



THE ENTERPRISE

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Vol. 147 No. 29 Website: www.theenterprise.net STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023 USPS 523-500 \$1.00

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE SINCE 1876 | Dedicated to serving the communities of Patrick County

Beach Music Fest kicks off Thursday in Stuart

By Debbie Hall
Dust off those shaggin' shoes and get ready to hit the sand when the 41st annual Hot Fun in the Summertime Beach Music Festival kicks off Thursday, June 8, at Wayside Park in Stuart.

Presented by SRC Productions, Inc. a division of the Rotary Club of Stuart, the festival will feature hot sounds of beach greats like the Chairman of the Board, and award-winning vocalists such as Gary Lowder.

Practice your shagging skills on Thursday when .U.B.U The Band, performs at 6:30 p.m. .U.B.U. is herald-

ed as North Carolina's "Shaggin, Two Step, Boogie, Get Down, Funky, Party Band."

.U.B.U The Band returns on Friday, June 9, at 6:30 p.m., followed by Konnection from 8:30 to 10 p.m. Konnection is described as "one of the East Coast's hottest variety bands."

While all showtimes are approximate, Saturday's show on June 10 is scheduled to get underway at 12:30 p.m. with BlackWater, which is based in Clarkton, North Carolina. The group plays Top 40, Blues, Funk, and Country music.

Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot at 2:30 p.m. Lowder was (See Beach p. 4)

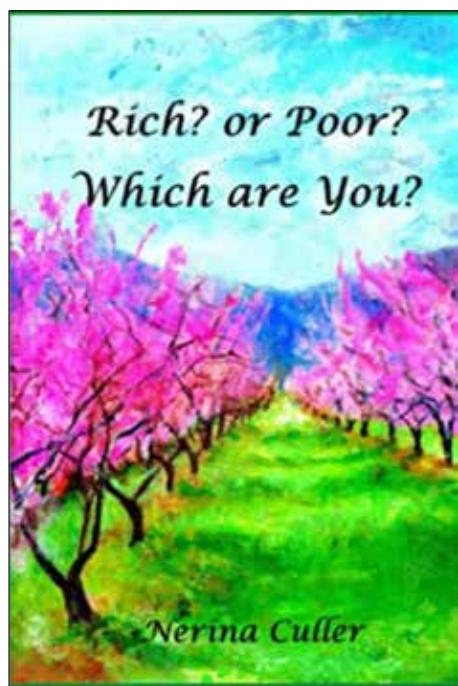


The 41st annual Hot Fun In the Summertime Beach Music Festival kicks off Thursday at Wayside Park. Proceeds from the three-day event are used to help several community organizations. (FILE PHOTO)

Book details the Culler family struggles



Nerina Culler's book, "Rich? Or Poor? Which are You?" details the life of one family during the first half of the 20th century and is available on Amazon as a paperback.



By Taylor Boyd
A book set in rural Patrick County details the life of one family during the first half of the 20th century.

Nerina Culler said her book, "Rich? Or Poor? Which are You?" is set at her family's homestead, at the tip corner of Patrick County surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains.

"It was so beautiful, and the house was so beautiful, but the house has been hit by lightning and burnt down. The barn is gone, but the well is still there, and it's still a beautiful place," she said.

The now 83-year-old said she wrote her book and published it in Sept. 2021 because of her age.

(See Book p. 4)

Podcast aims to make science accessible



The VMNHcast podcast began in April 2022. Several episodes are available.

By Taylor Boyd

The Virginia Museum of Natural History's (VMNH's) podcast is designed to make science more accessible and perhaps easy to understand.

Hosted by VMNH Administrator of Science Ben Williams, "The VMNHcast" primarily focuses on the work being done in the museum.

Williams said he "interviews curators talking about interesting things they're working on. I also talk to board members" and occasionally brings in folks who are not museum staff or directly re-



Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) Administrator of Science Ben Williams hosts "The VMNHcast" podcast, which is designed to help make the sciences more accessible to the public.

lated to the museum.

"We did an episode a while back about a paper. It was a collaboration between (See Podcast p. 5)

Students take on a Distracted Driving Simulator

By Taylor Boyd
Drivers' Ed students at Patrick County High School (PCHS) learned the dangers of being distracted while driving during a simulation in May.

During the simulation, Virginia State Trooper Ryan Lawson said a state trooper and fellow students distracted the drivers navigating a cone obstacle course.

"There's two" students "in the back and a trooper in the front," Lawson said, and explained "the whole purpose is to put them (drivers) through a couple of"



Students drove through a cone obstacle course while a state trooper and fellow classmates attempted to distract them.

scenarios and try to distract each "as best we can, just to get their attention off of what's going on in the vehicle so that we can show them the dangers of dis-

(See Simulator p. 4)

Gates to face Stanley in November

By Debbie Hall

Deborah "Renie" Gates, of Willis, received a clear majority of the vote from the 7th State Senate District Democratic Nominating Committee during a nominating caucus at the Franklin County Democratic headquarters in Rocky Mount on Saturday, June 3.

Gates was one of two candidates to file for the nomination, emerging victorious against Sherman David Witcher, of Rocky Mount. Witcher is a former Independent who lost a bid for the 20th district in the 2019 election.

Gates' name will appear on the ballot in the General Election on November 7th as the Democratic candidate for Senate in Virginia's 7th District. She will oppose incumbent Republican Senator Bill Stanley, R-Moneta, in the upcoming

ing race.

"I am running because I want to make a difference," she wrote on her website. "We need to have more legislation and funds that will benefit the people in our region. Far too often our voices are never heard and people in power ignore us and our needs. We need better roads and infrastructure. We need better access to health care. We need to have more regulations to stop utility companies from exorbitant increases. Rural folks need working-class rural representation."

Gates, a speech therapist, also wrote that she is the proud mother of two young children, and owns and operates a small farm, called Country Heart Farm. The farm focuses on gardening, preserving products from the garden or orchard; educating those who are interested in

learning the 'old ways,' such as canning and food preservation; providing farming experiences such as collecting eggs, planting seeds, and milking goats.

"We teach people firsthand the importance of caring for their livestock. I am very interested in promoting agro-tourism in our region of Southwest Virginia. I want to promote a better understanding to visitors from more urban areas of what the day-to-day life of being a farmer is like, and the hard work that goes into it," she wrote.

A lifelong resident of Floyd Coun-



Deborah "Renie" Gates, a Democrat from Willis, is challenging incumbent State Sen. Bill Stanley, R-Moneta, in the November election.

ty, Gates is a 1997 graduate of Floyd County High School. She

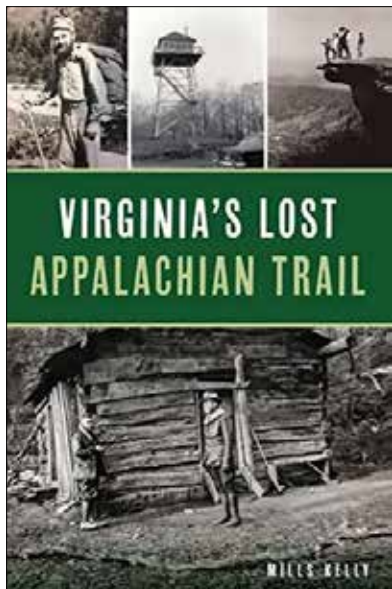
(See Gates p. 4)

Patrick Pioneers

The Original Appalachian Trail



Pictured are Jean Golightly, who has written several trail guidebooks and has hiked the entire Appalachian Trail, and Mills Kelly, author of Virginia's Lost Appalachian Trail.



ty, has written a book entitled, Virginia's Lost Appalachian Trail.

Kelly fell in love with the AT when he began hiking it as a Boy Scout in the early 1970s. Today, he maintains the Manassas Gap shelter on the AT and is the volunteer archivist of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. In addition, he is the host of The Green Tunnel podcast, which is a podcast on the history of the Appalachian Trail.

As a small child, Kelly lived in Franklin County where his father taught at Ferrum College. I suspect this is where Kelly's love for the mountains was deep-rooted in his psyche, as it is for so many of us.

Three weeks ago, Kelly gave a talk at the Patrick County Historical Museum and shared stories about the people and

(See Pioneers p. 8)

Chamber Chat

By Rebecca Adcock



Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade. - Rudyard Kipling

Gardens take a lot of work, but if we invest the time, the benefits will be great. Many of us have been busy planting this month and getting everything ready. The chamber is no different. In between time I spent hurriedly planting tomatoes, cucumbers, pepper plants and more; I also spent time crisscrossing the county to deliver checks to the organizations, businesses and individuals who helped during April's Pick-Up Patrick Campaign. We thank all these groups and people who helped make Patrick County a little cleaner for all of us.

The chamber hosted a job fair at the beginning of May. We also had some fun by hosting the Yard Party at Pickle & Ash on May 18. It was a good time to just come and relax with friends and enjoy the evening. May's Lunch & Learn was for our farmers' market vendors who sell value added products. As you read this column, we will also have hosted a ribbon cutting at Rural Services, LLC in

(See Chat p. 6)

Tourism Talks

By James Houchins

Greetings, Patrick:

I hope you have enjoyed the various events and festivals that we have had thus far. So, much has happened all over the county. We had fly-ins, strawberries, barbeque, music, car cruises, and more! We are having a great time entertaining our locals and the many tourists that have graced us with their presents. Patrick County is fabulous!

Just a quick reminder for the Beach Music Lover, the festival begins this week.

Also, I want to remind you that we are continuing our efforts to grow the VA250 committee, and I have been asked to elaborate. So, what is this?



On July 4, 2026, the United States will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the Revolutionary War. VA250 is the State (Virginia) committee, and each locality is encouraged to form a group to commemorate our Independence. We seek individuals to help us create ideas and events to help educate and remember the events. So, come and join

us in this multi-year project. Virginia's History is America's history.

Well, I must go, and if you have any questions, please get in touch with me at jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us. I would love to hear from you. Remember, tell everyone to Come, get Lost, and Find Yourself Here!

Let's talk again next week. (Houchins is the county's director of Tourism.)

Pets of the Week



Beautiful kittens have taken up residence at the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS), each one is waiting to go home with a new family. There are 2 gray kittens – a male and a female, and the orange kitten is a male. These are well cared for sociable kitties.

The black and tan dog featured in last week's edition is also still waiting for a home.

Call the PCPAS for more information at (276) 694-6259. Check out the pets available for adoption on the shelter's Facebook page. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and rabies vaccination.

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET



Your Tax Dollars are NOT at work with Marie March!



Delegate Marie March raked in over **\$375,000.00** in taxpayer money and then closed her businesses!

Business Name	Business Status	Grant Received	Date	Grant Type & Received From	Source
Due South BBQ Christiansburg VA	CLOSED	\$ 75,200.00	4/8/20	Payroll Protection Plan-Federal	1
		\$ 100,307.00	1/26/21		1
		\$ 15,000.00	12/29/20	Montgomery County - Cares Act Outdoor Dining Area	3
		\$ 6,500.00	11/18/20	Town Of Christiansburg/EDA Cares Act	2
Fat Back Soul Shack Christiansburg VA	CLOSED	\$ 82,831.00	1/26/21	Payroll Protection Plan-Federal	1
		\$ 73,900.00	4/8/20		1
		\$ 7,500.00	11/18/20	Town Of Christiansburg/EDA Cares Act	2
		\$ 14,501.61	12/29/20	Montgomery County - Cares Act Outdoor Dining Area	3
		\$ 375,739.61			

1: Projectspublica.org/coronavirus/bailouts/search 2: FOIA Request:Town of Christiansburg 3: FOIA Request: Montgomery Co., VA

"INTEGRITY" is NOT taking taxpayer dollars then closing your businesses!

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Summer P-EBT benefits will be issued to school-age children

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) will issue Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program benefits of \$120 to households with eligible children in grades K-12 beginning July 22.

P-EBT is a federal program created in spring 2020 to supplement school meals that students missed while schools were closed or placed on part-time attendance schedules due to COVID-19. The United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service approved Virginia's plan to release a single summer benefit payment of \$120 to eligible school-age children in accordance with the guidelines issued by Congress.

School-age children are eligible for the P-EBT issuance if they attended a school that participated in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) during school year 2022-2023. Children are also eligible if they were approved for free or reduced-price meals during the 2022-2023 school year or are determined newly eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please note that Virginia cannot issue Summer 2023 P-EBT benefits to children who did not attend an NSLP-participating school by the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Households that do not have an existing P-EBT or SNAP

EBT card will have a card mailed to the address provided by their school within 3 weeks of benefit issuance. Households that have lost or discarded their previously issued P-EBT or EBT cards, or are in need of updating their address, should contact the P-EBT Call Center at 866-513-1414 or 804-294-1633 Monday - Friday from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

In accordance with the end of the federal public health emergency on May 11, 2023, the Summer 2023 P-EBT issuance will mark the end of the P-EBT program for K-12 children.

