded land tract located in Woolwine VA. With stunning views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and plenty of good building sites, this property is perfect for anyone looking for a peaceful, secluded escape. Whether you're an avid outdoorsman or just looking for a relaxing retreat, this land is ideal for hunting and recreation. The property features a picturesque pond located at the front of the property, perfect for fishing or simply enjoying the serene surroundings. Property is located only minutes from the Smith River! Is also only 15 to 20 minutes from Philpott Lake and Fairystone Lake. Situated in Patrick County VA between the charming towns of Stuart VA and Floyd VA. Conveniently located near the Blue Ridge Parkway, offering easy access to some of the most stunning natural scenery in the country. Don't miss your chance to own this incredible piece of land and start living your dream today!

Directions from Stuart, VA – Highway 58 West; Veer Right on Route 8 North / Woolwine Highway towards Floyd County and Blue Ridge Parkway; Take left on Mill House Road just past Woolwine VA; Right on Brammer Spur; Property on right at sign.

Contact Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com or Contact Boobie DeHart Realtor at 276-952-5061 or email boobied@yahoo.com

Terms: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 required day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com

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