Households in need of additional food resources may be eligible for assistance through the following community-based resources:

*The USDA National Hunger Hotline, operated by Hunger Free America, provides food assistance for families with children. The Hotline connects callers with emergency food providers in their community as well as through government assistance programs and various social services. For more information, call 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479) or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (1-877-842-6273) (en Español).

*SNAP households can also utilize the Virginia Fresh Match program, which matches SNAP benefits dollar-for-dollar when purchasing fruits

and vegetables at participating farmers' markets and neighborhood grocery stores. A list of participating outlets can be found by using the interactive map.

*The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program helps eligible seniors get locally grown fruit, vegetables, and herbs, while supporting local farmers and farmers markets in Virginia. Contact a local operations center here.

*The Federation of Virginia Food Banks utilizes partnerships across the state to provide a healthier, food secure Virginia. Use the Virginia Food Bank Locator to find a food bank near you.

*2-1-1 Virginia is also available to individuals or families in need of additional food or other resources. Call 2-1-1 or visit the 2-1-1 website for information on available programs.

Visit PebtVA.com and reference the P-EBT FAQ page for answers to many frequently asked questions. Call the P-EBT Call Center (866-513-1414 or 804-294-1633, Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) or use the P-EBT Online Inquiry Form for more information. Do not direct questions regarding P-EBT to the child's school or local department of social services.

Change in state hiring practices takes effect July 1

Gov. Glenn Youngkin recently announced a landmark change in how state agencies will recruit and compete for talent by eliminating degree requirements, preferences or both for almost 90% of state classified positions. The new Commonwealth hiring practices will expand opportunities for Virginians and give equal consideration to all qualified job applicants.

"On day one we went to work reimagining workforce solutions in government and this key reform will expand opportunities for qualified applicants who are ready to serve Virginians," said Youngkin. "This landmark change in hiring practices for our state workforce will improve hiring processes, expand possibilities and career paths for job seekers and enhance our ability to deliver quality services. Last month, Virginia achieved the highest labor force participation rate in nearly ten years demonstrating the Commonwealth's sustained workforce developments."

"Changing how we think about workforce planning, talent acquisition, and leveraging knowledge, certifications, technical skills, apprenticeships, and work experience into measurable business results has been a Day 1 Workforce Development priority for this Administration," said Secretary of Administration Margaret "Lyn" McDermaid. "As an employer, state government has one of, if not the most diverse occupational portfolios in Virginia. Our employees design, build, manage, and sustain public services across hundreds of lines of business and giving equal consideration to all job applicants, including those who have experience solving real world problems is a smart business practice."

"This is great news for state government and all job seekers. By giving equal consideration to applicants with an equivalent combination and level of training, knowledge, skills, certifications, and experience we have opened a sea of opportunity at all levels of employment for industrious individuals who have the experience, training, knowledge, skills, abilities, and most importantly, the desire to serve the people of Virginia," said Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater. "We are also working hard to examine regulated occupations and professions to find ways to simplify and speed up credentialing processes and universal licensing recognition for individuals who want to live and work in Virginia."

This change will take effect July 1. Virginia is the latest in a growing number of state governments to elevate the value of work experience and its new prominence in the future of America's workforce. On average, Virginia state agencies advertise over 20,000 job opportunities each year.

Initial filings decreased, most recent data shows

The number of initial claims decreased in the latest filing week to 2,401 and remained at the typical pre-pandemic volumes experienced in 2019, according to the most recent data released by the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC).

For the filing week ending May 27, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 2,401, which was a decrease of 69 claimants from the previous week. Over half of initial claims with a self-reported industry were from manufacturing, accommodation and food services, administrative and support and waste management, and health care and social assistance. Continued weeks claimed totaled 12,821, which was essentially unchanged from the previous week but an increase of 36 percent from the 9,426 continued claims from the comparable week last year.

Eligibility for benefits is determined on a weekly basis, and so not all weekly claims filed result in a benefit payment. This is because the initial claims numbers represent claim applications; claims are then reviewed for eligibility and legitimacy.

In the week ending May 27, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 232,000, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 229,000 to 230,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 207,941 in the week ending May 27, an increase of 5,296 (or 2.6 percent) from the previous week. There were 183,446 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022. Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported increases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Ohio's preliminary weekly change (+2,133) was the largest increase. New York's weekly change (+1,277) was the second largest increase. Illinois's preliminary weekly change (+1,181) was the third largest increase. Connecticut's weekly change (+875) was the fourth largest increase. Virginia's preliminary weekly change (+433) was the eighth largest increase.



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Arrests reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Crystal Sue Darrah, 48, of Patrick County Jail, was charged May 26 with warrant of extradition. Deputy D. A. Ullring was the arresting officer.

*William Corey Plummer, 46, of Danville, was charged May 26 with violation bond conditions. Deputy B. Fields made the arrest for Danville PD.

*Clarence Dale Hall, 45, of New River Valley Regional Jail, was charged May 27 with probation violation. New River Valley Regional Jail made the arrest for Patrick County.

*William Isaac Hylton, 31, of Stuart, was charged May 31 with one count each of failing to appear and violation of court order. Carroll County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*James William Turner, 33, of Martinsville, was charged June 1 with probation violation. Danville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Joshua Lamont Pritchett, 26, of Martinsville, was charged June 1 with probation violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

Bicycle-Involved Crashes on the Rise in Virginia

In recognition of National Bicycle Safety Month, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is reminding Virginians, both bicyclists and motorists, to look out for each other on the road. So far this year, there have been 160 bicycle-involved crashes on Virginia's roadways, resulting in the deaths of nine bicyclists and injuries to 156 others. This is an 125% increase in bicyclist-related fatalities compared to four last year at this time.

"Cyclists are some of our most vulnerable road users. We all share the responsibility of keeping them safe," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey, the Governor's Highway Safety Representative. "Looking out for each other is key. Be visible and predictable as a cyclist, and respect bike lanes and pass with care as a motorist."

Tips for Bicyclists:

- Always wear a properly fitted helmet.
- Check your bike equipment before heading out.
- Ride in the same direction as traffic.
- Obey traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.
- Wear equipment to protect you and make you more visible to others.

Tips for Motorists:

- Pass bicyclists on the road with care; allow at least three feet clearance.
- Look for cyclists before opening a car door or pulling out from a parking space.
- Yield to bicyclists at intersections and as directed by signs and signals.
- Look for bicyclists before making turns, either left or right.
- Respect designated bicycle lanes; don't use them for parking, passing or turning.

Both cyclists and drivers should practice defensive driving by staying focused and alert to the road and all surrounding traffic. Anticipating what others may do, before they do it, allows you to better avoid a potential crash.

Culpeper Woman Pleads Guilty in Dark Web Murder-For-Hire Plot

A Culpeper, Virginia woman, who went online in an attempt to hire a hitman using bitcoin, pleaded guilty recently in federal court.

Annie Nicole Ritenour, 27, pleaded guilty to one count of using interstate commerce facilities in the commission of a murder-for-hire.

According to court documents, in 2021 Ritenour accessed a website on the dark web whose advertisements boasted the ability to "kill any person you want as long as it is not a president or very important person that is guarded by the military."

On June 26, 2021, Ritenour set up an account with the website and placed an "order" for murder-for-hire services. The order was titled, "shoot and get away." With her order, Ritenour included a picture of the intended victim, his workplace address, and his work hours. She also included the following instructions:

"I am just looking for a simple quick job. The address of the person will be best place to make the target, as it is his workplace. He works 6am to 3 pm Monday through Friday...."

Ritenour also included a description of the victim's vehicle and license plate number. After placing the order, Ritenour made three separate payments via Bitcoin to the website's "escrow account" totaling \$3,200. She was arrested before the balance of payment could be made.

At sentencing, Ritenour faces 36 to 87 months in prison.

United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh and Stanley M. Meador, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Richmond Division, made the announcement.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ronald M. Huber is prosecuting the case for the United States.

Simulator

(cont. from page 1)

tracted driving.”

Lawson, who is also the Peters Creek District representative on the Patrick County School Board, said the radio will be turned up loud, the students in the back will harass the driver, and the trooper will talk with the driver during the course.

Drivers are also challenged to take a selfie with all the passengers while braking at a stop sign.

“We tell them the cones could be people, animals, objects. If you run over a cone, who knows what you’re running over out there on the highway,” he said.

Lawson said the department holds the simulation every semester for driver’s education students. He estimates about 80 students participated in this semester’s program.

The program is a partnership between the police department, State Farm, and Youth of Virginia Speak Out (YOVASO), an organization seeking to educate and empower youth to influence a safe driving culture.

Lawson said the program originally started as a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) simulator.

“But now, distracted driving has gotten to be more dangerous. In all honesty,



Virginia State Trooper Ryan Lawson addressed driver education students following their distracted driving simulations.

now the crashes we’re working” are “more distracted driving as the causing factor than DUI right now. It’s the most dangerous thing you can do on the highway,” he said.

After the simulation was complete, Lawson told the students the simulator was

a controlled environment in essentially a glorified golf cart.

“Multiply the weight by four and the speed by 10, and that’s a car. You saw how quickly things could get out of hand with just little cones, your buddies, and us messing with you” in a

controlled environment, he said.

Lawson said anything can happen if drivers take their eyes off the road for a split second, especially if they are “going down the road 60 to 70 miles an hour, radio wide open.

“All we’re trying to do

is just get you thinking about it while you’re driving,” Lawson said. “This is, again, a controlled environment, but I hope it makes you think about what happens on the roadway when you’re out there.”

Beach

(cont. from page 1)

named Male Vocalist of the Year 2021 by the Carolina Beach Music Association. Known as a Soul, R&B party band based out of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., the band’s musical repertoire covers decades of hits and genres of music including soul, rhythm & blues, funk, reggae, jazz standards, country, 50, 60’s and Carolina Beach Music.

The Chairman of the Board will steal the stage at 4:30 p.m., with Ken Knox at the helm of the band that also tours with members Thomas Hunter and Patrick McGuire and six musicians, performing hits that may include “Carolina Girls, Give Me Just A Little More Time” and “Danglin’ On A String.”

The Cat5 Band follows at 6:30 p.m., with a variety of genres.

Jim Quick and Coastline are scheduled to perform from 8:30 to 10 p.m. The band has been traveling the “tracks” of the southeast, and connecting with the hearts of loyal “Coastline Crazy’s.” Pulling from the threads of Soul, Blues,

R&B, and Americana, the band weaves together its own genre of music known as Swamp Soul. Delivered with precision by frontman Jim Quick and his band, this group captures the true, honest spirit of traditions born and bred in the small southern towns of America.

Ticket prices range from \$15 and \$20 on Thursday to \$30 and \$35 on Saturday. Three-day passes are available from \$50 in advance and \$55 at the gate. For advance ticket sales, visit <https://beachfestival.com/tickets>.

Organizers have partnered with several local lodging hosts, and on-site camping is available at Wayside Park.

Proceeds from the festival benefit the organizations Stuart Rotary supports including improvements at Rotary Field, scholarships for our graduates, a local school’s Backpack Program, Boy Scout Troop 65, and many other nonprofit organizations.

For more information, visit <https://beachfestival.com>.

Book

(cont. from page 1)

“At my age, you don’t have nothing to do, don’t feel like doing nothing, don’t get no energy, and so years ago I said, ‘I want to write about my family and give me something to do.’ It was a joy to remember it and bring it all back. I still love that home where I grew up,” she said.

Culler said her book is about her parents’ struggles to make a living from 1900 to 1949.

“They had peaches and Jesus Christ, so that’s what kept them going. It’s also about their faith in Jesus,” she said.

That faith is where she derived the book’s title.

“Are we rich because we have such a savior in Jesus Christ, or are we poor because we don’t have our faith in Him, and we just have this old world? This world won’t make you rich spiritually wise, but it might money-wise,” she said.

Culler said she admired her parents, their perseverance to live despite their struggles, and their strong faith.

“They stayed true to Him. No matter even if they had to eat pinot beans every day for a week,” she added, laughing.

Culler noted her parents’ endurance is apparent throughout the book.

“How they endured and endured, and worked so hard and tried so hard, but they were never able to become financially independent,” she said.

Culler said her father had a peach orchard, filled with beautiful fruit.

“But the market would always be flooded with old cheap peaches coming in from Georgia and South Carolina. The stands and everything around would be flooded with them. The market was so flooded he couldn’t sell his except to a few people that had tried his peaches and loved them,” she said.

Culler said she stopped her book in 1949 when her father gave up on his peach orchard. This ending is also her favorite part.

“Because daddy had faced another defeat, and he was 50 years old, but he was not willing to give up. He was going on to Canada to cure tobacco up there in Canada, and start with cattle,” she said.

While the book ends on a cheerful, hopeful note, Culler says the reality is sadder.

“He failed at raising cattle. He went into it when it was real expensive, and by the time he got some raised and ready to sell the market had fallen. He did not make his money back,” she said.

The cover of the 257-page book was illustrated by Culler’s daughter, Debbie Culler. She also had several family members and friends including Melissa Barr, Nathan Culler, Andrea Johnson, and Phyllis Oehman, assist her with the book.

“Because they read the book long before I had it published, I just had to use somebody in the family that had read my writing on paper and not in the book,” she said.

Culler’s book is available as a paperback on Amazon, at the Honey Pot on Main, and at the Poor Farmer’s Market in Meadows of Dan.

Gates

(cont. from page 1)

attended New River Community College, and received a degree in Arts and Associates Science in 2004. Gates then attended Radford University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in 2007 and a master’s degree in Speech Therapy, with honors, in 2009.

“I learned the importance of working hard to further my education. It was important to me to get into a career where I could use my skills and love the job that I was doing serving people,” she wrote. “My family and I have

a life-long commitment to volunteering and service in our community. As a young adult, I volunteered with Floyd County Rescue Squad as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and assisted with transporting and saving lives.

“Because our county does not have any hospitals, I learned the importance of making every minute count to save a life. While on the squad I participated in demonstrations and

tours of our ambulance at local elementary schools and loved to see the prospect of future EMTs for our county,” she wrote.

More information about Gates is available at www.friendsofreniegates.com, or from John Reynolds, chairman of the Patrick County Democratic Committee, and/or the Franklin County Democratic Committee at fcdemocratsva@gmail.com or (540) 238-7307.

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National Guard Troops deployed to southern border

Virginia National Guard Troops are being deployed to Texas, in support of Operation Lone Star, which intends to secure the border and reduce the illegal flow of fentanyl.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Directive Four on Wednesday, to deploy targeted resources in response to an Emergency Management Assistance Compact Request from Texas that was issued to address the ongoing southern U.S. border crisis.

Due to continued instability along the U.S. border with Mexico, including the in-

crease in supply of illegal drugs and human trafficking, Texas sent a request for assistance to all states and territories through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), of which Virginia is a founding member.

On May 16, Texas requested states provide military support to assist in managing such conditions. Per Gov. Abbott's request, Virginia will be deploying 100 troops. Fentanyl and illicit drugs flowing over our border are devastating Virginia families and communities, an average of five Virginians die per day from fentanyl.

"The ongoing border crisis facing our nation has turned every state into a border state," said Youngkin. "As leadership solutions at the federal level fall short, states are answering the call to secure our southern border, reduce the flow of fentanyl, combat human trafficking and address the humanitarian crisis. Following a briefing from Governor Abbott

last week, Virginia is joining other states to deliver on his request for additional assistance. Given the intensive resource demands on Texas, the dangers posed by the fentanyl crisis, and impact of the border crisis on criminal activity to the Commonwealth, Virginia will do its part to assist the State of Texas' efforts with the coordinated deployment of Virginia National Guard soldiers to assist in key aspects of their mission."

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith issued a statement in support of the deployment.

"Our country is currently in crisis due to the Biden Administration's inability to control our southern border. Here in Virginia, we too feel the effects of the Administration's flawed open border policies. Fentanyl smuggled over our southern border has devastated communities across the Commonwealth and continues to do so every day," Griffith, R-Salem, said.

"I applaud Governor Youngkin's decision to deploy 100 Virginia National Guard troops to Texas in an effort to secure our southern border, combat human trafficking, and stem the flow of deadly fentanyl pouring into our country," he added.

Supreme Court WOTUS ruling favors farmers, property owners

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of landowner rights in its Sackett v. EPA ruling over the scope of the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory authority regarding what waters constitute a "Waters of the United States."

In the ruling, the court declared that the Clean Water Act does not allow the EPA to regulate wetlands that are isolated from other bodies of water.

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation joined with other state Farm Bureaus in signing onto an amicus brief advocating that states are best positioned to regulate features within their borders—and already do so. The justices referred to this argument in the conclusion of their ruling.

"Farmers have been arguing against these arbitrary rules from EPA for many years, and their voices were finally heard," said Martha Moore, senior vice president of governmental relations for VFBB.

The Sacketts, a couple from Idaho, had been in a long-running battle with the EPA over a piece of land they purchased with intentions of building a home on it. The EPA claimed that the Sacketts' property was a "wetland" and, as such, was subject to the Clean Water Act's WOTUS regulations.

The Sacketts argued that the EPA had overstepped its bounds and was infringing on their private property rights. The overregulation stemmed from the "absence of a

clear and definitive test" to determine what constitutes a WOTUS.

"The court's ruling throws out the controversial 'significant nexus' test and is a step toward a more reasonable definition of WOTUS—something Farm Bureau has advocated for since the beginning," noted Ben Rowe, VFBB national affairs coordinator.

"This is a victory for farmers and property rights, and we hope this ruling can set the stage for the agencies to develop clear and easy-to-understand rules going forward."

The court defined that the Clean Water Act's use of "waters" encompasses only those that are relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water forming geographical features that are described as streams, oceans, rivers and lakes. As for wetlands, the act extends only to wetlands that are indistinguishable from WOTUS and, secondly, that the wetlands have a continuous surface connection with that water.

While EPA's proposed 2023 rule remains on the books, the outcome of this court case negates EPA's and the Army Corps of Engineers' ability to enforce it.

"Farmers and ranchers share the goal of protecting the resources they're entrusted with, but they deserve a rule that provides clarity and doesn't require a team of attorneys to properly care for their land," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall.

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Ararat Ruritans receive help honoring veterans



Mary Dellenback Hill, chairman of the committee to place American Flags on Veteran's Graves for Memorial Day, received some help from Emily Eubank, Lori Easter, and Hunters Chapel Assembly Church Youth Group. Ararat Ruritans who participated included Donna Farris (pictured), Mike Noonkester, Brad Hish, Chip Bondurant, and Waymond and Dianne Dawson.

Podcast

(cont. from page 1)

Dr. Nancy Moncrief, who's here, and Dr. Brinkerhoff, who's a scientist of another institution," he said.

A recent two-part series was an interview of Dr. Art Evans, an entomologist who previously served as the Director of the Insect Zoo at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, about his career and published works.

Williams said he tries to put out one or two episodes each month.

"The idea came about, it was late 2021, Dr. Adam Pritchard and Dr. Hayden Bassett, who are our paleontologist and archeologist respectively," Williams said. The two "approached me about the idea of doing a museum podcast. I thought it was a great idea, and they asked me what I thought about being the one to host it."

After some research and purchasing the necessary equipment, Williams published the first episode about the museum's Cultural Heritage Monitoring Lab.

The topics presented during episodes depend on what's going on at the museum and Williams' own ideas.

"Sometimes, I'll just have an idea like 'Hey, that's an interesting story, let's talk about it.' Sometimes the curators will say, 'I just published this paper, or I'm working on a paper and it's a pretty interesting topic, do you want to do a podcast about this,'" he said.

Like the topics covered, the podcast's episodes also have a variety of play times, with the shortest being 11 minutes and the longest at 55 minutes.

"I've never been a fan of minimum word counts," Williams, a former journalist, said. "I think a thing should be as long as it needs to be."

Williams said his favorite episode involved People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) contacting Dr. Kaloyan "Kal" Ivanov and Dr. Joe Keiper, the museum's Executive Director, in 2021 to help investigate an animal cruelty case in the Midwest.

"It was a case involving the death of a large cat that PETA believed was due to neglect," he said.

The two men were called in because PETA wanted forensic entomologists to study the insects and insect egg casings to pinpoint with a degree of accuracy when the cat died.

"So, they were being brought in to determine the time of death of this tiger," Williams said.

In talking to Ivanov, Williams said he realized the person under suspicion of neglect was Jeff Lowe from the Netflix show "Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem, and Madness."

"Somehow, no disrespect to Joe and Kal, but somehow PETA had found the only two people in America that had only not watched Tiger King but were totally unaware of its existence," Williams said. "I was just floored. I was like, 'You guys know this is a really big deal, right? Like you could end up on a season of this Netflix documentary.'"

Based on the evidence Ivanov and Keiper found, Williams said it seemed that Lowe had not been entirely honest about the nature and timeframe of the tiger's death.

"We did a whole episode where they talked about that experience and how forensic entomology works and how that trial turned out. That's one of my favorites because it's such a crazy story and the fact that the Virginia Museum of Natural History of all places got involved in that," he said.

Williams said a future episode focused on Dr. Adam Pritchard's paper on drepanosaurus, a Triassic Period reptile.

"Drepanosaurus were these weird-looking reptiles that had very short and almost club-like arms with a really long claw on one of the fingers," Williams said. The belief is that they would use that claw to dig beetle grubs out of trees. They wouldn't have eaten ants because ants didn't even exist at this time to my understanding."

Williams believes it's often easy for people to find the sciences inaccessible. His goal is to make the podcast something that anyone can listen to and get something out of.

"One of my main goals with this podcast is that I didn't want it to be very dry, and I didn't want there to be a lot of jargon," he said.

Williams said he thinks this is part of why he was asked to host the podcast.

"Even though my title is Administrator of Science and I work very closely with the curators, I'm not a scientist. I was an English major, and in fact, physical science in 7th grade was one of the worst experiences of my life," he said, laughing.

But, like his work with the museum, he approaches everything as an enthusiast.

"I hope that a lot of the questions that I'm asking scientists are the questions that the average person, the layperson, would ask if they were in my shoes," he said.

With each episode, Williams hopes to provide something light and accessible to listeners.

"I even crack jokes occasionally, and on rare occasions some of them are funny," he said.

The podcast can be found at www.vmnh.net/research-collections/vmnhcast, Apple Podcasts or Spotify by searching "The VMNHcast."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pro March

I am writing to express my support for Marie March as the Republican candidate for the 47th District of the House of Delegates. Marie is a staunch conservative and does not back down. She sponsored bills that would increase citizens' school choice, repeal red flag laws, and pre-

serve life at conception. I would like to urge the citizens of the 47th District to vote for Marie March, who will not betray our conservative values.

**Sue Anne Boothe,
Floyd**

Blood Drive set for June 13

The Patrick County Blood Drive is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., at the John D. Hooker Building, Rotary Field.

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.

This month's blood drive is supported by Schneider & Williams, LLC, Attorneys at Law, a long-time

supporter of the Red Cross Blood Drive.

The American Red Cross recommends before donating that all donors: Get a good night's sleep; eat a well-balanced, nutritious meal; and drink lots of fluids 48 hours before donating

Looking forward to seeing you at Patrick County's oldest Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, June 13.

Please VOTE on June 20. It is our privilege and Constitutional Right as American citizens.

**Gene Stirewalt,
Stuart**

The REINS Act

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith

Recently I voted against the Fiscal Responsibility Act, the debt ceiling legislation negotiated by Speaker Kevin McCarthy and President Biden.

As I've said before, I have long believed that Congress has a responsibility to the American people to "rein in" wasteful and excessive spending.

In late April, I voted to raise the debt ceiling by supporting the Limit, Save, Grow Act. Limit, Save, Grow was the House Republicans common-sense legislation to limit by Congress' reckless spending, while raising the debt ceiling by \$1.5 trillion.

Unfortunately, not only were the reforms in the Fiscal Responsibility Act not anywhere close to those in Limit, Save, Grow, but it increased the debt limit by an additional \$2.5 trillion to \$4 trillion.

I could not justify voting in favor of legislation that raises the debt ceiling by a projected \$4 trillion without a majority of the spending reforms previously agreed to.

Specifically, I was disappointed that the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act was not included in this new legislation, a provision I strongly supported in Limit, Save, Grow. The REINS Act requires economically significant regulations proposed by federal agencies, or those costing in excess of \$100 million per year, to be approved Congress before taking effect.

Article 1 of the Constitution grants Congress the "power of the purse", giving Congress taxing and spending power and the authority to appropriate money collected by the federal government.

Historically, this power has been one of the main tools by which Congress has limited executive power. Unfortunately, over the years, Con-

gress has increasingly given away this power to the federal branch indirectly through granting authority to the executive branch to pass regulations that can force spending by both the federal government and private enterprise without first obtaining congressional approval for said spending.

Many times, the agencies take authority not explicitly given to them. Just one example would be the recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court overturning the interpretation of the 'Waters of the United States,' made by the Environment Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers.

For example, during President George Bush's first year in office, his administration finalized 36 economically significant regulations, or major rules. In 2021, the Biden administration finalized 69 of these major rules. It is time we stop this trend.

This trend has led to a powerful administrative state of unelected bureaucrats. They often act outside the bounds of our Constitution framework and our country's democratic republic principles.

By requiring Congress to approve any major rule proposed by the federal branch, the REINS Act would take a significant step in restoring Congress' legislative authority, as originally intended. Elected officials, not bureaucrats, should be in control of federal policy.

Moving forward, I am committed to finding ways to advance the REINS Act in the House and, eventually, get it enacted into law. We are scheduled to soon debate REINS. The House will pass the REINS Act and I call on the Senate to do the same.

It's not about Democrats or Republicans, it's about the legislative branch reasserting their authority over the executive branch.

D-Day

On another note, June 6 is the 79th anniversary of D-Day, the allied invasion of Normandy during World War II. More than 150,000 soldiers, sailors, and airmen were part of D-Day and the Normandy campaign.

With redistricting, the Ninth District has been expanded to include Bedford and Franklin Counties. This means that the District now includes the National D-Day Memorial, as well as the Bedford Boys Tribute Center. The Bedford Boys, otherwise known as the Virginia National Guard – Company A of the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division, were one of the American units at the forefront of the D-Day invasion.

When Company A stormed Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, there were 35 soldiers from Bedford, as

well as other men from counties across the Ninth District. By the end of the campaign, 23 of the boys from Bedford would be dead. Because of this, Bedford, Virginia had the highest per capita death toll of any town or city in the United States. This is what inspired Congress to establish the D-Day memorial in Bedford.

I encourage everyone to visit Bedford and stop by both the D-Day Memorial and the Tribute Center to learn more about the D-Day invasion and to honor the men who were the point of the spear in cracking through Hitler's "Atlantic Wall."

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 by visiting website at www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

Scams in the age of AI

Scammers are adept at manipulating the latest technological advances to commit their crimes. These days it's happening in the world of artificial intelligence – commonly known as AI.

AI voice cloning is already bringing a new twist to scams that have been around forever. For instance, the grandparent scam calls now can feature the actual voice of the loved one the criminal is impersonating. These tactics are startling, but the ways we protect ourselves haven't changed.

The first sign of any fraud attempt is when an unexpected contact causes an immediate emotional reaction – often fear, panic, or excitement. Maybe training our brains to disengage when we feel that emotional surge could be the best way to disrupt the criminal act. Otherwise, stay updated on the

latest fraud tactics by bookmarking www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork. And know that anytime you are asked to address some urgent financial matter with a gift card, cryptocurrency or peer-to-peer payment app, it's a scam.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

With about 1 million members in Virginia, AARP is the largest organization working on behalf of people aged 50-plus and their families in the Commonwealth. To learn more about how AARP Virginia is working in your community, visit www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia and @AARPVa on Twitter at www.twitter.com/aarpva.

Chat

(cont. from page 2)

Claudville. Their new office space is a great addition to the community with enhanced services offered. We are happy to see the investment of rehabbing the building in the community.

Summer is upon us with summer camps, and there are several great ones in our county, vacations, and gardening. The Chamber will be taking a breather from events as we focus on lining everything up for the busy fall, but we will be hosting two workshops on June 28. The first workshop will be on how to use the online graphic design software, Canva. The second will be on best practices for social media. These workshops are free, but registration is required, visit the chamber's website for more information.

The spring magazine has been an-

other successful issue. We are gearing up for the fall edition and have started taking advertisements for it. More information can be found on the website or call the office. One featured article for the fall will be our Chamber Award winners. Nominations close at the end of May, and we will advertise the voting form from June 15 through July 15. Winners will receive a writeup in the fall magazine. Using the magazine is a great platform to showcase our businesses that are vital to our community and county.

Enjoy the summer months, vacations, ball games, and gardening!

New Members are Parkway Threads, Woolwine Early Learning Center.

(Adcock is the Executive Director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce.)

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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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Weekly SUDOKU

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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.

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A Meal With and For Your Dad

I began writing with the idea to write a blog about summer recipes. Then, I realized that Father's Day (June 18) is a few days ahead of the first days of summer (June 21). And then with that, I realized that I'd been hearing a lot of people say that they don't do much on Father's Day. Be it a short phone call, a Facebook or Instagram post that our dads might never see, or maybe a handwritten card, it seems that dads don't really get much of the sweetness and bustle that Mother's Day is characterized by.

I'll be honest - this

broke my heart a little for the dads out there.

The dads who faithfully worked a lifetime at a not so enjoyable job in order to provide for us. The dads that fixed and restored the broken things at home - without a word - so that home was always home to us. The dads that rarely say, "I love you" but have hearts bursting with pride and joy to call us their son or daughter. My dad, who couldn't leave a room without giving my sister and I a tight hug first.

Dads are special, too. And don't we cook for the special people in our lives?

Let me tell you a little story. The year before I got married, I took to making dinner for my dad. I called

him my "guinea pig" and practiced making various recipes that I would later cook for my husband. My dad loved it. He loved watching me maneuver around the kitchen just like my mom. He loved seeing how I had picked up recipes and ideas from the places I'd visited in the world. He loved seeing that I - his child that he had cared for from birth - could now make a meal for him. For me, I knew that these were the memories of my dad that I would cherish the most for the rest of my life.

I never realized how meaningful it would be to cook a meal for my dad as an adult. There's something about cooking for the people you love that is so much better, so much more

special than going out to eat or even getting an expensive gift. It's what we Koreans call ("son-mat"), literally "the taste of your hands" and it refers to the "flavor" of love you put into your food.

So, if you're all out of ideas (or didn't have any just yet) for Father's Day, and you live close enough to your dad to do so, try cooking him a meal. It could be the best way to let him know how much you love him.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Sarah Yoo. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

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 - What If I Delay but Die Before Claiming Social Security?

Dear Rusty: Hypothetically, if I plan to sign up for Social Security at 70 and pass away before that, I will get nothing. My spouse would still get a boost in the amount she receives because I made more, but everything I put into the program vanishes. I haven't reached my full retirement age yet and I still have income, but if I sign up now at 63 my benefits will be withheld due to my income. Then at full retirement age (presuming I elected to claim earlier) a re-calculation will take place and my monthly amount would be adjusted. Well, what happens if I decide to wait until 70 but pass away before I claim? Are my contributions repaid in a lump sum, or will I (or someone else) still lose everything? Signed: Uncertain About My Future

Dear Uncertain: You are correct that if you pass away before collecting your earned Social Security benefits you won't personally get anything. Social Security has, since inception, been a "pay as you go" program where those currently working and contributing to Social Security pay benefits for those currently receiving Social Security. That means that if you die before collecting, the monies you contributed will have already been used to pay other recipients, but the contributions you made may still entitle you dependents to benefits on your record. For those who are in their early 60s, average longevity is mid-80s, meaning your spouse would likely collect benefits on your record for more than two decades, any minor children could collect until they are adults, and any permanently disabled child you may have would get benefits from your record for the rest of their life as well.

The Social Security payroll taxes you contributed were not put into a private account in your name. And, on average, it is to the beneficiary's advantage the program doesn't work that way because that personal account would be depleted fairly quickly after you claim - rather than getting benefits for the rest of your life, you'd only get benefits (plus interest) from your personal account, which would run dry pretty fast. FYI, we have researched this very carefully and found that, on average, all payroll taxes contributed to Social Security by an individual will be recovered within about 5 years of starting benefits. The actual length of time to recoup one's contributions varies somewhat depending on lifetime earnings and contributions made, but lower earning beneficiaries will recover everything contributed through payroll taxes within about 3 years, while it could take as much as 5 years for higher earners to get back everything they've paid into the program. And for clarity, since self-employed individuals pay both the employee and employer portion of the payroll tax, it does take longer for those who own their own business to recoup what they've contributed. Nevertheless, on average, most who claim benefits will get considerably more from the program than they paid in Social Security payroll taxes.

As to your specific question, if you die before collecting, the contributions you made weren't deposited in a personal account for you and won't be paid out in a lump sum. Rather, the payroll taxes you paid while working were used to pay benefits to beneficiaries receiving at the time, and those working and contributing after you die will fund the benefits paid to your spouse or disabled adult child until they die, or to your minor children until they are adults. The Social Security benefits you earned aren't just for you - your eligible dependents will also benefit from your record.

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Workforce programs now consolidated



Gov. Glenn Youngkin signs workforce bills at the Industrial Turnaround Corporation (ITAC) on May 31. (By Christian Martinez)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin's recent signing of House Bill 2195 and Senate Bill 1470 will create the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement, which will create, sustain, and retain a highly skilled workforce.

"Last year, my administration released its 'Compete to Win' plan and we have been laser-focused on bringing the Commonwealth of Virginia to a whole new level. The bills I signed will fundamentally transform our workforce for the future and better position the Commonwealth to not only compete, but win," said Youngkin. "With our foot on the accelerator, I am confident we will win big and set the national standard for talent."

"It is essential that every Virginian has access to top-notch education and training for in-demand jobs," said First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin. The recent "announcement is a shining example of government working better for employers and employees."

"After 30 years of people trying, we have been successful in bringing workforce development programs under the mission of the new Department of Workforce De-

velopment and Advancement and that will allow us to provide better services and training to Virginians, measure and optimize our programs, create more high-paying jobs, and enable the Commonwealth to better compete with other states," said Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater. "This effort will accelerate Virginia's economic growth and keep Virginia as the best place to live, work, and raise a family."

"For Virginia to have a bright future, we must have a well-trained workforce ready and able to fill the jobs of tomorrow. A trained workforce is the best economic development tool that we can possibly have. This legislation makes Virginia more attractive for businesses looking to grow," said Senator Frank Ruff.

"A skilled and readily available workforce is essential to building a strong and vibrant economy," said Delegate Kathy Byron. "By transforming the delivery of Virginia's workforce development programs, we are strengthening our ability to attract and grow businesses throughout the commonwealth, creating jobs and growing our economy."

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There will be Yard Games for the kids. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy this **FREE Public Event.**



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David Lee Griffin



We are sad to announce the passing of David Lee Griffin of Stuart, Virginia. David died at the age of 73 years old on June 1, 2023. David suffered a massive heart attack doing what he loved, working on his old home place. David was preceded in death by his Father (Alvis Griffin), his Mother (Nannie Biggs) and his grandson (Andrew Smith).

David was survived in death by his wife of 52 years, Janice Griffin, his two daughters (Christy Smith, Joni Acerson), one grandson (Riley Acerson), one great-granddaughter (Brooklyn

Smith), his sister (Lottie Ann Smart) and five nieces. Last, but certainly not least, David was survived by his two beloved dogs, Marley and Rosie. A private memorial service will be held on June 15, 2023 at 4pm at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Michael Morrison officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to

Moorefield Store Volunteer Fire Department, c/o Norman Grogan, 1716 Virginia-North Carolina Rd., Spencer, VA 24165. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Ronnie C. Rakes



Mr. Ronnie C. Rakes, age 80 of Patrick Springs, passed away Monday, May 29, 2023, at Novant Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC. He was born in Patrick County to the late Clyde Thomas Rakes and Catherine Cannady Rakes. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death

by three brothers, Norman Rakes (Shelby), Bernard Rakes (Bobbi), and Fred Rakes (Lucy). Ronnie was a retired welder and member of the Boilermakers Union. He attended Mt. View Church of God of Prophecy. He was an avid Nascar fan and enjoyed spending time outdoors, especially in the mountains. Most of all he loved spending time with his family.

Surviving is his loving wife of 60 years, Barbara Clark Rakes of the

home; two daughters and sons-in-law, Angie R. and Jason Brown of Stuart, Lisa R. and Eric Sheppard of Stuart; four grandchildren, Jonathan Woods, Meredith Law, Lauren Brown, Jared Brown; one brother and sister-in-law, Bobby and Carolyn Rakes of Powhatan; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 1:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Tom Warren officiating. Burial will follow in the Rakes Family Cemetery off Poplar Camp Rd. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Kenneth Wayne Hopkins



Kenneth Wayne Hopkins, 66, left this world on May 27, 2023.

Davidson Funeral Home of Lexington is serving the family. Kenneth will be cremated. There will be a graveside service at Forest Hill Memorial Park 2 PM Friday, June 2, 2023. His remains will be interred next to his father.

Kenneth was born on June 1, 1956, in Stuart, Va. to Early R. Hopkins Jr. and Dottie Jean Puckett Hopkins. He was the second oldest child of five. The family moved from Stuart to Lexington in the early 1960s. Kenneth graduated from Lexington Senior High School in 1975. He went on to work for the City of Lexington in the parks and recreation department for Parks Easter in the tennis program for 14 years. After that, he had some medical issues and was forced to take an early retirement. Kenny, whose friends lovingly called him Hoppy, loved the sport of wrestling. In fact, Hoppy wrestled throughout junior high and senior high and after graduation, he had a tryout with the IWA pro wrestling group. He wrestled as Kentucky Ken and the hood or the mask, and tag team and single competition. He started getting notice, but then had a car accident that ended his career. A year later he found out he had stage four melanoma. He was given an experimental drug at Duke, which saved his life. Being of Scotch-Irish ancestry, he met each medical crisis head on and overcame each one until the end.

Hoppy had a love for dogs, especially rescue dogs. He had many canine companions in his life. Gamma, Apollo, Pepsi, Sam, Roxie, and Charlie (a girl), all owed their lives to Hoppy who gave each one a loving home, lots of treats and rubs and hugs.

Hoppy wants his friends Jamie

Everhart, Scott Maphis and his family, Gary Gobble, entire staff of the local GameStop, all his friends on Xbox and PlayStation, his clan leaders BigFoot, and CalamityLeo, all his friends from the tennis days, Ken and Cindy Easter, Big Rick Link, and Danny "Chocolate" (who has been closer than a brother), Caron and Alexi Myers. Hoppy also wanted to thank Dr. Terry Arnold and his entire family and entire staff for all the time and love they have given to him over the past 40-plus years. He also wants to thank the folks at Lexington Medical Center and Baptist Hospital for the care they extended to him on countless occasions. Kenneth's church family is Meadowview Presbyterian Church in Lexington. He is thankful to them for their many years of support, especially his former pastor Chris Bitterman. Kenneth was preceded in death by his father.

He is survived by his mother, Dottie, his brother William Hopkins (Michelle), his sister Carolyn Hopkins Brockman (Jerry), his sister Brenda Hopkins Brogdon (Robert), his sister Cheryl Hopkins Dull. Also surviving are numerous nieces and nephews. And for all those who Kenneth says wanted him to bite their "arses", Kenneth says, "Bite me."

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Caron Myers for composing the obituary for Kenneth, and also to Hospice of Davidson County's staff for the excellent care they provided.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Meadowview Presbyterian Church 1 Grace Way Dr, Lexington, NC 27295, or to Hospice of Davidson County 200 Hospice Way Lexington, NC 27292. Obituary courtesy of Moody Funeral Home in Stuart.

Senior Center Grows 'Environmental Wellness' Programs

Edwin J. Viera, Virginia News Connection

As the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided, senior centers in Virginia are welcoming back their participants, and one in particular has shifted some of its focus to the environment. A National Council on Aging survey found senior centers provide a sense of connectedness for older people who might otherwise face barriers to making friends and being part of their community. Charlottesville's Center at Belvedere offers myriad services and programs, but has taken a keen focus on environmental wellness. Peter Thompson, executive director of the Center at Belvedere, said the programs have become a staple of the center's activities. "Environmental wellness is a part of our mission," Thompson explained. "It's part of our program model that environmental wellness is important, just as spiritual, emotional, physical, intellectual, etc. It's long been a part of our history." The Center has partnered with

the Piedmont Master Gardeners to develop a horticulture club. The club helps people become better home gardeners and help work on a pollinator garden. Other programs in the same vein include bird watching. Thompson pointed out reaction to the programs has been favorable. He noted the Center's mission is to ensure people have access to information, and then trust they will do the best they can with it. He describes how people have taken this information into their own lives. "Our participants approach us and say, 'I want to learn more about this,'" Thompson observed. "They trust us to be a neutral source of, you know, 'Here's the information.'" He added the Center itself is also working to become more environmentally conscious. In partnership with the Community Climate Collaborative's Green Business Alliance, they have established their own climate goals. They are working to reduce operating costs by "greening" their energy use and using solar and other renewable forms of power.

Pioneers

(cont. from page 2)

places he encountered while researching for his book Virginia's Lost Appalachian Trail. Meadows of Dan's Ralph and Hope Barnard were most helpful to Kelly, just as Barnard's grandfather, John R. Barnard, was to National Geographic writer Robert Brown when he visited the Barnard farm in 1949.

Brown's story about his journey along the Appalachian Trail, including his time spent with John Barnard, "King of the Pinnacles" was the first story about the AT to reach a national audience. One of the readers inspired by Brown's article was Emma "Granny" Gatewood, a name familiar to many who love the AT. Gatewood, at age 67, was the first woman to hike the entire 2,190 miles of the Appalachian Trail and the first person, male or female, to hike the entire trail three times!

Kelly's book, Virginia's Lost Appalachian Trail, filled in so many gaps of what little I knew about the old Appalachian Trail. My grandfather worked for the National Park Service for many years maintain-

ing the Blue Ridge Parkway from Smart's View Park south to the North Carolina line. The parkway and the old AT ran along together in some places. Grandpa showed me one of the old stone AT markers that were on Rock Church Road, above Slate Mountain Church. I knew the trail ran along the top of Belcher Mountain, across Euell and Oma Handy's farm, by Mountain View Church, and out Cloudbreak Road. When you reached US 58, Henry Cassell would allow you to stay at his home for the night and rest up, because from there you headed towards Busted Rock, the Dan River Gorge, and the infamous Pinnacles of Dan.

Kelly's book, Virginia's Lost Appalachian Trail, takes you back ninety years on a meandering journey through the counties of Bedford, Roanoke, Franklin, Floyd, Patrick, Carroll, Grayson, Smyth, and Washington. Kelly does a great job describing not only the beautiful scenery, but also the stewards of the land where the AT traveled.

Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.

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PATRICK PULPITS

Taking Up Our Cross



By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

In Matthew 16:24 Jesus is talking to His disciples about their future. He says, "If anyone will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." To many people today, this has come to mean bearing difficulties in life such as a physical ailment, a social hardship, or a long term problem. They will say "This is my cross to bear in life."

But can my cross be understood as arthritic back pain, or a nagging wife or husband, or an unpleasant boss at work. I think Paul referred to these problems as "a thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7). These are situations that arise from living in a sinful world. Everyone has them.

So, what does it mean to take up our cross? First, the cross points to conflict – between following Jesus and the world. The world opposes, even despises, the principles that Jesus laid out for us to follow. Following Jesus' principles of love for God and others, serving the weak, denying self for the good of others, and lifting up Jesus as Saviour and Lord will often be misunderstood and ridiculed by the worldly person who is out for himself at the expense of others.

Many believe success is "gaining the top rung," becoming the most popular, or retiring with no financial worries. But Jesus illustrated that success is fulfilling God's plan for you and gaining a victorious life. Paul said at the end of his life that "I have fought a good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness ... which the Lord...will give to me" (2 Timothy 4:7,8).

However, Paul, like Jesus, suffered much for his stand to be faithful to God, rather than living for self. But the reward for this life of devotion is huge: eternal life with Jesus in a perfect, beautiful world of love, joy, and peace.

So, the second aspect of taking up our cross is being uncompromising with Jesus and His Word, even under persecution or death. Many were, and are, the martyrs who died for their faith at the hands of opposers controlled by Satan. Ten of the original 12 disciples were killed for their faith. Judas took his own life and John died a natural death while serving Jesus faithfully for 90 or more years. Today, too, many Christians are shunned by family and friends and may even die for their faith.

But we don't have to be a martyr to take up our cross. We, like John, can live a faithful life, not compromising with the world's standards or goals. We do this by allowing the Holy Spirit to direct our lives and being obedient to God's will. We will find that we have a life "more abundant" than by taking any other path in life.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Darius (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Which prophet was trapped at a wall by an angel with drawn sword? Daniel, Balaam, Jeremiah, Nathan
3. In Proverbs 21:17, he that loveth wine and oil shall not be ...? Pure, Blamed, Liked, Rich

4. From Genesis 37:3, who had a coat of many colors? Abraham, Goliath, Adam, Joseph

5. Which Hebrew woman became Queen of Persia? Sarah, Esther, Deborah, Ruth

6. From Judges 10:2, how many years did Tola judge Israel? 1, 7, 23, 110

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Balaam, 3) Rich, 4) Joseph, 5) Esther, 6) 23

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Super Crossword WORKING IN 2-D

- ACROSS**
- 1 PC program shortcut
 - 6 Flog
 - 10 Pelting precipitation
 - 14 — Hopkins University
 - 19 Alternative
 - 20 Parka feature
 - 21 Quattro or TT carmaker
 - 22 Consume entirely
 - 23 King penguin's son?
 - 26 Dazzling light
 - 27 A, in Berlin
 - 28 Italian island
 - 29 Give a steed a spanking?
 - 31 Handheld firework
 - 33 Ad —
 - 34 Direction from Ariz. to Ky.
 - 35 Actor Danson
 - 36 Hwy. violation
 - 37 Back in time
 - 39 Western treaty gp.
 - 42 Answer to "Are you?"
 - 44 Driving coast to coast on icy roads?
 - 52 — Purina (old pet food company)
 - 53 Consumed
 - 54 Negative point
 - 55 Platform for speakers
 - 57 Folkie Guthrie
 - 58 "It makes sleeping comfortable," e.g.?
 - 63 "A Nightmare on Elm Street" director
 - 64 Like Dubliners
 - 65 Inning third
 - 66 Berate loudly
 - 67 Holy images
 - 68 Device like a TiVo, in brief
 - 69 Jigsaw unit
 - 71 Repeated
 - 74 U.S. org. with operatives
 - 75 One — (a handful)
 - 76 Writing tablet
 - 79 Nylon tights for people who are losing a lot of weight?
 - 83 "— la Douce"
 - 84 Hauling rig
 - 85 Gut-punch reaction
 - 86 Tree of Illinois
 - 87 Alternative to grits
 - 89 Violins donated to people who've gone broke?
 - 94 Prior to
 - 95 Cool, 1940s-style
 - 96 "See ya!"
 - 97 With
 - 115-Across, "Quit dreaming!"
 - 98 Ovine whine
 - 101 Water, to Yvette
 - 103 K-12 gp.
 - 105 Rebuke
 - 110 Presently riding as a jockey?
 - 114 Mix
 - 115 See
 - 97-Across
 - 116 Growing older
 - 117 Villain from a Virginia city?
 - 120 Roofing tile
 - 121 Writer Wiesel
 - 122 Frightful giant
 - 123 Sewing cases
 - 124 Skin qualities
 - 125 Split apart
 - 126 Go beyond
 - 127 Plains shelter
 - DOWN
 - 1 Is sulky
 - 2 Take — (go somewhere)
 - 3 Porcelain babies, maybe
 - 4 "The Intern" actress
 - 5 Tolkien menace
 - 6 Entire
 - 7 Informal German tavern
 - 8 The Hawkeye State
 - 9 High-tech "appt. book"
 - 10 Gave birth to Tom, Dick or Harry?
 - 11 "— Lang Syne"
 - 12 Screened at a bar door
 - 13 Twisted cotton thread
 - 14 Archie's pal, in comics
 - 15 World capital on a fjord
 - 16 Valentine's Day symbol
 - 17 Surgery aide
 - 18 Quickness
 - 24 Twisting fish
 - 25 Print quality meas.
 - 30 City in Oklahoma
 - 32 Commercial suffix with Star or Sun
 - 33 State-run game
 - 38 Grind, as the teeth
 - 40 Natty scarf
 - 41 Hershey candy bar
 - 43 Halfway point
 - 44 Bird's gullet
 - 45 Unusual
 - 46 Become rusty, say
 - 47 — a million
 - 48 Maker of major repairs
 - 49 Like musical works with five sharps
 - 50 Hardware bit
 - 51 Gershon of "Killer Joe"
 - 56 USMC NCO
 - 59 Sure-footed equine
 - 60 Parka feature
 - 61 Glasses and goggles
 - 62 1920s-'30s art style
 - 64 Frosted
 - 67 Potassium — (table salt additive)
 - 68 Major racket
 - 69 Counterpart of 54-Across
 - 70 "No problem"
 - 71 Slalom curve
 - 72 Dish designer
 - 73 Half: Prefix
 - 74 — latte (espresso)
 - 75 "Someone to Watch Over Me" musical
 - 76 Made attractive
 - 77 "I'm —" (greeting in Apple ads)
 - 78 "Cagney & Lacey" actress Tyne
 - 80 Sushi eggs
 - 81 Ritzzy
 - 82 "— dabba doo!"
 - 83 Obtain by entreaty
 - 88 Pulls hard
 - 90 Earth-scooping machines
 - 91 Perseid over
 - 92 Sided against
 - 93 Bee fluids
 - 98 Be a braggart
 - 99 — -Saxon
 - 100 Thai or Iraqi
 - 102 Gut problem
 - 104 Old Pan Am competitor
 - 106 Trail activities
 - 107 Billy Joel's "Just the Way You —"
 - 108 Hawkins of "Li'l Abner"
 - 109 Mom on "Family Ties"
 - 111 Poker stake
 - 112 "Wilde" actress Jennifer
 - 113 No, in Bonn
 - 114 Onetime Nintendo rival
 - 118 Daddy
 - 119 Poker stake

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Puzzle answers page 14

Fishing team members place in tournaments

Several members of the Patrick County High School Fishing Team were able to secure a spot and participate in state tournaments, including those who competed in the Joseph A. Thomson Memorial BASS Nation Virginia State Championship on Buggs Island Lake (John H. Kerr Reservoir) at Oconeechee State Park, Clarksville, Virginia.

The Joseph A. Thomson Memorial Tournament was created to raise scholarship money in memory of Joseph Thomson, a college student who was killed in a vehicle accident in 2006. Joseph had been a member of the Orange County High School Anglers in Orange, VA and after one year, he soon started a club with his



Pictured are several members of the Patrick County High School Fishing Team who were able to secure a spot and participate in state tournaments: Tripp Thompson, Evan Eastridge, Jacob Spencer, Hunter Heath and Jonah Shockley (not pictured Lacey Sutphin and Mason Bennett), they competed in state tournaments on Buggs Island Lake (John H. Kerr Reservoir).

own school in Warren County, VA.

The Joseph Thomson 6 Man Team Championship is held to raise money for the BASS Nation of Virginia Memorial Scholarship. The 2023 BASS Nation of Virginia Memorial Scholarships were presented to Hunter Barrow with the Foothills Youth Anglers; Logan Buttolph fishes with Lake Anna Elite Anglers and Dylan Ogburn with Greenville County Anglers. Mecklenburg High School Junior Anglers placed first in Junior Division and Foothills High School Anglers placed first in Senior Division.

Hunter Heath and Jonah Shockley; Tripp Thompson and Jacob Spencer and Evan Eastridge also competed in the "FUN" draiser tournament at Buggs that same weekend. The tournament fees for this tournament went towards the youth program.

Congratulations to PC's Tripp Thompson and Jacob Spencer who placed 1st in the State Junior Division with total lbs. 11.67 and also won biggest fish trophy with 4.13 lbs. Evan Eastridge finished 4th with 7.01 lbs. There were 11 teams competing from all over the state in the Junior Division. Total weight for all 11 teams was 43.14 lbs. over 8 hours fished. In the State Senior Division, Jonah Shockley and Hunter Heath finished with a total weight of 7.45 lbs. Total weight for the 15 Senior Division teams was 93.82lbs. Patrick County High School Fishing Team would like to thank all the Boat Captains, Sponsors and Community support in providing this opportunity and experience to the young anglers.



Boat Captain Scottie Thompson with Tripp Thompson and Jacob Spencer who placed 1st in the State Junior Division with total lbs. 11.67 and also won biggest fish trophy 4.13 lbs.

Sports Briefs

By Ashlee Mullis

PCHS Boys Soccer Makes History in the Program

On Tuesday, May 31, the Boys Varsity Soccer Team achieved something no other team in the program's history has achieved. They advanced to the VHSL Regional Postseason Semi-finals with a quarter-final win over Martinsville. The win came after a thrilling 3-3 tie in regulation. After no goals were scored in 4 overtime periods, the contest was decided by a penalty shoot-out.

Peyton Cambron, senior goalkeeper, shut out all 3 Martinsville penalty attempts. Reyli Martinez-Tejeda scored the decisive 4th point to spark wild celebrations amongst the entire team.

"I was really calm going into the shootout. After I made the first save, I knew we were going to win. As a senior, it feels great to be a part of a team that wrote a new history for PCHS," said Cambron after the match.

Austin Hylton, a junior forward added, "This result means a lot- to be the first team to do something different."

Cambron also spoke to the improvement he has seen in the team this year noting,

"It was great to see the team bounce back after going down 3-2 in regulation. Last year we would have folded, but we overcame that diversity and achieved our target."

Head Coach Oscar Tejeda described the historic night.

"If there is one word I could use, it would be progress. A pride filled moment would be that we have beaten everyone on the schedule we have played in our history and now advanced farther than we ever have."

With the win coming at home against local rival Martinsville, the program is heading in the right direction. Even though they fell short to Glenvar in the semi-finals, the team will look to go another step forward and qualify for its first ever state tournament appearance next year. With a change in districts on the horizon next season, anything could be possible. History was made last week, but maybe it's only just the beginning for these athletes.

Cougar Softball Falls in Regionals

The Lady Cougar Softball Team lost 1-7 in the regional semi-finals against the James River Knights, Wednesday, June 1 at the Botetourt Sports Complex. McKenzie Holt had 2 hits with and 1 RBI. Bryley Pike had a double, and Alexis Knight and Samantha Harris each had hits. Holt pitched 5 and a 1/3 innings, striking out 3. Journey Moore pitched 1 2/3 for the Cougars.

Local anglers compete on national platform

The nation's top ranked college fishermen gathered in Anderson, SC to compete for the title of National Champion. The Association of Collegiate Anglers (ACA), and their sponsors, welcomed 400 collegiate anglers, coaches, as well as top touring professionals to Green Pond Landing, on the shores of Lake Hartwell for the first time. The 18th edition of the BoatUS Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship, Presented by Bass Pro Shops kicked off at 6 a.m. on Thursday, May 25, and a full field of 200 teams fished both Thursday and Friday.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Bass Fishing Team of Zach Heath and David Bryant, (both PCHS Alumni); Ethan Hubbard (PCHS Alumni) and Shelby Rigney; and King University's Jacob Lovell (PCHS Alumni) and Hunter McClaskey competed in the championship among 400 collegiate anglers throughout the United States. All local anglers walked across the national stage for weigh-ins and placed in the tournament. Although not enough for a top ten finish, it was a great experience for all the anglers.

The red carpets were rolled out Wednesday night at the annual Angler & Sponsor Appreciation Banquet, thanks to the ACA and the sponsors of the Bass Pro Shops Collegiate Bass Fishing Series. Anglers were treated to a great meal, courtesy of Visit Anderson, that included a pre-game pep talk from Bass Pro Shops touring pro, Andy Montgomery. Festivities also included the royal treatment from sponsors.

The Abu Garcia "Trade-in and Trade-up" program swapped out



(Photo contributed by Bass Pro Shops Collegiate Bass Fishing Series.)

used reels, for the all new Revo Rockets, so every angler could have a new reel. Sunline was also on hand, spooling up any make or model and made sure no spools left empty. Anglers were also loaded up with giveaways, from AFTCO, Bajio, Bass Pro Shops, Big Bite Baits, Bob's Machine Shop, Denali, Garmin, Power Pole Rapala/VMC/Suffix, Spro, TH Marine, Yamaha, as well as other vendors.

Although the anglers loaded up on shore Wednesday, the support didn't stop there. TowBoatUS provided on the water support for this year's event, and the Yama-

ha Service Crew and the Bass Pro Shops/White River Marine Group Service Team assisted the anglers in the event of mechanical troubles during the event. In addition, anglers also had opportunities to earn additional prizes and merchandise with programs such as the AFTCO Bank Bag program, re every bag of trash collected was worth a \$25 gift card for AFTCO products.

The Association of Collegiate Anglers' 18th annual National Championship awarded over \$30,000 in prizes and contingencies, crowned a National Champi-

on, and named a number one team in the Bass Pro Shops School of the Year presented by Abu Garcia. Tucker Smith and Hayden Marbut from 2nd ranked Auburn University took top honors with 35.24 pounds. Along with the crowning of a new National Champion, collegiate bass fishing history was made as the University of Montevallo won the Bass Pro Shops School of the Year presented by Abu Garcia. Montevallo became the first team to win college fishing's most prestigious title three times, as well as having done so in three straight seasons.

Kyle Busch converts pole position into NASCAR Cup win at WWT Raceway

**By Reid Spencer
NASCAR Wire Service**
MADISON, Ill.—Kyle Busch collected his 63rd NASCAR Cup Series victory on Sunday at World Wide Technology Raceway, but the driver of the No. 8 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet had to work hard for the first-place money.

Busch, the pole winner, survived five restarts in the last 40 laps of the Enjoy Illinois 300 and beat Denny Hamlin to the finish line by .517 seconds after Bubba Wallace's broken brake rotor caused the 11th caution on Lap 236 and sent the race to overtime.

The victory was Busch's first at the 1.25-mile track and the third in his debut season with RCR. It was a home game for his crew chief, Randall Burnett, who grew up in Fenton, Mo., and had family in attendance on Sunday.

"That was pretty awesome," Busch exulted after he climbed from his car. "Man, to sit on the pole, lead a lot of laps and have my guys do such a great job today was pretty phenomenal for us. Great for RCR. Just win, baby! Thanks to Team Chevy, appreciate (sponsor) 3Chi..."

"We're going to have a great time with this one. This one is pretty cool."

Busch led five times for 121 laps, including the last 60. Neither Hamlin nor third-place finisher Joey

Logano—winner of the inaugural Gateway race last year—led a single circuit.

Kyle Larson parlayed a two-tire call on Lap 178 into improved track position and a fourth-place finish. Martin Truex was fifth, followed by Ryan Blaney, Daniel Suarez, William Byron, Michael McDowell and Kevin Harvick.

Blaney led 83 laps and Byron 30. Byron pitted from the lead on Lap 178 but fell to fourth with an uncharacteristically slow stop and faded in traffic after the subsequent Lap 184 restart.

Corey LaJoie finished 21st in a substitute role for Chase Elliott, who was serving a one-race suspension for wrecking Hamlin in Monday's Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte.

Subbing for LaJoie in his usual ride—the No. 7 Spire Motorsports Chevrolet—Carson Hocevar started 26th and gained 10 spots with an impressive drive through the field before a brake rotor failure on Lap 90 knocked him out of the race.

Hocevar was running 16th and chasing Austin Dillon for position when the right front rotor broke into pieces. The No. 7 Camaro made jarring contact with the Turn 1 wall to cause the fourth caution of the race, which was delayed for two hours with just seven laps complete because of lightning in the area.



Kyle Busch, driver of the #8 3CHI Chevrolet, leads the field during the NASCAR Cup Series Enjoy Illinois 300 at WWT Raceway on June 04, 2023 in Madison, Illinois. (Photo by Jeff Curry/Getty Images)

"I thought it was great," said Hocevar, who was racing a Cup car for the first time. "I had a blast. Just so thankful for the opportunity. I don't have a job for next year. I know Al Niece and Cody Efav want me to run for them (in the NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series), and I will forever run a race or however many."

"But man, I'm just so thankful that (Spire) gave me the opportunity—the opportunity to drive an Xfinity car (on Monday at Charlotte) and now driving a Cup car. I was running 16th... just so surreal for the first time ever. I thought we were going to have a good day and

be in a good spot for the No. 7 Chevy team. Hopefully, that call for a Cup ride isn't the only one I get in my life."

Brake rotors weren't an issue confined to Hocevar's car. Tyler Reddick slammed the outside wall after his right front rotor exploded on Lap 175. On Lap 198, the same fate befell Noah Gragson, who took the hardest hit of all when his No. 42 Chevy slid up the track into the fence in Turn 1.

Bubba Wallace had the same issue with five laps left in regulation, and his contact with the Turn 1 wall set up the final two-lap run to the finish in overtime. Hamlin felt the lightning

delay played against him and the No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing team.

"Yeah, I thought we were super dialed in if it was 95 degrees like it was supposed to be, (but) with those delays, it kind of took away from the advantage I thought that we had," Hamlin said.

"I'm proud of this whole Sport Clips Toyota team—pit crew did a phenomenal job keeping us in it and doing really good on the money stop with about 60 to go. We are going to have to wait (for) another (race) to get that 50th (win)."

NASCAR Cup Series Race - Enjoy Illinois 300 presented by TicketSmarter

World Wide Technology Raceway Madison, Illinois Sunday, June 4, 2023

- 1. (1) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 243.
- 2. (3) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 243.
- 3. (6) Joey Logano, Ford, 243.
- 4. (22) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 243.
- 5. (5) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 243.
- 6. (2) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 243.
- 7. (13) Daniel Suarez, Chevrolet, 243.
- 8. (7) William Byron, Chevrolet, 243.
- 9. (21) Michael McDow-

- ell, Ford, 243.
- 10. (4) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 243.
- 11. (17) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 243.
- 12. (27) Chris Buescher, Ford, 243.
- 13. (10) Austin Cindric, Ford, 243.
- 14. (11) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 243.
- 15. (28) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 243.
- 16. (23) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 243.
- 17. (29) Ryan Preece, Ford, 243.
- 18. (31) Erik Jones, Chevrolet, 243.
- 19. (24) Aric Almirola, Ford, 243.
- 20. (15) Ty Gibbs #, Toy-

- ota, 243.
- 21. (30) Corey LaJoie, Chevrolet, 243.
- 22. (8) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 243.
- 23. (14) Harrison Burton, Ford, 243.
- 24. (36) JJ Yeley(i), Ford, 243.
- 25. (33) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 243.
- 26. (18) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 243.
- 27. (34) BJ McLeod, Chevrolet, 243.
- 28. (19) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 243.
- 29. (35) Gray Gaulding(i), Ford, 242.
- 30. (20) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, Accident, 236.
- 31. (16) Austin Dillon,

- Chevrolet, Accident, 223.
 - 32. (12) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, Accident, 219.
 - 33. (32) Noah Gragson #, Chevrolet, Accident, 197.
 - 34. (25) Chase Briscoe, Ford, 193.
 - 35. (9) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, Accident, 174.
 - 36. (26) Carson Hocevar(i), Chevrolet, Accident, 91.
- Average Speed of Race Winner: 87.508 mph.
Time of Race: 3 Hrs, 28 Mins, 16 Secs. Margin of Victory: .517 Seconds.
Caution Flags: 11 for 67 laps.
Lead Changes: 10

- among 5 drivers.
- Lap Leaders: R. Blaney 1;K. Busch 2-60;R. Blaney 61-98;K. Busch 99;R. Blaney 100-143;K. Busch 144;T. Reddick 145-148;W. Byron 149-178;K. Larson 179-183;K. Busch 184-243.
- Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Lead, Laps Led): Kyle Busch 4 times for 121 laps; Ryan Blaney 3 times for 83 laps; William Byron 1 time for 30 laps; Kyle Larson 1 time for 5 laps; Tyler Reddick 1 time for 4 laps.
- Stage #1 Top Ten: 8,12,11,19,22,4,24,1,2,99
- Stage #2 Top Ten: 12,8,11,24,99,47,22,4,1,5

JUNE PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY 2023					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3
<p>Monday matinees are movies for kids. Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352.</p>			Senior Chair Exercise 10:15		Family Movie 11:00 Puss in Boots: The Last Wish
	5	6	7	8	9
Yoga 10:00 Registration required	Storytime 10:30	Yoga 10:00 Registration required	Senior Chair Exercise 10:15	Storytime at the Farmer's Market 10:00	Board Game Day
Movie matinee 1:30	A Mountain Tribute Visual Poetry Workshop 4:00		Floral Arrangement Program 2:30		
LEGO Club 4:00			NYMBC 5:00		
	12	13	14	15	16
Yoga 10:00 Registration required	Storytime 10:30	Yoga 10:00 Registration required	Senior Chair Exercise 10:15	Chalk Art Competition 10:30 Registration required	
Movie matinee 1:30		Summer Reading Program 11:00	Open Art Studio 1:00		
LEGO Club 4:00		Book Bingo 2:30			
	19	20	21	22	23
CLOSED JUNETEENTH	NO STORYTIME	Yoga 10:00 Registration required	Senior Chair Exercise 10:15		
	Books & Bakes 5:00	Summer Reading Program 11:00			
		Library Board Meeting 12:00-2:00			
	26	27	28	29	30
Yoga 10:00 Registration required	Storytime 10:30	Yoga 10:00 Registration required	Senior Chair Exercise 10:15		
Movie matinee 1:30		Summer Reading Program 11:00			
LEGO Club 4:00					

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HELP WANTED

of electrical, carpentry, plumbing and mechanical skills are required. Skill in operating light equipment is also required. Basic welding skills are preferred. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. and perform physical labor. A complete job description is available on the Patrick County website at <https://www.co.patrick.va.us/careers>.

This is a full-time position with benefits that include vacation and sick leave, life insurance, retirement, and health insurance. Hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Overtime and weekend work may be required. Patrick County employment applications may be obtained at <http://www.co.patrick.va.us/careers> or from the Patrick County Administration Office, Room 218, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, VA. Applicants must submit a Patrick County employment application to be considered for the position. Applications may be emailed to Donna Shough, HR Director, at dshough@co.patrick.va.us, with a copy to Melissa Taylor at mtaylor@co.patrick.va.us. Faxed applications will not be accepted. The position will remain open until filled. The County of Patrick is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age.

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SCC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Serves Many Throughout the 2023 Spring Semester



Surry Community College's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society finished the 2023 Spring Semester with the completion of many activities that have well-served the student community, citizens, and even shelter animals throughout the local area, surrounding region, and international community. One major project was writing letters of encouragement to Veterans on the May 3, Triad Flight of Honor. Pictured here are PTK members Faith Flippen, Camille Jimenez, Caroline Brown, Sydney Presa and Isaac Heath.

Surry Community College's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society finished the 2023 Spring Semester with the completion of many activities that have well-served the student community, citizens, and even shelter animals throughout the local area, surrounding region, and international community.

SCC's Alpha Xi Tau chapter of PTK is a designated Five Star Chapter since it meets requirements for local, regional, and international project work.

For May, members of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at SCC led an initiative to write letters of gratitude to senior veterans. These letters were given to veterans participating in the spring Triad Honor Flight from Greensboro, N.C., to Washington, D.C., on May 3.

While in Washington, D.C., Honor Flight Veterans visited Arlington National Cemetery, along with the Air Force, World War II, Iwo Jima, Korean War, Vietnam Veterans, and Lincoln Memorials. On their return flight home, they received the letters from PTK thanking them for their service and self-sacrifice in defense of our country. This year, PTK gathered 82 letters for the Honor Flight Veterans. The letters were written by chapter members, faculty, staff, and students at Surry Community College, as well

as by local community members.

"It's always good to support and lift the spirits of our veterans," states Sydney Presa, PTK Chapter President.

Additionally in May, PTK collected empty plastic medicine and vitamin bottles to donate to Samaritan's Purse and similar charities that provide medical supplies to those in need all around the world. Members collected over 600 bottles with the help of chapter member Amanda Hunter, who contacted the King Police Department and the Surry County Sheriff's Office to obtain empty containers from medicine drop-off programs at their offices. The James Hunter Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will assist in delivering these to the Samaritan's Purse organization.

In April, PTK members hosted the popular fishing game at SCC's annual "Egstravaganza," an SCC Student Government event held to raise funds for student need-based projects. Using a toy fishing rod, PTK volunteers helped children cast their line over a blue screen in hopes of catching a sweet treat. The Honor Society gave out more than 300 pieces of candy during the event, as many children enjoyed the game so much, they returned multiple times to participate.



Surry Community College's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society finished the 2023 Spring Semester with the completion of many activities that have well-served the student community, citizens, and even shelter animals throughout the local area, surrounding region, and international community. Here, left to right, are chapter officers Isaac Heath, Jennah Weaver, Sydney Presa, and Camille Jimenez displaying donations for the Surry County Animal Shelter and Mayberry 4 Paws.

Also in April, PTK hosted a donation drive for local animal shelters, collecting over 100 items of pet food, litter, collars, leashes, bowls, and toys. This project was suggested by chapter member Jenny Strickland who helped with the delivery of the donated items. Chapter member Michelle Roberts personally donated 37 items for donation to the Surry County Animal Shelter.

During March, PTK members held a donation drive for the campus Little Free Pantry, which provides food and supplies to anyone on campus or the community needing assistance. The Little Free Pantry has a simple message on the front that reads, "Take what you need... give what you can." PTK took that message to heart, donating more than 160 commonly needed items such as toothpaste, shampoo, soap, diapers, and feminine hygiene products.

In February, members of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at SCC led an initiative to write Valentine's Day cards for senior residents at Cypress Valley Skilled Nursing Facility in Reidsville. In total, PTK members created 100 Valentine's Day cards to be distributed to the residents. The project was proposed

by incoming chapter treasurer, Jennah Weaver, whose father is the administrator at Cypress Valley Skilled Nursing Facility.

Mike Weaver, Administrator of the Cypress Valley Skilled Nursing Facility, responded, "Thank you very much for the Valentines' Day cards. I have had many residents and families of residents tell me how much they loved them and how thoughtful they were. Thank you all for remembering the residents during this holiday and showing that they are loved and still thought about. I am still receiving 'thank you's' from residents nearly two weeks after Valentine's Day."

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 12 nations.

For more information about Phi Theta Kappa, contact PTK's Faculty Co-advisors Dr. Kathleen Fowler at (336) 386-3560 or fowlerk@surry.edu or Kayla Forrest at (336) 386-3351 or forrestkm@surry.edu or go to www.ptk.org.

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TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 130 MORRISON LANE, STUART, VA 24171

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated April 8, 2014, in the original principal amount of \$133,500.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia as Instrument No. 140000494, re-recorded as Instrument No. 140001210. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Patrick County, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia on August 7, 2023, at 2:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL OF THAT CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND, TOGETHER WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, LYING AND BEING IN THE MAYO RIVER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, CONTAINING 1.65 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit often percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwsales.com. VA-363432-1.

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For Public Notice

The Town of Stuart will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Stuart Town Office, located at 100 Patrick Avenue, to solicit public input for the purpose of the Town of Stuart to enter into an agreement or contract for the purchase of the Star Theatre, located at 318 Patrick Avenue. The Town of Stuart intends to purchase the property from private individuals, upon a final inspection, and lease the property to a qualified organization for operation as a community, arts, and music venue. For additional information, please visit the Town website at www.townofstuartva.com or contact Bryce Simmons, Town Manager at 276-694-3811. Comments can be submitted in writing to the Town of Stuart at PO Box 422, Stuart, VA 24171 until Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please call the number listed above.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

PUBLIC HEARING: The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing, Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Veteran's Memorial Building located at 106 Rucker Street in Stuart, Virginia, for the purpose of amending and reenacting the Solar Ordinance. The hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor Courtroom in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, Virginia. Action will be taken at the meeting. If you would like to review the Solar Ordinance, you may do so at the County Administration Office, Suite 218.

If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the County Administration Office at 276-694-6094.

PUBLIC HEARING: The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing, Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Veteran's Memorial Building located at 106 Rucker Street in Stuart, Virginia for consideration of amendment to the Comprehensive Plan regarding Chapter 11 - Land Use. The hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor Courtroom in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, Virginia. Action will be taken at the meeting. If you would like to review the Chapter 11 - Land Use section of the Comprehensive Plan, you may do so at the County Administration Office, Suite 218. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the County Administration Office at 276-694-6094.

Wells, of Woolwine, earns degree from Clark University

Rachel Wells, of Woolwine, Va., received a degree from Clark University during the University's 119th Commencement exercises on Sunday, May 21. Wells graduated with a Master of Business Administration.

The University awarded 1,300 degrees (590 bachelor's degrees, 681 master's degrees, and 29 doctoral degrees) to the Class of 2023 and conferred three honorary degrees in ceremonies that heralded the graduates for their accomplishments, their

resilience, and their ambition.

In his opening remarks, President David B. Fithian noted that the undergraduates were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic throughout all four years of their college careers, a collective experience that he said resulted in a more creative and tenacious learning community.

"You became experts in the evolving art of remote learning and navigating uncertainty," Fithian said. "You experienced a uniquely challenging time in our history, and you

proved to be stronger than maybe you even imagined you could be."

Robert D. Putnam, Malkin Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government and author of a number of books examining the decline of community in American Society, including "Bowling Alone" and "The Upswing," delivered the commencement address. Putnam urged the graduates to seek new ways to bring Americans together across divides of politics, region, race, religion, ethnicity, class, and gender.

"Our country today faces unprecedented political polarization, economic inequality, social fragmentation, and moral self-centeredness, but you - collaborating with others - can reverse those trends," he said. "Your generation didn't cause these problems, but only you can lead the way toward a more diverse, more tolerant, more cohesive, more equal society. A society in which rather than shout or shoot at one another, we listen to one another - actually listen."

"Today's world needs minds that can understand a variety of perspectives. Today's world needs those who value research-based and evidence-informed solutions to complex problems. Today's world needs individuals who aren't afraid to be themselves, and who aren't afraid to challenge convention," he said.

"Today's world needs you."

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Meetings

Thursday, June 8
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the School Board Office.

Monday, June 12
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Tuesday, June 20
The Patrick County Department of Social Services Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor conference room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Wednesday, June 21
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the Town Office.

Events

Saturday, June 10
The Five Forks Wesleyan Church will hold vacation bible school from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesday, June 14
The Patrick County Community Food Bank will hold a food distribution day at the Stuart site from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m. There will be a morning distribution in Ararat from 8:30-11 a.m., and an evening distribution in Meadows of Dan from 5-6:30 p.m.

Friday, June 16
The Woolwine Methodist Church food truck will be at the Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department from 3-5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 20
The Carroll County Genealogy Club will hold a called membership meeting at 5 p.m. The club meets in the Historical County Courthouse on Main Street in Hillsville, on the left side of the building.

Tuesday, June 20 - Friday, June 23
Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) will hold a Minecraft Makers Camp at the P&HCC Dalton Idea Center from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost is \$59, and the camps are limited to nine students. Pre-registration is required by going to ph.augusoft.net, or calling (276) 656-5461.

Saturday, June 24-Sunday, June 25
In conjunction with the American Radio Relay League, Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club will hold Field Day at Higher Ground Church Camp in Carroll County, from noon Saturday through noon Sunday, and is free of charge. Early arrivals are welcome at the family friendly event which combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills in a single event for ham radio operators and spectators. There will be amateur radio license testing offered at 1 p.m. on Saturday for all prospective hams and radio operators who wish to upgrade their current license. To participate you must have an FRN number and valid photo ID. For more information, visit www.briarpatcharc.com, or the Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club Facebook page.

Ongoing

Monday Market at Fairy Stone State Park, Mondays 5 - 7 p.m. at picnic shelters 3 & 4. Vendors accept cash only.

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. There are 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 Stuart Elementary School Running Club is running along the sidewalks in town on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

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

Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club (BARC) and the Region Four Auxiliary Communication network (AUXCOMM) meetings are at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively, on the 4th Thursday of each month at the First Christian Church in Galax. Visit www.briarpatcharc.com for more information.

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

Surry Community College Honors HSE and AHS Graduates

More than 60 students earned their High School Equivalency (HSE) and Adult High School (AHS) diplomas from Surry Community College during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Of the graduates, 31 participated in the HSE/AHS Graduation held at the Surry Community College Gymnasium in Dobson on May 5. This is SCC's thirty-third HSE commencement ceremony.

Courtney Jackson, Chief HSE Examiner/AHS Coordinator, introduced the student speakers, all of whom are HSE graduates: Andreus Walker, Miguel Betancur and Bryanna Wright. SCC President Dr. David Shockley and Senior Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs Dr. Candace Holder presented graduates with their diplomas.

2022-2023 graduates who participated in the graduation ceremony are Alex Henson, Andreus Walker, Briar Fite, Bryanna Wright, Carmella Aguilar, Chase Long, Darius Rogers, Dylan Kiger, Francisco Ur-

quiza, Hadly Graves, Hailey Hinson, Ja'Lena Hollis, Jacob Billings, Joseph Henson, Joshua Edwards, Kayla Marion, Kevin Gordon, Maria Jacinto Elizalde, Miguel Betancur, Nicole Byrd, Rachel Gravley, Samantha Chavis, Tiffany Ballenger, Tori Bowman, Tyler Kepler, and Yaddeliz Mendoza.

Surry offers two assessment options for earning a High School Equivalency Diploma. Students can take either the General Educational Development (GED®) Test or the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET™). Successful passage of either test results in an HSE Diploma issued by the North Carolina Board of Community Colleges. Surry offers free preparation classes to give students an opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills needed to successfully pass the test. Online preparation classes are also offered.

Surry's Adult High School program offers an alternative to the HSE program for adults who did not graduate from high school. Anyone lack-

ing a few credits from high school can enroll in the online program to acquire a high school diploma. The AHS program was established by SCC with affiliation agreements from local school districts. An AHS diploma is awarded by the number of credits and specified courses adopted by the State Board of Education as the requirement for graduation from the public high school.

For more information about SCC's High School Equivalency programs, contact Jennifer Pardue at (336) 386-3674 or Courtney Jackson at (336) 386-3663.



More than 60 students earned their High School Equivalency (HSE) and Adult High School (AHS) diplomas from Surry Community College during the 2022-2023 academic year. The HSE/AHS Graduation was held at the Surry Community College Gymnasium in Dobson on May 5. Back row (left to right): Alex Henson, Andreus Walker, Briar Fite, Bryanna Wright, Carmella Aguilar and Chase Long. Fourth row (left to right): Darius Rogers, Dylan Kiger, Francisco Urquiza, Hadly Graves, Hailey Hinson and Ja'Lena Hollis. Third row (left to right): Jacob Billings, Joseph Henson, Joshua Edwards, Kayla Marion, Kevin Gordon and Maria Jacinto Elizalde. Second row (left to right): Miguel Betancur, Nicole Byrd, Rachel Gravley, Samantha Chavis, Tiffany Ballenger and Tori Bowman. Front row (left to right): Tyler Kepler and Yaddeliz Mendoza.

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Trust board meets

JEB Stuart's Birthplace Preservation Trust had their meeting on Tuesday, May 9 in the Community Room, at Patrick and Henry Community College, Stuart. Board Members of 2023 in photo (L to R), back row, Ronnie Haynes President, Tom Bishop Public Relations, David Robinette, Chip Bondurant, Dave Lusk Vice President; (L to R), front row, Coates Clark, Amy Brown Sawyers, Mary Dellenback Hill, Secretary, Joan Williams, Roger Hayden. Members not pictured are Shirley Keene, Christopher Corbett, Dr. Jim Keese, Brian Jessup Treasurer, Misha Fulton, Cynithia Vipperman, Joel Woodson. Mike Pendleton. (Photo by Mary Dellenback Hill)



Ribbon cutting marks opening of new location



Gerald Collins is pictured (center), along with Rebecca Adcock (far left), executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, and others at a ribbon cutting last week.



Rural Services, Inc., and Container Storage Solutions, LLC are located at 4591 Claudville Highway, Claudville.

Customer appreciation day set for June 10

A ribbon cutting last week celebrated the opening of the main office for Rural Services, Inc., and Container Storage Solutions, LLC. The two businesses are now located under one roof at 4591 Claudville Highway, Claudville. The phone number is (276) 251-1303.

The businesses are open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., according to Gerald Collins, owner.

Collins said Rural Services has been serving Patrick County since 1971. When Johnny and Debbie Marion retired, Collins purchased it in April 2022.

A Customer Appreciation Day will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 10, with tours of the new office available as well as a dunking booth, door prizes and a free catered lunch.

A Customer Appreciation Day will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 10, at 4591 Claudville Highway, Claudville.



Twin County Regional Healthcare Celebrated National Nurses Week

Twin County Regional Healthcare (TCRH) proudly joined the American Nurses Association (ANA) and other healthcare organizations around the country in celebrating National Nurses Week May 6 – 12 to honor the millions of men and women in the nursing profession who have dedicated their lives to caring for others.

Established in 1954, National Nurses Week recognizes nurses and their strong commitment to and fervent compassion for their patients. The annual recognition first honored the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's service and leadership during the Crimean War. The weeklong celebration ends on Nightingale's birthday, May 12. The hospital held a series of events throughout the week to mark the occasion.

"Twin County is proud to celebrate our many nurses, who serve as dedicated and dependable caregivers for patients and their loved ones throughout their healthcare journey," said William Alley, chief nursing officer at Twin County Regional Healthcare. Whether a routine check-up at your provider's office, an outpatient visit or a trip to our emergency department with a hospital stay, our nurses provide compassionate, individualized care, knowing that every patient is unique."

Home to more than 149 nursing staff, TCRH is currently recruiting new members to join its team. The hospital offers competitive benefits, mentor-based training, nurse extern program, opportunities for advancement, etc. To learn more about nursing opportunities and how to join the team, visit TCRH.org.

Woolwine Warrior Readers listed

Woolwine Elementary School announced the names of its top readers participating in the Warrior Reading program during the fourth quarter.

Each student who reached their grade level goal received a free snack and a free personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut. In addition, students who read the most books in each grade level also received a free book.

The top readers are Pre-K--Kreedynce Flippin; Kindergarten--Joanna Shelton; First Grade--Braxton Rakes; Second Grade--Melissa Hughes; Third Grade--Monce Ortega; Fourth Grade--Blake Belcher; Fifth Grade--Lacie Bullins; Sixth Grade--Mason Conner; Seventh Grade--Martina Hubbard.



Monce Ortega



Martina Hubbard



Blake Belcher



Mason Conner



Lacie Bullins



Melissa Hughes



Braxton Rakes



Kreedynce Flippin



Joanna Shelton

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More Support Needed for VA Foster Kids

Edwin J. Viera
Virginia News Connection

A recent report finds foster kids in Virginia and the U.S. need better support to transition out of the foster-care system.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Fostering Youth Transitions report finds 57% of kids in Virginia foster care will age out instead of finding a permanent home.

This is only slightly higher than the national average of 52% of kids aging out of foster care.

Cassie Baudean, director of Policy and Strategic Operations with the Children's Home Society of Virginia, said one of the ways to improve support for foster kids is to build up the often short-staffed workforce.

"In Virginia we have, typically, a high turnover rate for caseworkers in the local

departments of social services," said Baudean. "They have - oftentimes - high, unmanageable caseloads. Their pay is very very low, their hours are very very long, and the work that they do is so important but also very stressful."

She added that bolstering this workforce can lead to more individualized support for kids in foster care.

A 2019 survey about Virginia's foster-care system found 71% of local departments said they were having great difficulty recruiting case workers.

Along with a lack of qualified candidates, the other most common reason was inadequate compensation.

Another finding of the report is how federally funded programs to help youths transition from foster care are underutilized.

Todd Lloyd - senior policy associate with the Annie E. Casey Foundation - noted that these could be used to ensure foster kids have a stable environment, to help them transition to higher education.

"We've seen that when young people have extended in foster care after the age of 18, that they have a much greater rate of education attainment," said Lloyd. "So, we really encourage states to consider ways that they can encourage young people to remain in foster care after the age of 18. If they don't have a permanent family."

The report finds in 2022, of the more than 444,000 kids in foster care, 77% didn't receive any transition services once they aged out. But this number has declined slightly since 2016.

The Crooked Road debuts new Thursday events



Warren Doyle

The Crooked Road started a new series of storytelling, dance and special concerts entitled "The Crooked Road's 3rd Thursday Cultural Series" in March. The series continues this summer with dance and music for the entire family.

This free event series encompasses various aspects of traditional heritage music and related cultural influences including dance. For the summer season, The Crooked Road is offering return favorites and new opportunities for all to explore the artists of the Southwest Virginia region.

On Thursday, June 15, Johnny Williams, The Crooked Road's current Artist-In-Residence, will be joined by Jeanette Williams and Jay Shelton for a concert by Shelton & Williams. This group highlights the best bluegrass music from the region.

Williams has been active in the traditional music community for over 30 years, playing with multiple bands and music organizations in the region. Hailing from Fries, VA, Williams has been performing, producing, touring and song writing since the late 1980s starting with the group Clearwater which eventually became the Jeanette Williams Band. Since that time, Williams has been playing guitar and mandolin with groups such as Big Country Bluegrass Band, Freeman and Williams



Tyler Hughes by Savannah Lewis



Shelton and Williams

Trio, Blue 58, Shelton & Williams and the Larry McPeak Tribute Band.

Having been involved with over 90 recorded projects, Williams owns record label Grass Tank Music and just released a new Shelton & Williams album entitled "So Much Time, So Much Love" in 2022.

On Thursday, July 20, Tyler Hughes returns to the Cultural Center for a square dance. A way to bring communities together, dancing has a huge cultural significance in the region. This fun night will have you reeling, twirling and laughing!

Warren Doyle will call a contra dance on Thursday, August 17. Contra dancing is similar to square dancing, but it focuses on lines of dancers. Doyle is an Appalachian Trail legend and frequently hosts contra dances

in the Town of Damascus.

All events are free to the public, begin at 6:30 pm and are presented at the Southwest Virginia Cultural Center & Marketplace, located at Exit 14 in Abingdon, VA.

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. Support for The Crooked Road 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.

Watchhouse, Alexa Rose to perform June 10 at Blue Ridge Music Center



Watchhouse Duo (By Charlie Boss)



Alexa Rose (By Kendall Bailey)

The Blue Ridge Music Center is presenting Watchhouse (formerly Mandolin Orange) and Alexa Rose for an evening of roots-based singer-songwriter and Americana music at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 10, in the outdoor amphitheater. The Music Center is located at milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, just south of Galax and 30 minutes from Sparta and Mount Airy, N.C.

Watchhouse, formerly Mandolin Orange, is an Americana-folk duo formed in 2009 in Chapel Hill, N.C. Featuring Andrew Marlin (vocals, mandolin, guitar, banjo) and Emily Frantz (vocals, fiddle, guitar), the duo weaves Appalachian-steeped folk into their earnest songwriting. Watchhouse's songs capture audiences through the interplay between storytelling and harmony singing.

Over the past decade, they have released six albums under the name Mandolin Orange, and recently produced their first album under the new name, titled Watchhouse (Duo). The latest recording reflects their new direction and intentions as a band and brings the audience along on their journey.

Opening the show is Alexa Rose. Born in the Alleghany Highlands of Virginia and raised in a tiny Appalachian railroad town, the musical legacy and storytelling spirit of the mountains are woven into her voice and songwriting.

Rose's debut album, Medicine for Living, is a multilayered Americana merger of old country music and traditional folk songs. The title track was the winner of the 2019 Chris Austin Songwriting Contest. She captures the sweetness of life without avoiding any of the pain, with songs about time and its constraints, peppered with precise details pulled from Rose's own life that make universal themes seem personal.

This concert is sponsored by the Law Offices of Timothy D. Welborn.

Tickets are \$40 for adults, and \$20 for children 12 and younger. Advance tickets are available online at BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org. Tickets can be purchased on the evening of the show at the admission gates.

Parking opens at 5:15 p.m. and is free. Admission to the amphitheater begins at 5:45 p.m.



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